

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Notes
October 25, 2018 1:30 – 3pm
Kent Transitions Center

Attendees: Christina Pocklington, Toni Mallett, Bryanna Hopkins, Earlina Libbett, Tequia Adams, Mike Nassar, Frank Florido, Beverly Williams, Ben Brower, Carol Paine-McGovern, K'Sandra Earle, Karen Lezan, Nicole Pratt, Claire Titcombe, Reyna Garcia, Kathleen Neumann, September Cook, Kara Bilkert, Summer Wright, Tana Martin, Joslyn Ward, Lisa Ellison, Linda Pickett, Kathryn O'Hara-Wallis, Christopher Bendekgey, Joann Hoganson, Jacque Viol, Sara Proano, Julie Young, Nicole Burman, Joseph Mitchell, Julie Guenther, Ashley Karsten, Kate Lara, Candace Cowling, Maureen Kirkwood, Alyce Hernandez, Brittany Mastenbrook, Kristin Gietzen, Latesha Lipscomb, Kate Parr, Kristyn Bomberg,

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

Agenda Item: Approval of August 23, 2018 Minutes

Agenda Item: First Steps Update

Election is in two weeks and the lines are expected to be long. Everyone is encouraged to plan for election day. A link to print out your ballot online to be able to review before the election will be sent to the group. If you aren't receiving the communications about the election, please contact First Steps to be added to the list. Early childhood is being featured on WGUV with Shelly Irwin each Tuesday in the Ready by 5 series from October through December. GSC members are being interviewed over the course of the series. In an upcoming episode, Jessica Turk and Kristina Donaldson will be on. Paula and Nicole Notario-Risk will be on the following week.

Agenda Item: Early Childhood Measures for Kent County Request & Request for Information

In 2012 the community developed an early childhood plan. It identifies the key priorities that the community felt was needed to have a comprehensive plan to support early childhood. The plan is still relevant, but we don't know how we've moved the needle together. The community plan pillars are; parenting education and support, healthy development services, early learning and intervention services, neighborhoods where families thrive, systems of support. Data needs to be collected across the spectrum of early childhood to better understand where we as a community are effecting change. Next steps will be an RFI regarding these contributing indicators. There is a form on the First Steps site (link to be sent to the group) to better understand where the community is with this data collection. Has it been considered to gathering data around the home learning environment? A reliable data point would need to be identified for that. Mike Nassar stated the Literacy Center is thinking about how could a measure could be developed around how much parents are engaged in the learning of their child at home. The data collection for this is not meant to be a comprehensive list but a temperature taking. Questions or comments can be asked in the RFI or addressed to FSK staff. RFI is open till December 3rd. Please feel free to pass along to those you may feel would have input.

Agenda Item: Great Start Parent Coalition

- Chili Cook Off and Kickball Event: The Parent Coalition met at Wilcox Park. 20 families attended the events. Tomarra Richardson won the chili cookoff. Many dads engaged in the event, they were leading and coaching the children.
- October Meeting: Candace presented on the Ready by 5 proposal, a presenter on the Gerrymandering proposal and the election as well. Anthony also shared about the Manifesto.
- November Meeting: Cole Williams will be presenting around about why fathers and father figures play such a key role in the lives of children. We will also have a special guest from Be SMART presenting on the importance of gun safety around children.
- Success Basics event for home based childcare providers tonight. Spots are still available. Please feel free to attend or send others to attend.
- Diaper Drive: Nestlings in Ottawa does a yearly drive throughout Ottawa and parts of Kent. They split the amount collected with us. This year over 10,000 diapers were donated to our drive. National Diaper Bank Network has chosen our drive to partner with Meijer and Huggies. More details to come.

Agenda Item: Manifesto for Race Equity

In January a group from Kent County went to Oakland to work with nine other communities to draft a manifesto around race equity and parent leadership. Anthony has been selected as one of the parent leaders to help elevate the work. In the last couple weeks, he's been Cleveland and Washington DC presenting on this. He will be going out doing presentations in the community on this document. Manifesto and Ripples of Transformation will be sent out to the group manifesto will be put on the internet and will draw attention from those organizations that don't know how to engage parents.

Agenda Item: GSC Updates

- GSC Operating Guidelines: They have been finalized and will go out to the group.
- Action Agenda: At our last GSC we had each workgroup share out their agenda for the new fiscal year. The feedback given was applied to the it. We are currently going over the broad action agenda and will be getting some TA around it. We will then develop our one page action agenda.
- 2018/2019 Budget: There has been a \$50,000 cut that was cut from federal funds. Our preliminary numbers for carryover will be about \$80,000. A substantial portion of that will go toward HMG/navigation and the Success Starts Early site as a one stop shop for parents. There are some line items that show \$0 but those key areas will be funded by carry over. Candace asked if the actual spent money will be seen, final report for the year. We can do that.
- Health Equity & Social Justice Workshop: We are hosting a three-hour training with Kent County Health Department, Strong Beginnings, and Healthy Kent. This is an abbreviated version of the two-day training offered a few times over the year. We are encouraging all GSC members to attend to help impact the work they do with families. Staff members from GSC organizations are also welcome to attend. A link listing the dates for the 2019 two-day workshop will be sent out to the group.

Agenda Item: Partner Announcements

Mike Nassar: Literacy center will have summit in 2020 for foundation for early literacy. Will look forward to partnering with partners in the community.

Joann Hoganson: The Public Charge legislation is of grave concern for families in general and how it already is and could continue to will impact early childhood. Families are already pulling out of using any public services to prevent risking them from being denied citizenship. Those who are born in the country are withdrawing from services as well. Reyna reiterated how important that our community come together for these families. Her community is hurting because of all the attacks that have been against them in the last two years.

Kathleen Neuman: Play and Learn groups were able to add two new sites. East Leonard and Ken-o-Sha.

Comprehensive Therapy Center: Program schedule is out.

Kristyn Bomberg; Launching let's go Luna on PBS. Children will learn about cultures from all over the world. Cool Teacher contest and other contest both expanded to pre-k. Kids Great American Read is another initiative. The following link will take you to the resources: <https://www.wgvu.org/education-kids/>

Candace: The Ready by 5 campaign released bedtime stories videos urging people to vote. One of the videos features parent liaison, Courtney Myers-Keaton's son, Ezra.

Jackie Viol: The KDL early literacy workgroup is working to convert their book list to the five Success Basics. Lists of books relating to three of the basics are ready to access on the website early literacy link on the website. Bookmobile is here, starting to visit schools Monday morning. Kevin Kammeraad is one of the drivers along with other KDL staff. ELNC is going to be a stop. If you want a regular stop or at an event for the bookmobile contact KDL. Community members are being encouraged to write and submit about family immigration stories. The contest is trying to get at least 100 stories in Spanish and even more in English. The stories need to be true and there are plans for them to be archived. Winners get a prize and get published. Writemichigan.org