

Great Start Collaborative Membership Meeting
February 27, 2020 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Kent ISD Educational Service Center – Grand Room
Minutes

Attendees: Nicole Burman, Bryana Hopkins, Paul Westdale, Kate Lara, Emily Skavnak, Joann Hoganson, K'Sandra Earle, Ashley Karsten, Chanelle Charity, Paige Putans, Elizabeth Zandstra, Yolanda Johnson, Iris Gipson, Karen Lezan, Kailey Cline, Terese Smith, Kayla Johns, Jennifer Cottingham, Alissa Finley, Susan Chang, Tequia Adams, Claire Titcombe, Peter Carino, Ruth Rodriguez, Lynne Heemstra, Abby D'Addario, Sara Proano, Sara Jeruzal, Allison Colberg, Maureen Kirkwood, Heather Boswell, Ed Kolakowski, Kristin Gietzen, Ben Brower, Kathleen Neumann, Lisa Ellison, Joslyn Ward, MaDonna Princer, Maureen Hale

Staff: Paula Brown, Tomarra Richardson, Christina Pocklington, Leslie Hawkins

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Approval of the December 12, 2019 meeting notes: approved

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

Tomarra Richardson
Christina Pocklington
Nicole Burman

- Welcome to Christina Pocklington, our new Parent Liaison. Christina comes to this work after being a Parent Rep and teacher in Early Childhood Education.
- Trusted Advisors grant is ending on February 29th. The GSPC was awarded a total of \$30,000 over the life of the grant
 - Latinx Coalition: Six meetings were held completely in Spanish in the Latinx community. Each meeting averaged 25 – 40 adults and children. Meetings were held at Alger Head Start and Southwest Community Campus. Meetings were well received and demonstrated the need for meetings to continue.
 - Parent Cafés: Three were held in the northern part of Kent County and seven in the Latinx community. Attendance was a challenge in the northern part of the county but in the Latinx community they were well attended. Social connections and supportive conversations were important outcomes from the cafes there.
 - Parent Support Stations (PSS): 52 PSS were held through the grant. Locations include: In the Image, DHHS, The Other Way Ministries, SECOM, Southwest Community Campus, Caesar Chavez Farmer's Market, Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, KDL/GRLP libraries, Great Giant Supermarket.
 - Read and Rap to your Barber: Local barbershop, PrimeTime Barbershop, offers free haircuts on Monday nights for those children that read to him. The GSPC used some of the TA funds to buy books for children to leave with.
 - GSPC was informed this week of a new Trusted Advisor grant opportunity in April. We plan to apply for funds. Also waiting to hear on a Delta Dental grant.
- COFI: The local groups trained in 2018 held an open house and orientation for past and future COFI participants. GSPC Liaisons and Representatives will help lead the event. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to sign up for new cohorts of COFI across the community.
- Diaper Drive: Nestlings in Holland received many 2T/3T pullups. They donated 14,000 of those to Kent County. Christina and Leslie distributed those diapers and wipes to partner pantries across the community.

- Social Emotional Parent Cafes: Currently three different locations across the northern part of the county (Sparta Baptist, Hillview, North Kent Connect) are holding Parent Cafes. The goal is to help parents to start talking about social emotional needs. Those who attend four cafes will receive a \$25 gift card. A new assessment tool was created nationally and will help gather data.
 - Upcoming meetings:
 - March 19th: Legislative Night, five confirmed legislators so far
 - April 16th: ACES and Resiliency: Marguerite Morgan
 - May 14th: Racism? It's Complicated: Faye Richardson-Green
 - June 11th: Co-Parenting/Conflict Resolution/Family Law; Christine Gilman
 - Manifesto: Nicole Burman has been trained on the Manifesto, a guide for agencies and systems giving parents voice. Creating opportunities to lead in all areas of change and to address racial inequities. She can come to organizations to train staff on what it means to implement the Manifesto. Leslie will send out to GSC.
- **Office of Great Start Update** **Rachel Pritchard, Great Start**
 - GSC & GSPC: This year technical assistance (TA) transitioned from ECIC to four early childhood support networks (ECSN). The ECSN's are providing TA and working with Resource Centers. ECIC still oversees the day to day of GSQ. GSC and GSPC are staying in place as they are. GSC's and GSPC's serve as the state match for the PDBG B-5 grant.
 - Preschool Development Block Grant Birth - 5: Grant is intended to build a better and efficiently funded system. Currently ending the initial grant period for a needs assessment of the mixed delivery system. The mixed delivery system includes; Home Visiting, Early On, Child Development and Care, GSRP, Early Head Start and Head Start, and Physical/Emotional Health. The assessment is to find needs and form a strategic plan to address those. Leslie will send out two documents from MDE related to the strategic plan. Michigan has received a renewal grant for the next three years and will receive 13.3 million dollars. There will be more needs assessments work. How will those dollars be allocated? The funds will not be able to be used for advocacy for legislative change. There will be a goal that what the grant supports will have sustainability after the grant is done. The State will be funding things already happening at local levels, not state down work. Grant will fall into six activities: Needs Assessment, Strategic Planning, Parental Knowledge and Choice, Provider Best Practices, Improving Overall Access and Quality, and Data and Evaluation. Has resource mapping been done? On a small level. Need to understand what's available and how, in addition to understanding the needs. Hoping to plan an event in May to offer communities a chance to listen and learn from each other.
 - **Kent County Free Preschool Joint Recruitment and Intake:** In March of 2019 the Director of the Office of Head Start visited with Michigan Head Start directors and learned of Kent County's intake system. Since then MaDonna and Ashley have met with or been on calls with Atlanta, City of Chicago, and shared at national events related to Head Start and preschool partnerships. Others are recognizing and want to replicate what we are doing. 98% of applications were completed online last year. The goal was to keep the intake to ten minutes. Information calls out preschool intake, not individual programs. The new system has forced marketing and connections to hard to reach populations. Staff has learned about other's programs more and can now help answer questions for parents also making it easier for families. Since doing this they've been full earlier in the year. For those that would like to learn more about the intake process, reach out to Ashley and MaDonna with questions.
 - **GSC Updates:**
 - Budget: Budget document shared with group. Email Paula with questions. Spending was low in the first quarter due to funds spent through Trusted Advisors grant.
 - Help Me Grow: Welcome to Paul Westdale, the new Project Manager for HMG at the Kent ISD. Soft launch is tomorrow. Paula gave a brief walkthrough of the updated Success Starts Early site as well

as the specific HMG landing page. Currently in a period of refinement and would like feedback on the site. An online chat feature will be added in the future.

- Partner Announcements: Yolanda Johnson mentioned the opportunity to attend ENTF's Navigator Meeting. The next meeting is March 12th. <http://entfkent.org/event/entf-systems-navigator-convening/>