

**GSC Membership Minutes**  
**August 27, 2020 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees: Joslyn Ward, Susan Chang, Ben Brower, Jaime Mueller, Heather Boswell, Kristin Gietzen, Mallory Willenbring, Elizabeth Zandstra, Sarah Wilson, Bryana Hopkins, Addy D’Addario, Alyce Hernandez, Karen Burd, Megan Streng, Kristin Gietzen, Nicole Pratt, Claire Hopkins, Wendy Wheeler, Karen Lezan, Emily Skavnak, Alissa Finley, Paul Westdale, Alyssa Bryan, Cara Sutcliffe, Yolanda Johnson, Latesha Lipscomb, Nicole Burman, Iris Gipson, Mandi Rycenga, Kathie Hoffman, Sarah Laman, K’ Sandra Earle, Kate Lara, Jeran Culina, Chana Edmond-Verley, Paul Haan, Kayla Johns, Joann Hoganson, Summer Wright, Barb Hawkins Palmer, Ray Sutcliffe, Lisa Ellison**

- **Welcome and Introductions**

**Maureen Hale**

**Approval of the June 25, 2020 meeting notes: Approved**

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

**Tomarra Richardson**

- Books, Blocks & Balls Event
- Trusted Advisors
- Virtual GSPC Meetings
- COFI
- Diaper Drive:

- **First Steps Kent Update**

**Heather Boswell**

A new request for proposal is being released. There will be three funding opportunities: Outreach and Navigation, Healthy Development, and Parent Support and Education. Final details and requirements will be included in the Request for Proposal documents. This document will be made available online on September 10, 2020. Interested agencies may attend one of the two virtual Pre-Proposal Conferences scheduled for September 10, 2020 from 1-2:30 p.m. and September 11, 2020 from 9-10:30 a.m. For more information click on the link:

<https://www.firststepskent.org/articles/2020funding>

- **GSRP Update**

MDE has told GSRP to move ahead as if their funding will stay the same. Hoping to hear specific details soon. LARA has updated guidance to align with Return to Learn Roadmap. Placements are being made. KRA will not be required this school year but will likely come back the next year. Individual GSRP classrooms in schools are adhering to the standards of their local school district, with somewhat different expectations in each in how they are navigating the current situation.

- **GSC Updates**

**Paula Brown**  
**Leslie Hawkins**

- MIECHV Needs Assessment: GSC and HVPN/LLG have been working on a Need Assessment for Home Visiting. Evidence-based home visiting programs were sent a survey regarding their program to complete. Two focus groups have been conducted with parents that are or have

received home visiting. We will be holding a community partner meeting to look at our community's data as well as the survey results to help us measure our readiness to expand home visiting if dollars were made accessible.

- Budget: The budget was sent to group, any questions to Paula. Budget is currently through the third quarter. A large piece of our budget is used for convening families and partners. Meeting virtually has impacted those dollars. We are under where we need to be due to this reality. OGS is aware of this issue and is giving us the freedom to pivot when necessary.
- FY 2021 Guidance: We have not received guidance yet but are being told to assume we will receive the same amount as last year. Workplan for next year is due September 15<sup>th</sup>. A lot in our work plan were two-year goals so that will be pulled over to this new year. We are required to have at least one goal under each of our four early childhood outcomes. Those goals need to address at least one aspect of the early childhood system. Our workgroups convene to help achieve our outcomes. One of our workgroups is mandated by the state, School Readiness Advisory, with the ISD's GSRP. GSC also needs to partner with GSQ. This is reflected in our workplan. Our workplan must also include parent led strategies. Examples from this year include: Books Blocks and Balls event and Parent Cafes in northern Kent.

- **Small Group Activity**

Barrier: Creating/maintaining relationships. People are feeling very detached.

Action Steps:

- Drop off incentives (i.e. diapers, playdough, books, resources for parents, etc.)
- Phone calls for those people who do not have the capability to use technology. Helps with that one-on-one connection.
- Virtual options (zoom, google meets, etc.). Best option to see others.

Framing as a goal: Explore options for bring services to families Increasing innovation to providing services families; creative. Identify opportunities to meet people where they are with services.

- Action Steps:
- Cross training people on community resources – trusted advisory
- Pooling resources among agencies

- **Partner Announcements**

- Bright Beginnings: Will be offering virtual play groups. Flyer will be sent to the group with all the details and request to share to networks.
- HealthNet of West Michigan: working on raising awareness around Healthy Kids Dental coverage. There are bilingual postcards with key information to parents. Contact Stacey Murphy to order some. Postcard will be sent out to group in email.
- Baby Scholars: Celebrating graduating students as a drive by event tomorrow. Any information you would like shared with families send on to Tequia for tomorrow.
- Grand Rapids Children's Museum: Will be having a Chalk the Town opportunity for families across the community. The museum will be handing out chalk throughout the month of September and inviting children to create an art piece. The winner will win a STEAM lab kit.