

Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2024



Linda Wise, HCISD/GSRP	Mindy Wilson, HCISD	Stephanie Hines, HCISD
Heather Upton, CASA	Carrie Grishaber, MSU Extension	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony
Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools/GSRP	Mindy Eggleston, Hillsdale County Community Foundation	Holly Leininger, Calming Breath Doula Services
Lisa Redmond, BHSJ Community Health Agency	Isabella Stycos, BHSJ Community Health Agency	Bryce Asberg, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center
Wendy Playford, GSC	Kevin Knapp, MSU Extension	Christie Campbell, CAPA
Andrea Bricker, LifeWays	Jessica Fawley, Love INC	Stefanie Rathburn, GSC
Janell Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services		

Minutes:

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. GSC Office Updates

a. [September GSC Data Summary](#)

- i. Note things with * is where we contributed to book distribution, but was not present on-site for the event
- ii. In-person Fall Fest this year - Oct 24 4:30 to 6:30, mark your calendars.
- iii. June PLAY was canceled due to weather

b. [Family Coalition Year-End Report](#)

- i. Document shared with parents at the end of the year to re-cap the activity of the group for the entire year
- ii. Shows the groups progress toward goals for the entire year
- iii. Two new strategies adding this year
 1. Continuing to keep Little Free Libraries stocked and increased promotion of events
 2. Increased marketing efforts in outlying communities of county
- iv. Group is open to any parents, so if you have a parent interested, please send them to Wendy Playford

c. **MiLEAP Updates**

- i. Finalizing work plans and then will submit
- ii. The United Way of SW Michigan was providing training and technical support for our region. This is changing as it was recently up for bid.

d. **Funding Updates**

i. **Literacy Hub Region 9**

1. Share with Literacy team at HCISD
2. Funding allowed Books for Babies bags to continue to be distributed through Hospital and WIC office

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3. Funding supports training for Child Care Providers about Literacy Essentials- This Saturday with 45 registered participants
 - a. Opened up to bordering counties, but only 5-6 of registrants are out of county currently
- ii. **Advancing Healthy Births Region 9 Perinatal Quality Collaborative**
 1. Wrapping the funding up as it ends this month
 2. Allowed us to purchase support materials for this past year's Baby Shower event
 3. Funded bassinets and breastfeeding materials for community partners to distribute
 4. Funding a virtual presentation on Safe Sleep
 - a. Stefanie will send the link
 - b. Trying to get as many partners to attend as possible so we are using the same language and practices around Safe Sleep county-wide
- iii. **32p and 32p(6)**
 1. Great Start Collaborative Funding- ends at the end of month. Can Carry over 32p, but not 32p(6) which is book purchasing money. Have spent down and will get this again next year.
- iv. **Hillsdale County Community Foundation Grants**
 1. Talking is Teaching funded Grant opportunities
 2. GSC will participate in the Great Give again this year! Please share the flier and support the event if you can.
- e. **Other**
 - i. Agency Event Schedule- dates for all upcoming events. Please do not share with families. This is for our agency partners so they can save the date for participation in these events alongside GSC. There is a separate event schedule as well as event fliers with QR codes for registration for families

3. Community Spotlight: Lisa Redmond, Branch Hillsdale St. Joseph Community Health Agency, Community Health Worker *(See brochure & one page handout)*

- a. Build bridges for clients that have difficulty moving forward with needs
- b. Work with people to help get them connected to the best resource to help solve their issue(s)
- c. Lisa works with Hillsdale & Branch Counties
- d. Trying to reach all resources and develop connections to help partner to support community members in need
- e. Key Role of CHW
 - i. Bridge between community members and resources they need to live a healthy life
 - ii. Provide one on one guidance
 - iii. Offer home visits
 - iv. Help individuals and families secure community resources
 - v. Be an advocate for the community
- f. Lisa Redmond, Community Health Worker contact information
 - i. Cell: 517-462-0829
 - ii. E-mail: redmondl@bhsj.org
- g. No eligibility other than 18 years of age or older

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- h. No “capacity” for helping... anyone who needs help will be supported

4. Subcommittee- Reports

a. Child Care

- i. Tabled for next month

b. Community Resources - Andrea Bricker

- i. Came up with plan fo the year during our retreat
 - 1. Partnership with and promotion of WIC
 - 2. Promote events aimed at promoting healthy development
 - 3. Focus on Nutrition and Physical Activity as part of a requirement from MiLEAP
 - 4. Want all children thriving- meeting milestones and ready for school
 - a. Objective to help families know where to get information and support when needed
 - 5. Provide educational materials at events in the community
 - 6. Social Emotional Kits to be shared at Libraries and with home visitors for their use

c. Literacy - Stephanie Hines

- i. Children prepared to succeed in 4th grade by being on track at end of 3rd grade
 - 1. Talking is teaching - more intentionality with embedding it in events
 - 2. Hillsdale County Kids READ- Brainstorming new locations
 - a. Started a few years ago.
 - b. Different agencies who want to partner, we drop off 10 books to use in their waiting rooms or book nooks, twice a year.
 - c. Families use while waiting
 - d. We have 20 businesses currently
 - e. Looking to add another 10 business this year
 - f. Let us know if you have ideas of agencies, businesses or organizations that might want to participate.
 - g. We have funeral homes, coffee shops, doctor offices, license branch, doctor’s offices, laundromats, etc.
- ii. Little Free Libraries
 - 1. Adding one in Camden - carryover from 23-24 year
 - 2. Will be looking for locations for 2 additional Little Free Libraries
- iii. Partner with County Libraries 1000 books by Kindergarten
 - 1. providing books for them to use as incentives

d. Prenatal & Pediatric Health - Janell Morse

- i. Retreat this summer
- ii. Changing Community Baby shower to an annual event
- iii. Tackle the need for substance abuse education for prenatal and breastfeeding time
- iv. Building partnerships with doctors offices, hospitals and providers in the area to make more connections and define resources available.

e. Preschool Leadership & Advocacy - Mindy Wilson

- i. Surveys developed last spring going out this year
- ii. Will be reviewing and revising priority listing process

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- iii. Will be reviewing Implementation Manual to revise local policies and procedures
- iv. Working to improve family's experiences
- v. Review data to continue to improve and focus on professional development

5. Kids Count - new data

- a. Spend some time developing questions about this data
- b. We will have a future presentation from the Michigan League for Public Policy, and they are requesting questions so that they can tailor their presentation to address these questions.
 - i. [Summary of questions identified](#)
- c. Jot down questions on the sticky notes and submit to Wendy/Stefanie
 - i. make sure your name is on the sticky note or email Stefanie

6. Community Updates

a. Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) - Mindy

- i. 45 Early On referrals since July 1st. (27 this time last year)
- ii. Currently servicing about 110 children 0-3

b. Agency Updates

- i. CASA is doing a raffle - Heather
 - 1. Selling tickets through the end of Sept.
 - 2. Raffle for vouchers for Litchfield Outdoors (instead of a gun raffle)
- ii. Bella/CHA Produce Connection (used to be Project Fresh) - Contact WIC office by Sept. 30th. Last day to use benefits is Nov. 30th
- iii. Community Foundation/Mindy
 - 1. Grants Open Due Nov. 1st
 - a. Youth & General
 - b. All online- no paper applications
 - 2. College Fair Event (flier from Mindy Eggleston)
- iv. CAPA/Christie
 - 1. Triple P Positive Parent
 - a. Start Sept. 25 (see Flier)
 - b. Free via zoom
 - c. Just register
 - 2. CAPA Ball
 - a. Feb 15th Kentucky Derby Theme
 - b. Raffle as well
- v. Janell Morse- Calming Breath Doula Services
 - 1. Meet-Up Groups Friday 10-Noon
 - a. Coffee, creamer & good conversations
 - 2. Prenatal Class
 - 3. Funding approved for Doulas to support from 6 to 12 visits and increase reimbursement
 - 4. Receiving more referrals for postpartum care
- vi. Stefanie shared on behalf of Libraries - 1,000 Books by Kindergarten
 - 1. Hillsdale, Jonesville & NAJ Library have launched 1000 books by K.

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2. Concept is families sign up at Libraries (don't need a library card and all are welcome), when you hit certain milestones, they get gifts.
3. Does not need to be different books. Log every time you read a book with your little ones.

7. Closing

- a. Next meeting Oct. 7th

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