

Great Start Collaborative Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Zoom

Attendees: Ben Brower, Sara Proano, Misti DeVries, Christina Pocklington, Maggie Lancaster, Alyce Hernandez, Mallory Willenbring, Kristyn Bomberg, Susan Chang, Heather Boswell, Jaime Mueller, Katie Brower, Mike Nassar, Kristin Gietzen, Jayme Vosovic, Kristin Sobolewski, Latesha Lipscomb, Kayla Johns, Alissa Hofstee, Adam Flynn, Sarah Wilson, Iris Gipson, Frank Florido, Karen Lezan, Paul Westdale, Ashley Karsten, Bryana Hopkins, Jennifer Cottingham, Debbie Whitford, Maureen Hale, Stephanie Fuller, Leslie Hawkins, Paula Brown, Wendy Wheeler, Tomarra Richardson, Kailey Cline, Alissa Finley, Melissa Rizer, Cara Sutcliffe, Ray Sutcliffe, Audrey Bergquist, Sarah Miller, Yolanda Johnson, Nicole Burman, Kate Lara, Amirah Vosburgh, Michelle Ramsundar, Alyssa Bryan, Lynnae Pickens

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Approval of the August 27, 2020 meeting notes: approved

- **Celebrate Babies Week**

Link to Kid's Count Data used in game: <https://mlpp.org/2020kidscount/Kent.pdf>

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

Tomarra Richardson

- Books, Blocks & Balls Event took place at Sparta Baptist Church on September 19th 10am – 12pm with the first car arriving a little after 9am. Partners at the event include KDL Bookmobile, DA Blodgett, Great Start to Quality, and Head Start. 99 adults attended with 181 children. 76% had never heard of an ASQ and 6 ASQs came in after the event. Feedback indicated people enjoyed the simplicity of the toys with the great ideas, books, all of the information provided, and the friendliness of volunteers.
- Grants
 - Trusted Advisor 4 ends 11.27.20
 - Trusted Advisor 5 is due on 10.25.20. \$25,000 can be applied for. The grant will run longer from January through November.
 - CSSP grant is applied for and will be applied to COFI.
 - November Meeting: Racism? It's Complicated: Presenters are Faye Richardson-Green and Kathy Glynn and will focus on how to talk to your children about race and racism. Meeting will be on Thursday, November 12th from 5:30 – 8pm. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84958564843?pwd=WU5JUVNRSFpqVHRYNHxZ1YrNUVPQT09>
- COFI: Group is meeting weekly on Thursday nights. Each week attendees get an appreciation gift. They are working on goal setting.
- Diaper Drive: 492,271 diapers raised in 2020. Appletree raised over 17,000 diapers. Centennial Securities is raising funds as well. GSC drive will be finished this week and has been doing very well. 162,612 diapers till we hit two million diapers raised!

- **Kent County Current State of Childcare**

- Great Start to Quality – Jaime Mueller: Refer to PPT
- Campfire West MI 4C – Chana Edmond-Verley: Refer to PPT. Relative care is shifting back to parents because of employment issues. School age children: providers now need to support virtual learning. They may not have the technology to support it and internet access. They may not be able to expand bandwidth to support the technology needs.
- Childcare Crises Response Team & Shared Services Pilot – Kristin Sobolewski: Refer to PPT. Home based providers are a crucial piece of this team. Feedback from their provider network in real time to do what they can to support providers. The 12-week distribution helped providers get food and paper supplies to fill their basic needs. Shared services goal is to support and not duplicate the work that is happening in the community but to connect with it. Providers have needed people to walk along side them and support to continue providing care during COVID. This has helped with not losing more providers. Advocacy to help providers get funding to help them stay in business is critical. This current budget has more wins than expected but things have shifted around from CARES act dollars. Encourage those providers you know. They need to be elevated and supported to continue the important work they do. Around 300 providers have already placed their order for easy-to-clean toys. The amount provided is based on their license type. For more information go to this link:
sharedservices@firststepskent.org
- Links and resources shared in chat:
<https://mlpp.org/final-2021-budget-includes-important-investments-in-health-human-services-and-education/>
<https://mlpp.org/public-policy-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak-in-michigan-childcare/>
The County also sent \$25 million to the GR Chamber for small businesses that included money for childcare providers. Some are distrusting all the money because of the state's mistake that triggered a recall of money.

- **First Steps Kent Update**

Heather Boswell

Ready by Five RFP was released in September with four areas of focus. Deadline was yesterday. 18 proposals received in all the areas. Reviewing to make sure all materials were submitted and all complete before moving forward to the resident review board. Will work on reviewing next week and come together on November 10th to complete the process of allocations. Four areas include: Healthy Development, Outreach and Navigation, Fetal Infant Mortality Review Network lead agency, and Translation and Interpretation (allow Ready by 5 funded programs to access translation services). When will the announcement happen who receives funds? Recommendations by November 13th hopefully the community announcement will be by mid -December.

- **GSC Updates**

Paula Brown

- Staffing Update: Christina's last day with us will be next Friday. There is a posting on the UW website. Will send out with other meeting materials.
- FY 2021 Work Plan: Allocation announcement was made last Friday evening. Paula is working on the budget and will have it at next GSC. Our annual workplan was submitted to the state. Our workplan must have a minimum of one goal per outcome and the plan over all needs to have at least two parent led strategies.
 - Outcome 1: Children are born healthy

- Goal: Increase knowledge and accessibility of community resources and supports for pregnant and new parents.
 - Engage pregnant and new parents across Kent County into the early childhood system by leveraging established relationships through the Diaper Pantry Network.
 - Connect and engage pregnant and new parents in Northern Kent County through Trusted Advisors and General Practitioners.
 - Recruit pregnant and new parents in the Parent Coalition to inform the early childhood system and utilize their voice to advocate for program needs and serve as Trusted Advisors, disseminating information and connecting families to supports/resources.
 - The GSPC/GSC will work in collaboration with local groups and organizations to address maternal-child health and target racial disparities in birth outcomes throughout Kent County
- Outcome 2: Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
 - Goal: Accessible services, supports, and opportunities for families and children prenatal to age five.
 - Implement Help Me Grow as a resource and navigation tool for all families of children prenatal to age 5 to gain access to supports and services.
 - Execute a community campaign that promotes the importance of child directed play and how it supports/encourages healthy social emotional development in children and parent/child relationships.
 - Empower parent leaders to assist families prenatal through age five in navigating the early childhood mixed delivery system and connecting to resources/supports through traveling Parent Support Stations.
 - Implement Parent Cafés as an outreach and engagement tool to increase parents’ social connections and knowledge of healthy social/emotional development and interactions.
 - Promote ASQ and ASQ-SE as important tools in determining a child’s developmental and social/emotional needs prior to kindergarten.
- Outcome 3: Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.
 - Goal: Increase access to high quality early care and education services and supports.
 - Convene a School Readiness Advisory Committee that will address the needs of school readiness across the community.
 - Strengthen connection between preschool and kindergarten programs to support transitions.
 - The GSC/GSPC and RC will work in collaboration to engage the community in creating and executing a plan to facilitate childcare options and availability during public health emergencies and/or events that close schools to face to face learning.
 - As trusted advisors, the GSCs and RCs will work as a region to amplify our voices and educate, highlighting the system changes required to have childcare that supports the economy and well being of our children.
- Outcome 4: Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.
 - Goal: Parents engaged in local services, supports, and opportunities in support of their role as their children’s first and longest running teacher

- Onboard and engage early organizational adopters ready to commit to implementing an actionable messaging and information (i.e., Success Basics and Ready 4k and other actionable text-based curriculum) in a county-wide parent strategy
- Run broad county-wide public interest campaign across Kent County with digital supports (parent facing website).
- Support and encourage early literacy efforts within the Kent County area.

- **Partner Announcements**

KDL: Wimees Words: Kevin can visit with families on Wimees words. Every weekday at 1pm, for 30 minutes.

- A 3-minute video showing the launch of Wimee's Words:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1isI2BnxUA>
- Highlights of a recent episode of Wimee's Words (3 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXvQPrU0y3o>
- Learn more about the mission of the show:
<http://www.wimee.tv/mission.html>

The Bookmobile can come to you! Email bookmobile@kdl.org to schedule a time for them to come to you. They have materials to support childcare providers and their home.

They have many books for free. Make an appointment and come see what they have at KDL.

GRPL:

- Storytime Kits with Free Book and materials starting November at all branches
- Phone-A-Story <https://www.grpl.org/phone-a-story/>
- Mobile Library <https://www.grpl.org/mobilelibrary/>
- Book Bundles <https://www.grpl.org/book-bundles/>
- Social Justice Begins With Me Book Club <https://www.grpl.org/kids-and-teens/sjbookclub/>
- Let's Talk About Race at Storytime <https://www.grpl.org/lets-talk-about-race-family-storytime-resources-for-caregivers>

Michigan Alliance for Families:

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/early-intervention-services-101/>

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/ecse/>

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition-to-preschool/>