

Great Start Collaborative Membership Meeting
December 12, 2019 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Kent County Health Dept. – Lakes Room
Minutes

Attendees: Chanelle Charity, Nicole Pratt, Kayla Johns, Christina Pavlack, Sarah Wilson, Ben Brower, Lynn Heemstra, Claire Titcombe, Summer Wright, Reyna Garcia, Latesha Lipscomb, Alyssa Bryan, Susan Chang, Elizabeth Zandstra, Jennifer Cottingham, Yolanda Johnson, Christina Pocklington, Iris Gipson, Bryana Hopkins, Cara Sutcliffe, Olga York, Nicole Burman, Susan Erhardt, Abby D’Addario, Ashley Karsten, Jenna Hekman, Jeran Culina, Kathleen Neumann, Alisa Otro, Kari Clark, Tara Gwamna, Melissa Werkman, Tequia Adams

Staff: Tomarra Richardson, Paula Brown, Leslie Hawkins

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Approval of the October 24, 2019 meeting note Approved

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

Tomarra Richardson

- Trusted Advisor Grant: The Latinx Coalition meetings continue to have high attendance as well as the Parent Cafes that are building social connection. Sparta Baptist has also had three parent cafes. The course of the grant was scheduled to end in December. Grant has been extended to 2/29/19 and additional funding up to \$10,000 is available.
- NPP is coordinating One County, One Book for the Success Basics. The chosen book is The Gruffalo. The goal is to get out the book and calendar of activities out to families to do over winter break
- Rap and Read: A local barber gives free haircuts to children who read to him on Monday evenings. The GSPC had a table at the one this week. Hope to provide books at the night going forward as well as partner in additional ways if possible.

- **GSC Updates**

- Staff Changes: Jessica accepted a position with the CAC. Posting went out last week to fill her position, over 50 applicants within a week. Nine candidates will go through a phone screener and identify who would be interviewed. Care coordinator position through the GSC will be posted in the new year.
- Budget: last year we had \$120,000 in carryover. This year we have \$44,000 in carryover. Budget is reviewed. Any questions, email Paula.

- **GSC FY20 Action Agenda**

Group Discussion

- **2019/20 Community Successes**

**Paula Brown
Leslie Hawkins**

After slides were shared with early childhood successes group members were invited to share additional wins in early childhood:

- COFI Literacy Event: The event was a great success! Some of the families from the event are coming to the Parent Coalition.
- KDL had two events with the Refugee provider group through Bethany connected to the Basics. Out of that work an initiative was created in partnership with the Literacy Center. ESL community members can enroll in a four-month class beginning on January 7th 2020 and become a KDL staff member.
- Bright Beginnings received blue ribbon status, only eight are hold that status across the state.
- HMGK: Interviews are beginning for the Project Manager position.

- **Partner Announcements**

- Our Communities' Children is working on a project focused on connecting children to nature, Freedom Outdoors. There will be an event on January 18th at MLK park. They are also working on a gear library for families to use in the outdoors. Working on train the trainer models for the use of the equipment. Lynn will send information out to GSC and will share with the group. The initiative is focusing on the SE/SW parts of Grand Rapids. KDL also has kayaks and bikes that can be checked out through them
- KDL is piloting a program. At the Kentwood branch there is a scanner that can translate any document, book, and other items into 100 languages. Trialing it for one month till January 12, 2020. It is very expensive but want the community to try it to see if it is helpful and wanted in our community.
- Infant Mental Health at Cherry Health is a model for children birth to five. Funding has been received to allow those with private or public insurance to access services where it used to be only accessible with those with Medicaid. There will be a sliding scale fee.
- KDL is partnering with GRCM to do new play spaces in every branch of KDL. They will be called Wonder Nooks. Piloting in March for a full year at the Wyoming, Alto, and Byron Center branches.
- Literacy Summit is February 28, 2020.