



Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes June 3, 2024

Attendees:

Laura Orlowski, Jonesville District Library	Rebekah Dobski, Hillsdale Community Library	Janel Morse, Calming Breath Doula Services
Kristy Wood, Child Care Network	Linda Wise, HCISD/GSRP	Kevin Knapp, MSU Extension
Chris Firestone, LifeWays/Prevention Works	Isabella Stycos, BHSJ Community Health Agency	Mindy Eggleston, Hillsdale County Community Foundation
Abbey LoPresto, DHHS	Allison Wirick, Hillsdale Community Schools	Tonia Gier, Domestic Harmony
Wendy Playford, Great Start Collaborative	Bryce Asberg, Helping Hands Pregnancy Resource Center	Stefanie Rathburn, Great Start Collaborative

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. GSC Office Updates
 - Funding - Stef
 - V.C. and Velma Knight Memorial Grant and YOUTH grant through HCCF (\$16,600)
 - Talking is Teaching efforts
 - Advancing Healthy Births (\$20,000)
 - Community Baby Shower (pack and plays, bottle warmers, indoor room thermometers)
 - Resource items to support breastfeeding efforts
 - Safe Sleep Promotion - distribution of bassinets at Hillsdale Hospital
 - Local safe sleep training
 - Literacy Hub Region 9 Funding (\$17,000)
 - Continuation of Books for Babies Initiative
 - Literacy Essentials training (September 2024)
 - Talking is Teaching
 - Agency/Volunteer Training
 - 7 participants with 3 agencies represented
 - Great brainstorming
 - Some interest in facilitation; Stefanie seeking a train the trainer opportunity

HCGSC VISION

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HCGSC MISSION

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- Planning underway for:
 - Safety Fair
 - Still looking for more partners!
 - Still looking for more volunteers!
- Events since last meeting - Wendy
 - Grub, Gab, & Giveaways
 - 10 providers attended
 - Able to gift lots of educational materials
 - Community Baby Shower
 - 65 families, 116 adults, and 51 children.
 - 36 male caregivers participated
 - We offered 7 poster session topics.
 - We had 25 agencies on-site with tables in the gym.
 - Little Free Library Pop-Up Events
 - 5 locations all manned by parent volunteers or location hosts
 - 4 locations had families pop by and grab some goodies
 - Literacy Pop Up at the Udder Side
 - 39 families, 76 kids and 56 adults
 - Family Coalition Meeting
 - 5 parents
 - Parent-led strategies:
 - Winter family activities:
 - A Winter Activity Ideas list has been drafted for the upcoming winter
 - Partnered with the Hillsdale Community Library to add an additional Free Play Friday offering to the community
 - Discussed possible additional event offerings for the upcoming winter
 - Little Free Library
 - Marketing efforts:
 - Updated flyer distributed
 - Updated video posted on Facebook
 - Hosted Pop-Up Event
 - **8** New Little Free Library locations for a total of **15** in Hillsdale County!
 - About **1,958** books were added to the LFL's to keep them stocked and looking AWESOME!!
 - Camden still in need of a LFL potential site
 - 6 knowledge nuggets have been handed out at various events

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- Upcoming Events - Wendy
 - Safety Fair
 - June 18 from 10 - 2 at the Fairgrounds
 - Please share out
 - Summer PLAY Event at Owen Memorial Park
 - June 25 from 10 - 11:30 am
 - July 9 from 4:30 - 6 pm
 - August 6 from 10 - 11:30 am
 - StoryWalk
 - July 27 (rain date of Aug10)

3. Update on Chair Vacancies

- Stefanie shared a message from Mari to GSC members
- Stefanie reported that Allison has stepped up and agreed to take on the chair role for the full GSC and that Janell will begin as chair for Prenatal & Pediatric Health in the fall

4. End of Year Survey Results

- [2024 End of Year Survey Results](#)
- Anticipated Changes as a result of the survey include:
 - Expiring Community Spotlight presentations from: LifeWays, Hillsdale Library, Community Foundation, DHHS, Smiles on Wheels, Dial-A-Ride, WIC, Hillsdale Hospital, Love INC, Domestic Harmony, Child Advocacy Center
 - Provide GSC Office Updates in a written format with verbal information shared highlighting key topics or areas for discussion
 - Discontinue door prizes beginning in fall

5. Follow-Up Updates

- The Future of What's Next Social-Emotional Kits - Wendy
 - Meeting coming up with interested libraries to discuss possibility of providing kits to them for check-out
 - Will plan meetings with Early On, Early Head Start and Domestic Harmony to discuss use of kits in their work with families
- Brainstorming from March 2024 Meeting
 - Keynote Topics for CBS - Stefanie
 - Outcome: 2 different keynotes were planned from brainstorming session
 - Connections Matter: Bryce and Mari co-presented
 - Women's Health: Dr O'Dell & Rachel McCormack
 - Child Care Provider Recognition Input - Kristy
 - Outcome: Breakfast snacks and door prizes provided to GSRP/Head Start providers at end of year training and an invitation to attend a dinner recognition event to all child care providers in county with door prizes
 - Creative Ideas for Increasing Book Access - Linda
 - Outcome: Lots of great ideas shared; continuing to work through the list and determine where best to spend efforts: key ideas

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- included: apartment complexes, kindergarten rounds-ups, school literacy nights, Loaves & Fishes, doctor/dentist appointment, fair booth, fly-in event
 - How to better gather edits for Resource Guide -Stefanie
 - Outcome: Community Resources subcommittee is taking ideas shared and finalizing a standardized plan for outreach for making edits to Resource Guide
 - RSVP Challenge Discussion - Wendy/Stef
 - Has not been sufficient time to explore ideas that involve a service to do reminders
 - So far, Stefanie and Wendy have been doing own text reminders
 - Advantage is that very simple introductions are taking place for families before they come to an event
 - Families have begun to utilize that as an opportunity to reach out for additional needs
 - Bryce did share that the Remind App can pull your database from a registration spreadsheet
 - Child Care Chirp: News Your Business Can Use - Kristy
 - Activity done at last meeting did not elicit the human resource contacts originally intended
 - Child Care subcommittee will be prioritizing building this listserv in the immediate future

6. Community Updates

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) - no report
- GSRP Data Dive Report - Linda
 - looked at data for the beginning and end of this year AND data over the course of the last 4 years
 - strong growth over the year in the area of language
 - math will be an area of focus for next year
- Agency Updates
 - Bryce/Helping Hands
 - 2nd Fatherhood group beginning soon - not just court referrals this round
 - Hoping to make connections with local schools to share info about resources they can provide for pregnant teens
 - Allison/Hillsdale Community Schools
 - Provided a shout-out to agency reps who joined them for their end of year early childhood picnic held at Baw Beese
 - Chris/LifeWays, Prevention Works
 - Experience Wellness event will take place 8/31 from 9 - noon at Stocks Park; being held in conjunction with International Overdose Awareness Day
 - Tonia/Domestic Harmony
 - Duck Derby July 13th with breakfast served at 8:30 and the duck run at 10 a.m. - held at Stocks Park
 - Bella/Community Health Agency
 - Lock It Up campaign is underway

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- Facebook posts marketing where materials can be picked up
- Vaccine Clinics coming up
- Car Seat Inspection Training coming up 8/13 - 8/16 in Springfield; limited registration; Stefanie sent link out to group for registering
 - Bryce inquired about any funding opportunities to support the travel and intensity(# of days/hours) for the training; both Mindy at HCCF and Stefanie agreed to see what options may be available
- Rebekah/Hillsdale Community Library
 - Summer Reading kicks off 6/10 with a party from 2-4 pm that day; theme “Adventure begins at your library”; they have lots of donated prizes from the community
- Laura/Jonesville Library
 - kicked off their summer reading last week; event schedule for 6/26 with alligators on site
- Janell/Calming Breath Doula Services
 - Mommy & Me classes on Fridays at 10 through summer
 - Birth Ball Exercise classes on Saturdays at 10 through summer

7. Closing

- Stefanie shared meeting schedule for next year

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