

**GSC Meeting Minutes**  
**April 22, 2021 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

**Attendees:** Ben Brower, Emily Camp, Elizabeth Zandstra, Kayla Johns, Jenn Harrod, Taj Burgen, Lindsey VanDyke, Karen Lezan, Misti DeVries, Alyssa Bryan, Emily Skavnak, Bryana Hopkins, Susan Chang, Alyce Hernandez, Kristin Gietzen, Sara McMullin, Cara Sutcliffe, MaDonna Princer, Anna Silva, Kathleen Neumann, Jaime Mueller, Angela Freier, Wendy Wheeler, Heather Boswell, Linda Pickett, Summer Wright, Sarah Laman, Amber Davis, Jayme Vosovic, Deb Whitford, Ray Sutcliffe, Jaime Mueller, Tequia Adams, Teya Moncrief, Yolanda Johnson, Chana Edmond-Verley, Kristyn Bomberg, Alissa Finley, Jennifer Cottingham, Ashley Karsten, Maureen Hale

**Staff:** Mallory Willenbring, Tomarra Richardson, Nicole Burman, Paula Brown, Leslie Hawkins

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

**Approval of the February 25, 2021 meeting notes: Approved**

- **Inclusion Activity**

- **Legislative Update** **Jayme Vosovic,**  
**Michigan League for Public Policy** **Community Engagement**  
**Specialist**

Pandemic EBT, is that from the schools? Families should get a new card and a letter in the mail. If you are already receiving benefits, it can go back on that card. SNAP Food Stamps benefit increased 15% through end of September. Funds left in the first round that weren't appropriated. Was that for the whole state? Yes. How are those appropriations made? Working those funds into the 2022 budget. Governor's and house's budget have those in their budgets. Where are local fund conversations happening for allocations? City and County Commissioner as well as county administrator and city manager. No guidance released yet from the federal gov't, start thinking about the planning group. These funds are intended to be more flexible. Push for community conversations to inform who is making the decisions for funds. If you're looking for initiatives to be a part of click [here](#) to learn more about Think Babies. Links for learn more:

- Michigan Budget Cycle: <https://mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/state-budget-process-graphic-jan-2021.pdf>
- MLPP Budget Priorities: <https://mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2022-budget-priorities-overview.pdf>
- 5 Tips for Influencing The State Budget: <https://mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/5-tips-for-influencing-the-state-budget.pdf>
- ARP: <https://mlpp.org/the-american-rescue-plan-act-what-does-it-mean-for-michigan/>

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

- Parent Reps: Welcome to our four new parent reps, Taj Burgen, Amber Davis, Michelle Treece, and Shanequa Mosley!
- Trusted Advisory #5: The new TA grant will involve Latinx and Northern Kent Coalition meetings and parent kits similar to those pushed out by the COFI Pandemic Warriors.

- Books, Block, & Balls: Our second BBB event will be August 14<sup>th</sup> at Alger Head Start. More details will come out as the event gets closer. If your organization would like a table to reach out to Tomarra or Nicole.
- Upcoming Events & Meetings:
  - May 13<sup>th</sup>: ACES Training. Training is registered on MiRegistry. Reach out to Tomarra and Nicole if you'd like them to hold an ACES training for you.
  - June 10<sup>th</sup>: Staying Healthy
  - COFI Phase I Cohort III: Summer 20201
  - COFI Phase II Cohort I: Fall/Winter 2021
- COFI: In February and March the most recent COFI cohort held their group project, focused on helping families and parents practice self-care. The first event was called Family Fun Night Friday. Families received an activity kit to 44 families. The night included a dance party, Affirmation Jenga, and baking cookies. A pre and post survey was used that showed an increase in parents intent to increase their family time from 48.2% to 73.2%. The second event was Self-Care Saturday. 37 parents joined for a morning of self-care. Time was spent creating a scrub, a time of meditation, and adult coloring. Additional pampering items were a part of the kit as well. Event pre and post survey also showed an increase in intent to make time for self-care.
- Legislative Night: The night was a huge success! Six commissioners, five state representatives, and one state senator joined the group. The evening focused on three areas, childcare, internet access, and social emotional health of children. Thank you, Jayme and your team at MLPP for all your help with the evening!
- Diaper Drive: We've held two community drives in the last two months. One at Sparta Baptist that raised 2774 diapers and 3680 wipes to Baxter Community Center. The second at Fourth Reformed 3271 raising for The Other Way
- Northern Kent Cafes: Weekly social emotional cafes are going well. 4 – 6 parents attend each with three new parents recently, one of which includes a dad.

- **GSC Updates**

**Paula Brown**

- Local Program Funds Grant: Currently funding Baby Scholars and Bright Beginnings. RFP process is open to the public. Reach out to Paula or Maureen if you want to be part of the review board. Tentative timeline is as follows:
  - RFP will go out May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Proposals June 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Convene review board week of June 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Programs notified August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Workgroup updates
  - NPP: The group continues to push out the work of Success Basics as well as the new texting platform Ready 4K.
  - HMGK: The website has added a referral link and a live chat feature (I'm curious how much people are using it)
  - SRA: Engage with all preschool programs. Working on a survey for parents and teachers for broad feedback for improvement in the system.
  - BMH: The group is working social/emotional supports, promote importance of ASQ:SE screener, and the Play campaign.
  - ELP: The group is working with ELNC on helping families apply for childcare subsidy. FSK will be joining the push, as they received a Pritzker grant that can help support the work.

- **Partner Announcements**

- Chana Edmond-Verley: Dr. Ferguson is coming next week. Success Basics is based on the Boston Basics developed by Dr. Ferguson. Written a new book, The Formula: The Secrets to Highly Effective Children. Reserve your spot as soon as you can by clicking [here](#).

- Alyce Hernandez: Catholic Charities West Michigan has a few open positions. Click [here](#) for more information.
- GRPL: Programming options in person and virtual. Links below:
  - Grab and Go Activity Kits (Mindfulness kits, craft supply kits, and storytime kits): <https://www.grpl.org/grab-go-activity-kits/>
  - Outdoor Storytimes: <https://www.grpl.org/outdoor-storytime-with-grpl/>
  - Bilingual Building Healthy Brains Virtual Programs: <https://www.grpl.org/building-healthy-brains/>