

**Great Start Collaborative Meeting Notes**  
**August 23, 2018 1:30 – 3pm**  
**Kent ISD Transitions Center**

**Attendees:** Julie Young, Candace Cowling, Chana Edmond Verely, Earlina Libbett, Anissa Eddie, Alyce Hernandez, Erin Fields, Rachel McKay, Terese Smith, Kailey Cline, Wendy Wheeler, Ben Brower, Carol Paine-McGovern, Kristin Gietzen, Kristyn Bomberg, Lynne Heyne, Kate Parr, Ashley Greenberg, Kara Bilkert, Alexia Sukenik, Shannon Kaza, Jessica Bratt, Karen Lezan, Ashley Karsten, Julie Guenther, Kate Lara, Lisa Ellison, Joann Hoganson, Jacque Viol, Paul Haan, Claire Titcombe, Summer Wright, Latesha Lipscomb, Toni Mallette, Maureen Hale

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

**Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

**Maureen Hale**

**Agenda Item: Approval of June 28, 2018 Minutes**

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

**Jessica Turk**

**Courtney Myers-Keaton**

- Parent Liaisons are working on next year's action agenda and strategic plan. They are finishing the Trusted Advisor's 2 grant work in the parent support stations. Currently they are holding these at four sites: DHHS, SECOM, Alpha Women's Center, The Other Way. Jessica has also offered them at Head Start's back to school open houses. They are able to use a mobile hotspot to help parents connect to resources in our community.
- Diaper drive: Appletree wrapped up its annual drive and raised over 25,000 diapers.
- Our meetings will kick off on September 13 and they plan to have Spanish translators there at the first meeting of the year. Parent Liaisons are hoping to continue building relationships with the refugee community and can have other translators there as well. Dates for meetings are listed on Facebook.
- Volunteers are needed for the 50/50 raffle at the Whitecaps on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Agenda Item: First Steps Update**

**Kate Parr**

- Early childhood proposal will be on the ballot November 6th. Announcement will be made on September 5<sup>th</sup> at Dwight Lydell Park in Comstock Park. It will last about 20 minutes and will be a media event.
- Trainings are being offered about how to talk about the millage. The first is today after our meeting and the next is Wednesday August 29<sup>th</sup> at 99Monroe.
- For those that are interested in donating to the campaign there are donation cards. After the launch will be able to sign up online.

**Agenda Item: GSC Workgroup Overview**

**Workgroup Co-Chairs**

- Local Leadership Group (LLG): This group was already in existence when the GSC formed their current workgroups. It was decided not to duplicate and merge. The goal of the group is to build capacity for home visiting services and make sure there is a continuum of support. There has

been a sub workgroup that has been working on an algorithm that can help families make an informed choice. It has been a lengthy process but now is in a beta testing phase with Welcome Home Baby and the Great Start Parent Coalition. If it demonstrates that it is working, we will work to implement into the community. LLG has gained much by having parents involved in the work and continue the work with parents giving their voice. If anyone wants to be involved in the group but can't attend all meetings those interested can go to the basecamp platform to be informed.

- Behavioral Mental Health: In the last year the group has worked hard to decide what the projects of the group should be. Currently the landscape in mental health is chaotic. As a group we decided to align with the Success Starts Early site and build the capacity under BMH. We will be building the content for service providers and parents. We also recognized that we need to help nurture resiliency in the community. This will be accomplished through using parent cafes and partnering with the GSPC.
- Nurturing Parent Power: This group is using a collective impact strategy and tapping into the agency of parents and families. In this year we are looking to impact 44,500 children in our community. 50% of children aren't reading and achieving on track. NPP is looking to help families close that gap in their homes. There is a kit for each parent (GSRP, Head Start, home visiting) with items about the Success Basics. About to hit the 10% of children reached through the preschool programs. In three years we will be working to reach 80% of the children. Three times as many billboards will be out and will be bilingual. We want all those that touch the life of a child to know about the basics.
- Early Learning Partners: The group has worked to coordinate resources for families. Looking at gaps and barriers for 0-3 years old in services and how we work to provide those. Connecting with non-traditional care providers and the children they work with. An advocacy survey was used to poll parents to learn their top concerns and help them advocate for those. The concerns identified will be focused on in the next year.
- Kindergarten-Readiness: In the past couple years the group has developed tools to link preschool expectations to kindergarten's. They have developed a literacy tool and math tool for preschool teachers. Math tool is rolling out in the next month with a training on how to use. They will make a YouTube channel so staff can see how to carry out the instruction. They will be working on a new tool for parents using the Success Basics, newsletters, and parent teacher conferences as platforms for that work.
- School Readiness: This group will be working toward making sure the right people are at the table to inform how GSRP works best for families. Since last spring, there has been a deeper alignment in joint recruitment and intake. The group will be working on hearing the family voice and making sure all the parent advisory meetings are the same at every site and a consistent survey for parents in the fall and spring. The workgroup will make the survey. This is a required committee by the state with many different moving parts. There are subgroups that may meet more frequently based on needs.
- Coordinated Resource and Referral: Kent County has great resources, but families aren't aware of them or how to get connected. The group landed on Help Me Grow as a navigational system in our community and hope it can be a partial solution in our community. This is a state model but ours will be geared toward what is needed for our community.

GSC Updates:

Local Program Funds RFP Grantee:

2018/2019 Budget:

GSC Operating Guidelines: