

**Great Start Collaborative Meeting Notes**  
**April 19, 2018, 1:30 – 3pm**  
**Kent ISD Transitions Center**

**Attendees:** MaDonna Princer, Lisa Ellison, Kathryn VonMaur, Carol Paine-McGovern, Angela DeLuca Placencia, Toni Mallett, Ashley Greenberg, Kristyn Bomberg, Amirah Vosburgh, Kate Parr, Annemarie Valdez, Kristin Gietzen, Teddie Buchner, Sam McLeod, Jan Sabin, Jacque Viol, Latesha Lipscomb, Tomarra Richardson, Susan Bankhead, Terese Smith, Kailey Cline, Claire Titcombe, Heather Boswell, Kristina Donaldson, Megan Forman, Laura Guichelaar-DeRuiter, Ben Brower, Paul Haan, Chiquita Harper, Jamie Kamp, Maureen Hale

**Staff:** Courtney Myers-Keaton, Jessica Turk, Anthony Queen, Leslie Hawkins, Paula Brown

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

**Maureen Hale**

**Agenda Item: Approval of the February 22, 2018 meeting notes**

**Agenda Item: Inclusion Activity**

**Agenda Item: First Steps Update**

**Annemarie Valdez**

- Millage: Proposal to put on ballot in November. There will be several meetings in the next couple months to explain the proposal and the plan to the County Commission.
- Pritzker Children's Initiative: The national foundation has chosen Kent County along with other communities across the nation. We were chosen because of the work going on in our community being ahead of others in the nation. The counties chosen are considered prototype communities. 6.5 million will be invested into these communities. There will be a press release next week. What other cities involved? Ventura County, Orange County, LA County in California, Denver and Boston. Will the money be distributed equally across the communities? They haven't been specific yet. The funds will be focused on prenatal to three years of age.
- Ready by 5: Press releases are going out to highlight the speakers. Keynote will be Dr. Renee Boynton-Jarrett from Boston Children's Hospital. Conference is a week from today. One more day to register. Parent scholarships are still available. Childcare vouchers are available for those that request them. Questions? Contact Kate Parr. All the details for the conference will be going out in emails early next week for those that are involved.

**Agenda Item: Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

**Courtney Myers-Keaton**  
**Jessica Turk**

- Summary of Trusted Advisor #1 grant: The work in the northern part of the county has been challenging finding a sizeable group of parents to connect with. Now that the grant is ending we are continuing our parent cafes at the Sparta Library to build relationships with parents and families in this part of the county. We have the next three months scheduled at various times to see what works best for the parents in that area. Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30am - 12:30pm, Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm, and Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 3-4pm. We have also partnered with North Kent Connect and will be holding monthly cafes at their location in Rockford. Those dates are Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, June 13<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, July 11<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, and August 8<sup>th</sup> 10-11am. After each of these time frames we will reassess the need to

continue cafes at both locations. A celebration at Alternative Directions took place at the end of March. Over 50 men were a part of the Inside Out Dad's curriculum implemented there. The men received a letter of completion and a certificate award to those who completed three plus meetings. Most completed eight or more and attended both the Tuesday night and Wednesday morning sessions. Currently data from the Alternative Directions portion of the grant is being compiled.

- Ripples of Transformation Grant: The mini-grant was awarded by Center for the Study of Social Policy to the Coalition. We are seeking to hold two community discussions about barriers in the early childhood system with immigrant and refugee communities. We hope to help develop strategies with the groups to help address these barriers.
- GSPC Parent Retreat is Saturday, May 19 at Camp Manitou Lin. Flyer will be sent out.
- Diaper Drive Presentation: Call to Action
- GSPC is moving to 1<sup>st</sup> CRC from Henry Head Start. Thank you, to Head Start.

**Agenda Item: Kids County Data Overview**

Michigan League for Public Policy

**Alicia Guevara-Warren**

[www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org) for more statistics. If you don't see the data you are interested in, contact Kid's Count to request the data you would like. Alicia's email, [www.mlpp.org](http://www.mlpp.org)

**Agenda Item: GSC Updates**

RFP deadline is 4/30/18. Please submit.

**Maureen Hale**