

GSC Membership Meeting
February 25, 2021 – 1:30 – 3pm
Zoom

Attendees: Ben Brower, Kristyn Bomberg, Kate Lara, Maggie Lancaster, Jennifer Cottingham, Sarah Wilson, Kayla Johns, Susan Chang, Karen Lezan, Jaime Mueller, Nkechyi Ezech, Alyssa Bryan, Heather Walczewski, Nikki Pratt, Kristin Gietzen, Mallory Willenbring, Alyce Hernandez, Betsy Zandstra, Nicole Burman, Tomarra Richardson, Angela Frier, Linda Pickett, Lindsey VanDyke, Debbie Whitford, Sara McMullin, Emily Skavnak, K'Sandra Earle, Yolanda Johnson, Iris Gipson, Heather Boswell, Wendy Wheeler, Maureen Hale, Melissa Rizer, Jayme Vosovic, Sara Proano, Tequia Adams, Taj Burgen, Amber Davis, Aarie Wade, Chana Edmond-Verley, Bryana Hopkins, Alissa Finley, Misti DeVries, Summer Wright, Paul Westdale, Claire Titcombe, Paula Brown, Leslie Hawkins

- **Welcome and Introductions** **Maureen Hale**

Approval of the December 17, 2020 meeting minutes: Approved

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report** **Tomarra Richardson**
Nicole Burman

- **Grants**

- Trusted Advisor Grant 5 was approved through January 11 – November 28. Parent Support Stations will be offered in the Latinx community, Coalition meetings in the northern part of the county, and countywide family engagement kits.
- CSSP Grant: COFI parent led work

- **COFI**

- Virtual Family Fun Night Friday is this Friday and is sold out with a wait list. The attendees will be doing a variety of activities with their families.
- Self-Care Saturday will be on March 6th. All spots have been reserved but people can still sign up in the Eventbrite on our Facebook page.
- COFI has three phases. All GSC staff is trained in the first phase with some of the team planning on being trained in the second phase which involves community outreach and action. The training will be offered through the Parent Leader Network.

- **Upcoming Meetings: Please continue to share out meetings through your networks.**

- March: Mindfulness - Irene Kraegel
- April: Legislative Night
- May: ACEs Training
- June: TBD
- July/August: No Meetings
- September: Setting Healthy Boundaries & Discipline - Rhea Richardson

- **Upcoming Focus Group Session for PDG B-5:**

These state feedback sessions will ensure parent voice is informing the creation of the strategic plan for the state. In 2019 themes emerged when meeting with GSC's and GSPC's across the state. The Coalition will be facilitating a focus group with 8-10 parents and/or providers of children 0-5. The session will last 90 minutes, and attendees will receive a stipend. It will be held until the middle of March with results to the state by the end of the month.

- **Parent Cafes and Parent Support Station:**

Cafes are virtual. One meets weekly on Monday evenings and the other every other week on Wednesday afternoon. PSS are at Sparta Baptist during their hygiene pantry and Our Bargain Store once a month located at Baxter and Eastern on the southeast side. Is there anything

specific needed in a location? Ideally the most successful sites are where families are already going for other needs. Open to a variety of settings. Libraries are opened back up so may be able to go there.

- Diaper Drive:
Community drive being held at Sparta Baptist and will run till March 7th. Sparta United Methodist will have a drive from Mother's Day till Father's Day.
- GSPC on the Radio:
Tomarra and Nicole were on a segment with Shelley Irwin on the By Leaps and Bounds series. Click [here](#) to listen to their interview.

- **First Steps Kent Update**

Heather Boswell

Presentation Given on Ready by Five millage dollars and their recipients. Power Point will be sent to the group. How many parents have been reached through the services? Through November of 2020 reached just over 3600 families through regular services. Working on final report at the end of March and will be on the website.

- **GSC Updates**

- FY2020-21 Budget: Paula reviewed the first quarter budget from October – December. Workgroup resource dollars have not been used many of their funds due to the pandemic. Spending in those groups will increase in the coming months. No current funds for Oral Health.
 - ELP funds will be used for focus groups and community workshops.
 - BMH moving forward with Play campaign and Parent Cafes. Looking to expand further in northern Kent.
 - HMG advisory funds focus on parent and community outreach.
 - NPP continues to focus on Success Basics and expanding into Ready 4k texting platform.
 - There are stipends for parent rep involvement as well as childcare stipends for parents in general. Occupancy costs is our costs for being housed at United Way.
 - Parking has two-line items. One for parking downtown and one for parking at another location and mileage. Any questions please email or call Paula for clarifications. 1800 to purchase new laptops for Paula and Leslie. State allows to purchase new every two years but usually do every three or four. Increase in postage. Misc. professional development and membership dues. Community outreach swag. In person translation.
- Office of Great Start Advisory Committee Presentation: Kent GSC was one of two GSC's selected to present to the Office of Great Start Advisory. The presentation was focused on the response to parent and community needs due to COVID. Examples of areas of focus were the large diaper donations received in May and June and the Books Blocks and Balls event pivoting.
- Child Care Resource & Referral Stakeholder Group: Contract for Resource Centers are going out in a RFP across the state. An RFP hasn't gone out since 2012. Paula has been a part of a state level stakeholder group reviewing the former RFP and creating a new version. Others in the group includes childcare licensing, Head Start, home visiting, GSC, GSPC, and ECIC.
- Help Me Grow Michigan Statewide Coordinator
Courtney Gupta has accepted the role, prior role was in Oakland's HMG. She begins March 1st. The focus is to work with existing affiliates to help reach full fidelity to the model, onboard new communities, help with grant writing to help support the HMG framework in Michigan.
- Home Visiting Needs Assessment Findings
In August the GSC and LLG worked on a Home Visiting Needs Assessment. The work included collecting and analyzing data, focus groups with parents from home visiting programs, and

stakeholders from across the community reviewing the information and sharing their perspectives. A report was created based on the results with a recommendation for Kent County's need and capacity to expand home visiting. The recommendation stated, "Kent County has the need and capacity to expand evidence-based home visiting given the right opportunity. Currently due to COVID it is hard to measure the needs. Families report that many of the people they know are not aware of home visiting and its benefits. The community needs to focus efforts on making home visiting more visible and, also, monitor specific geographical needs to reflect the diverse needs of a community comprised of urban, suburban and rural areas". Question asked if this assessment is tied to funds as the last one was? While funds are not specifically tied to this assessment the results may help if funds do become available in the upcoming years.

- **Partner Announcements**

MLPP: Jayme shared out links for resources and articles in the chat:

- First Look at the Governor's Budget: <https://mlpp.org/a-first-look-at-gov-gretchen-whitmers-2022-state-budget/>
- Unpacking the Governor's Budget Webinar March 2, at 1 p.m Register Here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1A5Y4kodOCMAxukwjpmcCqSOjRpnIF_XTAbI8z_jR_c/edit
- Think Babies Michigan Policy Initiative: https://www.ecic4kids.org/policy-thinkbabiesmi/?fbclid=IwAR3AVZ951AfPFzXj3utiAwVv4Qb8u-682j2C_B-axKSH3QbY0qQLK9un8_4
- Right Start Report 2020: <https://mlpp.org/thriving-babies-start-with-strong-moms-right-start-2020/>
- Don't forget Advocacy!! We will be hosting our third annual Advocacy Bootcamp May 20 and 21st. Applications will be available next week!
- Reach out to Jayme or Melissa with any questions.