



**Great Start Collaborative (GSC) Meeting Minutes October 2, 2023**

**Attendance:**

Chris Firestone - Lifeways	Mindy Wilson - HCISD	Yvonne Parker - CAA
Tonia Gier - Domestic Harmony	Mari Nunez - Community	Laura Orlowski - Jonesville District Library
Linda Wise - HCISD/GSRP	Isabelle Stycos - BHSJ CHA	Brooke Rains - Child Care Network
Kevin Knapp - MSU Extension	Stephanie Hines - HCISD	
Stefanie Rathburn - Great Start Collaborative	Mindy Eggleston - Hillsdale County Community Foundation	Wendy Playford - Great Start Collaborative

**Minutes:**

1. Welcome/Introductions/Opening Activity
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Opening Activity: Share Favorite Memory of Hillsdale County Fair
  
2. GSC Office Updates (Stef/Wendy)
  - a. Thank you for your support to GSC- Flashlight/Magnet
  - b. Work Plan
    - i. Submitted mid-September
    - ii. Will report out on the content today
    - iii. The state will review the work plan, and then reach out with suggested changes, but good to go ahead and move forward with work plans, as is
    - iv. Work plans can be amended anytime
  - c. Strategic Plan Due Dec. 15th
    - i. Working on narrative sections
    - ii. Wendy will then add pictures and help organize all of the sections together, with a table of contents
    - iii. Next month we will review and sign a document showing support for the GSC plan
  - d. Literacy Pop-Up at Pizza Barn in Reading
    - i. 40 families
    - ii. Every family got a \$5 gift card to Pizza Barn
    - iii. Every child got their own book
    - iv. Read-a-loud done by Jonesville District Library about every half-hour
    - v. Grand opening of the new Little Free Library on-site at Pizza Barn
    - vi. Reading Elementary staffed a table

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- vii. Handed out Little Free Library bookmarks
  - viii. Reading sent flyers and bookmarks home with all elementary students to promote the new Little Free Library
  - e. First Family Coalition Meeting of the school year
    - i. 3 parents attended
    - ii. Parent-led strategies discussed
      - 1. Continue Little Free Libraries and add to those, with goal of reaching outlying communities
        - a. Continue marketing of these libraries
        - b. Creative marketing like a scavenger hunt, geocaching, etc... still discussing
      - 2. Winter Family Fun Resource List creation
        - a. Families want more things to do in the winter time - one of the take-aways from the focus group work in the spring
        - b. We do as much as we can for GSC-led activities but are looking to create a resource guide to give parents ideas of other community offerings
          - i. If you have ideas or suggestions, please share them with Wendy
          - ii. What to share: Name of event/activity, location, cost, registration?
      - 3. Upcoming Events
        - a. Fall Fest- Flyer on the back table. Drive through style through the senior center and HCISD Hayes building 4:30 to 6 p.m. on October 16th. If agencies haven't responded to Stefanie's email and want to participate in the event, encouraged to let her know ASAP
        - b. Family Coalition Meeting
          - i. Oct. 17th at lower level of Hayes 4-5 pm- Flyer available.
        - c. Event Schedule Save the date document
          - i. quarter sheet at your table space
3. Subcommittee Reports/Work Plan Updates
  - a. Child Care- hold until November
  - b. Community Resources (see Work Plan Outcome 2, page 7 in the work plan)
    - i. Goal 1: Pre-populated by MDE - nothing is our work or decision until the activities
    - ii. Our activities:
      - 1. Partner with WIC
        - a. Invite to community events for recruitment opportunities
        - b. We will disseminate WIC information on their behalf when they can't be there
      - 2. Exchange information on breastfeeding information and support
        - a. In newsletter
        - b. Share WIC posts

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- c. Distributing Talking is Teaching materials to families who come in for WIC appointments.
  - iii. Goal 2: Top of page 9: Child development
    - 1. Embedding information about development and tips on how to promote healthy development
      - a. At community events- A focused topic is touched on during the event
    - 2. Winter Activity Resource (parent-led)
    - 3. Resource Guide
      - a. Figuring out how best to get updates and market
      - b. Streamline edits so it's less cumbersome
    - 4. Amp up GSC website resources
      - a. More and better
      - b. Child Development landing page for our website
        - i. easier to find and promoted to increase use
  - c. Literacy- See Work Plan Outcome 4 page 16
    - i. All children read proficiently by 3rd grade
      - 1. Embed literacy throughout Hillsdale County
        - a. Within events and Talking is Teaching
        - b. Distributing books
        - c. Visiting new locations to find families
      - 2. Increase book access to all outlying communities
        - a. Parent Coalition will lead this
        - b. Install at least 4 libraries in outlying communities (Camden, Waldron, Litchfield, Pittsford)
        - c. Consider community activities to highlight and market Little Free Libraries
  - d. Prenatal & Pediatric Health- Work Plan Outcome 1 on page 4- Children are born healthy
    - i. Renamed to fit the goal better - new subcommittee name is Prenatal & Pediatric Health
    - ii. Goal: Children are born healthy
      - 1. Educate the community of the importance
        - a. Social media posts
        - b. Community Baby Shower
          - i. In the past have had lots of topics that families can choose from for sessions for parents to attend
          - ii. Did at Hillsdale High School with many speakers and a lot of individualization- Sometimes attended by zero families, some attended by 20 parents
            - 1. Gym held agency tables to visit to learn more about community resources and services
            - 2. Sessions are held in 6 different rooms. Short 20-minute sessions happening throughout the event.

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3. We've seen fewer people in sessions and more just spending time in gym or cafeteria
- iii. Feedback from parents: confusing and not sure where to go, or felt rushed
- iv. Tried incentivizing sessions, but didn't make a significant difference for people to get into sessions
- v. Revisit small session idea
  1. Idea: Have a topic or two be for everyone at this same time
  2. 11:30- two small presentations and then followed by door prizes at 12.
  3. Keynote to start. Gather in the cafeteria to start, then be released to an hour in the gym to interact with agencies. Then come back for a presentation and door prize giveaway.
  4. Maybe build in a short presentation between door prizes. They are going to stay and will hear because they want door prizes.
- c. Welcome Baby Home-visits
  - i. Continue to help market and look at sustaining this
- d. Explore partnership with doulas
- e. Outreach to OBGYN to increase and enhance relationships
- e. Preschool Leadership & Advocacy- See Work Plan Outcome 3 page 12- Overlap with Child Care so you will hear about the child care portion next month
  - i. MDE Goal: Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry
    1. Goal 1: (Set by MDE) Increase access to high-quality early care and education services and supports.
      - a. Strategy 1: The school readiness advisory committee will address the needs of school readiness across the community
        - i. Activities:
          1. School readiness advisory committee meets with regularity and is comprised of the required and recommended members
          2. Review Great Start Readiness Program data and make recommendations as outlined in Section 32d
          3. Develop a plan to share preschool and school-age care options with families as part of the joint recruitment and enrollment process
          4. Explore the possibility of the option to add "enrolling" into more programs/services to intake/application
          5. Develop an intentional plan for marketing what school readiness "looks like"

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6. Continue to offer events to the community focused on learning about preschool and beginning the application process

#### 4. Community Updates

##### a. Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

- i. Transitioned many 3-year-olds to preschool
- ii. Hosting playgroup opportunities
- iii. At 84 referrals since July 1st
- iv. Received State Report- 100% in compliance and only missed one target.
  1. Several Service Areas had issues with an inconsistency between eligibility codes and Michigan Mandatory Special Education (MMSE) status. Any ACTIVE child record with Eligibility code 22–MARSE should also have a Special Education component, and vice-versa. Since the MMSE Flag requires data from multiple collections, the email for the End of Year MSDS collection could not be sent until now. We had no issues with Hillsdale County Data

##### b. Agency Updates

- i. Community Action Agency - Yvonne
  1. Oct. 4 & 5th Warm the Children
    - a. If families participated last year, they can't do this year
    - b. Phone registration only
    - c. Posted on Facebook page and in newsletter
    - d. Stefanie will resend flyer to GSC membership
  2. Preschool openings across the county
    - a. Almost fully staffed
- ii. GSRP- Linda
  1. We have a few openings
  2. 3 or 4 by December 1st could be eligible
- iii. Bridges out of Poverty -Mindy/Community Foundation
  1. A few openings left
  2. 9-1 pm on Oct. 12th
  3. Register on the Community Foundation website
- iv. Community Foundation Grants - Mindy/Community Foundation
  1. Look at their website for opportunities
- v. College & Career Fair - Mindy/Community Foundation
  1. Held at Hillsdale College
  2. Education, enlistment, and enrollment
  3. Oct. 16
  4. Free
  5. On the Community Foundation website and social media pages
- vi. Child Care Network- Brooke
  1. Great Start to Quality
    - a. Lots of marketing materials created last year
      - i. videos

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- ii. provider highlights- including a Jonesville provider
- b. We have access to materials, videos, etc.
  - i. They can share if you have a way to promote or a need for this information.

## 5. Closing

**Next Meeting: November 6th**

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