

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Notes
February 22, 2018, 1:30 – 3pm
Kent ISD Transition Center

Attendees: Jessica Turk, Nicole Pratt, Shannon Kaza, Anissa Eddie, Joann Hoganson, MaDonna Princer, Ben Brower, Frank Florido, Kristin Gietzen, Lisa Ellison, Tomarra Richardson, Terese Smith, Chiquita Harper, Kate Parr, Ashley Greenburg, Kristina Donaldson, Anthony Quinn, Madeline Corcorran, Latesha Lipscomb, Jessica Bratt, Anthony Queen, Maggie Lancaster, Candace Cowling, Tracee Bruce, Linda Krombeen, Kate Lara, K'Sandra Earle, Alyce Hernandez, Mandy Trevino, Kathleen Neumann, Heather Boswell, Amy Cochran

Staff: Leslie Hawkins, Paula Brown, Courtney Myers-Keaton

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Maureen Hale

Agenda Item: Approval of December 14, 2017 Meeting Notes: Minutes approved

Agenda Item: Great Start Parent Coalition Report

Courtney Myers-Keaton

- GSPC Meetings:
 - GSPC – Grand Rapids: On March 8th the meeting topic will be Taking Care of Relationships with the focus on taking steps to strengthen relationships with others, including co-parenting.
 - GSPC – Sparta: Meeting will cover who the GSPC is and hope to feature local author Kevin Kammeraad performing a puppet show and sharing one of his books.
- Trusted Advisor Grants:
 - Part 1: Inside Out Dad's at Alternative Directions (AD) is wrapping up in March. This program gives incarcerated fathers the tools and resources that will help them understand their role as a father, as well as how crucial it is to be a part of their child's education. After the end of our implementation AD plans to continue the program. Outreach in the north end of the county in Sparta continues. There are plans for more Parent Cafés, as well as the previously mentioned Coalition meeting. This meeting is being held in the evening and the liaisons believe there will be higher attendance with this change.
 - Part 2: The GSPC has been awarded a grant to set up pop up resource stations at area ACCESS food pantries. Parent Liaisons along with Parent Reps will have laptops and use the Algorithm to help connect families interested in resources for early childhood. This work will begin soon, more details to come.
- Ripples of Transformation: A group from Great Start/FSK went to Oakland to convene around race and equity in childhood education. A manifesto was created related to this topic. The convening consisted of two days of strategic planning around how to bring the manifesto to communities and gain funding to implement it. Drafting of the document and notes have been received to review. The two days involved lots of rich engagement with parents. Over half in attendance were parents representing the parent voice creating a richer, deeper discussion.

Anthony: 15-25% were men at the convening. Parents expressed a desire, not just for their individual child to do well, but all children in their community to do well.

Agenda Item: First Steps Update

Annemarie Valdez

- Ready by 5 Conference: Conference is taking place April 26th and the response has been phenomenal. The day is segmented if you are only able to attend for part of the day. Keynote speaker is Dr. Renee Boynton-Jarrett, an expert on brain architecture. She is also the creator of Vital Village Network, which takes a systems approach to early childhood. Scholarships will be available to attend, see Kate Parr to access those. Luncheon panel will focus on dedicated funding.
- Millage: Proposal has been submitted to county and accepted to review. The decision to place proposal on the ballot will most likely be known in May. A series of presentations will need to be made to the county as part of the process. The proposal is requesting a .5 mill, which would end up netting approximately \$10-11 million/year. The Gap Analysis shows where the funding needs are and how we could possibly use the funds to fill those needs.

Agenda Item: Early Learning Community Action Guide

Amy Turner Thole

Power Point presentation given, document sent to group post meeting.

Agenda Item: GSC Coordinated Resource & Referral Workgroup - HMG Overview

Joann Hoganson/Paula Brown

Power Point presentation given

Questions: Does United Way prefer another data system or have a system in house? Ownership did not come up in the meeting with them, but they would want access to the system. How does this system help with early detection? The ASQ helps connect families to resources based on delays. Is there a timeline when next steps are taking place? The process seems to be moving fast currently, but we don't know timelines yet. We can sign up with the state as a part of the system now. The lengthy part of the process is going to be around the human centered design and how it can best fit in our county. Anyone who is interested in joining the workgroup can connect with Joann. Will this work connect with NPP? If so, how? We will want these two initiatives to connect and align. Latesha commented that it is important to present ourselves as a collective but still clarifying differences in programming.

Agenda Item: GSC Updates

Maureen Hale

- Local program funds: Three to four years ago funding changed at the state level. A pool of money was given for local programming. GSC has been funding Bright Beginnings. We have been talking about developing an RFP process for some time and is currently ready to implement. It will be sent out electronically. We are looking to invest \$40,000 from the 32(p) funds. Please review to see if it is of interest to you or your organization as well as anyone else you may know. We would be looking at making it a multi-year award. Deadline to turn in is April 30th. No questions currently.
- GSC Presentations: The GSC will accept presentation requests going forward. There will be an application to fill out to ensure the presentation aligns with our strategic plan and overall focus. Presentation will take place after the meeting till 3:20.

Agenda Item: Partner Announcements

Refugee Education Center Open House: ELNC is opening an Early Head Start site with the Refugee Education Center that will be opening in a couple of months. Total of 88 slots for all ELNC Head Start sites. Currently they have 44 filled and must be fully implemented by June. The Refugee Center is also giving the opportunity for community members to becoming licensed in early childhood. What do you need to qualify? Call 816-1406

Shannon Kaza: Mission of Mercy is a free dental clinic being offered at Calvin College from Friday, June 1st through Saturday, June 2nd. The clinic will be accessible by bus line #6 for Calvin. Services offered are: fillings, cleanings, and extractions. All are welcome, there are no income limitations.

Joann Hoganson: KCHD and CPS have been building a collaboration for babies found to be positive for drugs. Typically, a child found to be positive for drugs would have an automatic CPS referral. Instead of opening a CPS case for babies that are safe in the home with mom, a nurse/social worker is a good fit for support. It is voluntary, but if they chose to not do Maternal Infant Health Program they have to do CPS.

Terese Smith: Play Learn and Explore on April 28th. Wonderful family event. If you would like to be a vendor contact Terese. Terese will send electronically to Leslie and information will be sent out to GSC.

Kathleen Neuman: GRCC is considering putting together a summer cohort for those trying to earn their CDA and complete all their 120 hours in the summer. Please contact Kathleen if you have staff that are interested. A decision will be made by mid-March.

Kate Lara: Second count day has happened and all Kent County GSRP slots are filled.

Anthony Quinn: if anyone has a client that is going through a crisis, Safe Families' volunteers can help by taking in children. Send any families to Anthony if they are in need.

Anthony Queen: Attended the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and was introduced to Title 5. Through this introduction advocated to add vocabulary to include Dad's. He also presented on the importance of fatherhood and engaging dads.

Candace Cowling: In April, Family Futures will be sending out ACES questionnaires to families that have taken Connections. Potential of 2500 families to fill out. ACES trainings are also being held in the community. Candace introduced Tracee Bruce to the group. Tracee has come on as the Volunteer & Communication Coordinator and will be working with volunteers and communication. Will there be follow up with those doing the ACES screening? Yes. The Connections staff will be following up as well as someone from GVSU to help connect to therapeutic interventions or other needs.

Jessica Bratt: GRPL launched 1000 books before Kindergarten this fall. Please connect your families to this program.

Linda Krombeen: Sandra Uwiringiyimana, author of *How Dare the Sun Rise* will visit the Wyoming Branch of KDL on March 26th at 6:30pm. She will be sharing the story of her survival, finding her new place in a country, of her hope for the future, and how she found a way to give voice to her people.