

**Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes**  
**June 27, 2019 1:30 – 3pm**  
**Kent ISD Transition Center**

**Attendees: Nicole Burman, Christina Pocklington, Jacque Viol, Joann Hoganson, Rachel Kowalk, Crystal Bulgarella, Gayle Orange, Bryana Hopkins, Jennifer Cottingham, Nicole Pratt, K'Sandra Earle, Joslyn Ward, Aarie Wade, Maggie Lancaster, Claire Titcombe, Summer Wright, Torin Hodgman, Ben Brower, Wayne Hill, Tana Martin, Amirah Vosburgh, Annemarie Valdez, Candace Cowling, Kristyn Bomberg, Tequia Adams, Kathryn O'Hara-Wallis, John Robinson, Maureen Hale**

**Staff: Anthony Queen, Jessica Turk, Leslie Hawkins, Paula Brown, Tomarra Richardson**

- **Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions** **Maureen Hale**
  
- **Agenda Item: Approval of April 25, 2019 Minutes - Approved**
  
- **Agenda Item: Great Start Parent Coalition Report** **Jessica Turk**  
**Tomarra Richardson**  
**Anthony Queen**
  - GSC Diaper Drive: Five organizations participated in this year's diaper drive. Thank you to Easterseals, GVSU Charter Schools, KISD Early Childhood Department, Arbor Circle, and Brown Hutcherson. The winner this year is GVSU Charter Schools. The traveling trophy was presented to member Amirah Vosburgh. Jessica also shared she will be on Fox Morning Mix on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> to talk about diaper need in our community.
  - June Meeting: 70 attendees including children. Early literacy expert, Jill Webber presented from GVSU and educated families about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading law and ways to best support literacy. Every child got to pick a book to bring home.
  - Reading on the River was June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 25 families participated, 95 people attended. Food from Subway was provided, and Grand Rapids Children's Museum offered additional activities. Activities were available during the trip for parents and children. Literacy raffle prizes were given out. Books were received by Storytime in the Park at Garfield park. Children received free books as well as some of the parents.
  - COFI: Parents graduated on April 30<sup>th</sup> from our first COFI group. The group now begins a project together. The plan is to have an event focused around literacy. One of the members is applying for the GR neighborhood grant. COFI summary.
  - Parent Leader Network is under the umbrella of the Center for the Study of Social Policy. This month members from across 28 different communities tied to CSSP met in DC to better understand the work one another is doing. A decision was made to incorporate more parents into group leadership.
  
- **Agenda Item: Ready by 5 Early Childhood Millage Update** **Annemarie Valdez**

On April 25<sup>th</sup> Kent County Board of Commissioners approved that FSK would be the administrator of millage dollars. A Bidders Conference took place on May 21<sup>st</sup> for the first funding roll out focused on navigation and outreach. Applications are due on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was

demonstrated to the county the need to get funding out quickly, working to get the funding out as soon as possible. Four parents are on the allocation team to help decide how funds are distributed. FSK is required to do a needs assessment every two years because of the millage funds. Annemarie referenced a vision document handout. First Steps will be launching a new site that will allow the vision document to be interactive.

- **Agenda Item: Kent County Success Basics**

- **GSC Nurturing Parent Power Workgroup:**

The work of the Nurturing Parent Power group is focused on a new vision for Kent County: leverage ALL change agents for more literacy, equip parents as key change agents, capitalize on early years when the brain grows the most, and equip ALL change agents with what matters most. Goal for 25% saturation in the first year has been reached.

- KISD: Teachers were very excited to share the Success Basics to families and were given the tools to explain the Basics at the first home visit before the school year began. They introduced the website and videos there. Parents were reminded about the Basics at conferences. If a family had a Child Behavior Meetings, they were also used then. This use proved helpful to end those meetings on something positive. The Basics are currently being used in update emails for those waiting to hear what schools their children will be placed in for fall.
- Baby Scholars: The Basics are being used in weekly home visits in the 10-week sessions. Coaches are giving feedback it reinforces what they are doing and enriches dialogue with parents. Parents have shared three core benefits to learning about the Basics: provision for continued growth in healthier parenting, gives a sense of connectedness and belonging to the ECE world, and easy to connect other family members and friends with young children to the information.
- GSPC: On June 4<sup>th</sup> the Coalition and GSQ held an event for Star rated providers and the families they serve at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum. Success Basics stations were throughout the museum focusing on each Basic and a tip sheet related to the it. To get additional raffle tickets people could view a video through a QR code. Raffle prizes were centered around the Basics. Families loved the event.
- Head Start of West Michigan: The Basics are listed on the website, in their handbook and kindergarten guide. Book marks are being developed featuring them. Parent Policy Council received the presentation and parent representatives were asked to take the information back to sites. The Family Goal Form has integrated the Basics into their goal setting. Healthy Reading Chart also uses the Basics.
- Refugee provider event: Bethany and GSPC partnered with KDL to bring the Basics to this group of providers. KDL shared activities to accompany books that are available to providers at the library as well as a demonstration of what a story time looks like.
- KDL has an early childhood workgroup. This group has switched all Early childhood materials over to Success Basics. Each Basic has its own page with coinciding activities and books. They are also working on an app. The goal would be to click on one of the Basics and find activities that go with it. KDL also brought Ron Ferguson back to speak with the staff and community. Each location is using the Basics differently. At every story time Success Basics is mentioned across the community.

- Moving forward: working on a practice guide to share in the community. We ask those that have done Basics work to document it and send to the GSC. Proposing the Kent County Way, how we reinforce parent engagement through the Success Basics.
  - The Kent County Way is a proposed reinforcing parent-engagement system that incorporates six key levers of support: language skills focus, literacy skills focus, Basics Reading/Talk/Love focus, community resources connections, books & activities supports, and digital literacy prompts. These levers will be the focus of the second year of the Success Basics.
- **Agenda Item: GSC Updates**
    - Help Me Grow Kent: HMG is a system model for navigation and support for families in our community. CRR/HMG workgroup is co-chaired by Joann Hoganson, Amirah Vosburgh, and Tomarra Richardson. KISD has been chosen as the backbone of the HMG work. ISD and GSC are applying for millage dollars with other community partner support. Reflecting on Chana's presentation, this is system weaving work. We will keep the group posted as we learn more.
    - Early Childhood Support Network: Currently we are under a statewide structure with the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) leading support for GSC and GSQ. Kent County will be part of the western region. Ottawa, Calhoun, and Kent ISD put out an application to be the regional support and were chosen. The impact on the GSC's and GSPCS's will be in the technical assistance. Many of the regional centers may contract with ECIC to help facilitate TA. In the second year there may be some application support for MDE/GSC's.
- **Agenda Item: Partner Updates**
    - Comprehensive Therapy Center: Jean Silbar is retiring. A new executive director has been hired. An announcement for a celebration for Jean will be coming out.
    - Gayle Orange: First year report for the WK Kellogg grant for childcare provider bridge is available. Contact Gayle if you would like to review.
    - Grand Rapids Children's Museum: July 31<sup>st</sup> is the Day of Play at Rosa Parks Circle. GSPC and Head Start are two of the partners that will be there. The event is free to the community from 4 – 8pm.
    - WGVU: August 1<sup>st</sup> is Kids Day at the Zoo. Mobile Learning Adventure from PNC will also be present.