

Great Start Collaborative Membership Meeting
April 23, 2020 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Attendees: Maureen Hale, Wayne Hill, Terese Smith, Wendy Wheeler, Lisa Ellison, Yolanda Johnson, Judy Freeman, Paul Westdale, Mike Nassar, Alissa Finley, Kristyn Bomberg, Ben Brower, Jaime Mueller, Peter Carino, Heather Boswell, Ashley Karsten, Nicole Burman, Cara Sutcliffe, Jennifer Leys, Claire Titcombe, Heather Walceskwi, Jennifer Cottingham, Megan Streng, Susan Chang, Maggie Lancaster, Kate Lara, Sarah Wilson, MaDonna Princer, Alyce Hernandez, Karen Lezan, Amirah Vosburgh, Frank Florido, Anissa Eddie, K'Sandra Earle, Kristin Gietzen, Bryanna Hopkins, Joslyn Ward, Reyna Garcia, Chana Edmond-Verley, Kailey Cline, Iris Gipson, Betsy Zandstra, Mallory Willenbring, Katie Szarowicz, Latesha Lipscomb, Tequia Adams, Fredericka Brown, Aarie Wade, Sara Proano

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

- Welcome and Introductions

Maureen Hale

Approval of the February 27, 2020 meeting notes: Approved

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report

Tomarra Richardson
Christina Pocklington

- Trusted Advisor: Fourth Trusted Advisor's grant is being applied for from OGS. The grant proposal is due April 27th. It is non-competitive with each GSPC able to receive up to \$20,000. Due to the current situation it will be necessary to make a Plan A and a Plan B in case COVID-19 is still impacting the work. The grant will operate from July through November.
- Grants
 - Delta Dental Grant: Was not awarded but they will donate an in-kind Rethink your Drink kit.
 - Tenacre Grant: Applied for funds related to the diaper drive. Grant was not awarded but a staff person personally donated six boxes of diapers.
 - CSSP Grant: Awarded a grant of \$1600 to support COFI cohort.
- Virtual Meetings
 - Parent Café: Two Cafes have been held so far. Only one person has joined each. Christina and Nicole were happy to support her but still trying to figure out how to get more attendees. Cafes are held on Monday evenings from 8:30 – 10pm.
 - Parent Rep. Check-In: The parents appreciated the interaction and would like this to continue beyond COVID. The call allowed liaisons to understand the current needs of the families represented.
 - April Coalition: 18 parents on virtual GSPC meeting. The meeting gave the opportunity to check in with parents. Christina presented on the stimulus and a needs assessment was conducted in the meeting to understand what our families are facing and others they know in the community. The top need was help with homeschooling followed by diapers, financial assistance, and food. Parents reported they want to hear more about community resources at future zoom meetings. A community wide survey was released as well over Mail Chimp and Facebook to continue helping assess what families are most in need of at this time.
- Social Media: Currently posting on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest. Christina is doing a circle time on Facebook live every weekday at 9:05am. One of the videos has over

1000 views. Today's circle time was about birthday's since it was Christina's son's birthday. Happy 3rd Birthday, Riley!

- Gruffalo: Posts have been shared with Gruffalo activities via the social media platforms. Last Monday Michelle Obama started Monday's with Michelle on Facebook with PBS Kids. Her first book was The Gruffalo. We hosted a Facebook watch party and pushed out the reading on both Facebook groups and Instagram.
- Diaper Drive: Christina picked up 150 boxes of wipes from Nestlings this week to be distributed from The StoreHouse. National Diaper Bank Network reached out with the opportunity to purchase 280,000 diapers for \$7000. This comes out to .025/diaper. Diapers will be delivered on April 30th to The StoreHouse. The annual GSC drive will be moved from May to September.

GSC members asked if there are specific homeschooling resources being given out via GSPC? Amirah is working on a resource and will share with the GSPC. Christina has been posting relevant content on Pinterest from her teaching resources. Sarah Proano asked if parents voiced concern over technology-based learning. Several group members working on preschool areas gave feedback texts work better than regular emails. MaDonna stated that out of 1500 children, only 11 families have opted to have packets mailed to them. Group members shared resources to help promote learning. Complete list is available in accompanying document

- Small Group Break

- Help Me Grow Kent Update

Paul Westdale

- Childcare for Essential Needs Workers: Main part of work currently is connecting essential workers with childcare providers. 140 children have been placed in childcare across the county. New children coming in daily. Able to help people on the front lines. Will continue as long as shelter in place is happening.

- Nurturing Parent Power

Chana Edmond-Verley

- Kent County Way - One County One Book: Multiple partners from across the community helped distribute The Gruffalo with supporting activities to the families they serve and interact with. As Tomarra mentioned earlier, content from the Gruffalo campaign continues to be pushed out via social media.
- Digital prompts: The platform is an evidence-based curriculum. Prompts three times a week. Its specific to the child's age. Most families have texting plans even if they don't have data. Parents have different degrees of access to technology. Some may not have access to internet at all or a smartphone. Why Ready 4k over other platforms? Two to three months of learning gains were achieved via Ready 4K, literacy and math were both impacted. Connect ASQ data to specific texts. Could send out FB Live circle time as an example. Could use platform to push out our survey. Sends out information to teachers. Send Chana or Paula and Leslie an email with questions or if you'd like to sign up.

- First Steps Kent Update

Heather Boswell

Community indicator work continues with KConnect. They are working on how they get data out to the community. FSK has been working in the childcare shared service space by leveraging funding to support childcare businesses through funding from HWMUW. Programs funded through the second round of millage dollars are having a hard time pushing their work forward. Funding through two months and organizations working to continue to connect with parents and families in new ways. Programs have worked on figuring out how to do things virtually and through social media. FSK is continuing to support programs as much as they can.

- GSC Updates

Paula Brown

- Staffing Update: Welcome Mallory Willenbring! Starting more regularly May 11th. Degree in child development and family social work.
- Budget: Paula gave the feedback that in a typical year a large amount of spending is often used in the second half of the year. Due to COVID-19 there are funds that may not be able to be used as planned. Boston Basics and Smart Start conferences were both cancelled as well as HMG. Another factor in the budget is Jessica leaving her role and the position open for two months. Paula will speak to OGS to see how to best reallocate funds. Reach out to Paula if you have any questions related to the budget. Finance and executive team will be meeting to go over what amendments need to be made.