

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2019 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Kent ISD Education Services Building – Grand Room

Attendees: Nicole Burman, Christina Pocklington, Jayme Vosovic, Reyna Garcia, Nkechy Ezeh, Rachel Binkowski, Claire Titcombe, Kathryn Steiner, Maggie Lancaster, Wayne Hill, Nirali Bora, Susan Chang, Summer Wright, Sarah Wilson, Kristin Gietzen, Heather Boswell, Joann Hoganson, Barb Hawkins-Palmer, Hannah Beller, Joslyn Ward, Gayle Orange, Jeran Culina, Raven Williams, Alyssa Bryan, Linda Pickett, MaDonna Princer, Megan Streng, Anthony Quinn, Kara Bilkert, Bryana Hopkins, Jill Salisbury, Angie Gleisner, Ashley Karsten, Mike Nassar, Tana Martin, Latesha Lipscomb, Lisa Ellison, Maureen Hale, Jennifer Cottingham, Karen Lezan, Terese Smith

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

- **Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Agenda Item: Approval of the June 27, 2019 meeting notes: Approved

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

Jessica Turk
Tomarra Richardson

- Diaper Drive: Jessica promoted the diaper drive on Fox17 Morning Mix with a specific focus on the yearly Appletree drive. The media coverage earned a connection with Harley Davidson who hosted a drive for three weeks in July that raised almost 5000 diapers. They plan on holding the drive yearly. Appletree drive collected 19,143 diapers with the Standale location collecting 3716 diapers as the winner.
- WGVU Leaps and Bounds Radio Series: Success Basics are being featured on the series. Three of the Basics have been featured so far with three more airing in the future. A provider and a parent are being featured to hear how both hats use the Success Basics in their work.
 - On September 10th, Anjie Gleisner from KDL and Nicole Burman, GSC Parent Rep will talk about the Read and Discuss Stories Basic
 - On September 24th, Sara Larkin from Kentwood Public Schools and Jessica Turk, GSPC Parent Liaison will talk about Talk Sing and Point Basic
 - On October 15th, Count Group Compare will be the focus
- COFI: The group has been focusing on team building and are planning a literacy event at Neland CRC in the MLK neighborhood. They received a grant from the Grand Rapids Neighborhood Match Grant to help pay for their event on September 14th. If anyone would like to host a table reach out to Tomarra and Jessica. All children 0 -18 years old that attend will receive a book. There will be free food and Kona Ice. The event will feature bounce house, crafts, story time, and raffle prizes.
- Trusted Advisors Grant: The GSPC applied through MDE for the grant in the amount of \$20,000. They should know if they were awarded the grant by the end of the month. The grant period runs September 1st to November 29th. They applied for funds to continue running Parent Support Stations and Parent Cafes. They also asked for funds to support holding Coalition meetings specifically for the Latinx community and in Spanish over the course of the grant.
- Facebook: Follow us on FB if you aren't already. Theme days are featured throughout the week in addition to other posts. Maker Monday, Reading Wednesday, Teaching Tip Thursday

and Success Basics Saturday. A new feature is Fatherhood Friday. Parent Representative, Da'mon Bracey is supplying the content. Our Facebook page is Great Start Parent Coalition of Kent County.

- Fatherhood Event: Grillin' and Chilin' at Garfield Park this Saturday from 12:30 – 3:30pm. It will focus on intentional play and have volleyball, kickball, food, and raffle prizes.

- **Agenda Item: First Steps Update**

Heather Boswell

- Shared services: This three-year grant will allow First Steps Kent to pilot a Shared Services model to offer more support and back-end services to childcare centers and family homes. The tangible benefits that would come along with Shared Services are group insurance, buying power, training and professional development, and basic business management support. The expenses and time associated with running a childcare business force many providers out of the industry. Research shows easing those burdens helps stabilize the pool of providers, giving families more options. Second round interviews are being held to fill a Shared Services Program Manager to support the work.
- Ready by 5 Early Childhood Millage: Resident proposal review board met in June and put forth recommendations to be funded. Recommended four organizations to be funded. Family Futures, Family Promise, Health Net of West Michigan, and Kent ISD. The Finance and Fiscal Resource Committee will give their recommendation on September 3rd. On September 12th the Kent County Board of Commissioners will make the final decision. Second round applications will be released on October 12 with a focus on programs/services (home visiting, environmental services, play and learn, standardized screening/ASQ).
- Heather introduced new staff members Megan Streng, Communications Specialist and Jill Salisbury in a shared position with First Steps and K Connect.

- **Agenda Item: GSC Strategic Direction**

- Video: The GAP: Leslie will share out video to group
- In July the GSC Executive Team, some co-chairs, and community members met to review data to help us plan our work for the next year. We were looking to determine the lane and work of the GSC for next year. Each group offered additional root causes or recommendations in the outcome areas:
 - Outcome #1: Public Charge is causing Latinx families to not get care because of fear. Moms Medicaid shouldn't affect their ability to become a citizen. Solution to talk with Michigan Immigrant Right Center. People get treated differently when they have Medicaid.
 - Outcome #2: The group supports that social emotional development affecting later academic success as the most important root cause to address. The group also believes poverty and neglect are linked and important to wrap around social emotional. Institutional racism and cultural competency also as a focus.
 - Outcome #3: 300 kids on a wait list to get in preschool. Families most at risk might not know until September and October to sign up for preschool and not be able to access preschool. A focus on family engagement would be largely beneficial, however GSRP doesn't have funds to dedicate to that. The current navigation system can cause families to get lost in the process of what services are out there.
 - Outcome #4: More social emotional resources built into community, more resources for parents to support healthy social emotional development.

- The group reviewed the content from the summary document from the GSC Strategic Planning meeting. Attendees were asked to vote on the strategies they believed were the most important and impactful:
 - SWOT Analysis:
 - A tie between “Increase and amplify parent voice” and “More parent leadership, engagement, access, and advocacy” – 23 votes
 - Improve connections and representation in the Latinx community in the GSC – 5 votes
 - Clarify the GSC’s land in the emerging, changing, and expanding landscape – 1 vote
 - Making Meaning:
 - Expand information and awareness of the importance of socio-emotional development and its link to later developmental stage success – 34 votes
 - Ensure parents have tools (ASQ) to support their children’s full healthy development through HMG – 12 votes
 - Increase access to information – 6 votes
 - A tie between “Support financial literacy education via culturally competent delivery systems” and “Advocate for improvements in Medicaid administration” – 5 votes

- GSC Updates **Paula Brown**
 - Budget: Will send out to the group. Please let Paula know if you have questions.
 - GSC Statewide Convening Updates: No signed budget yet for the new fiscal year. The state budget is staying the same. There are \$75,000 in federal funds that we don’t know will happen to yet.