

Great Start Collaborative Membership Meeting Minutes
Zoom
December 9, 2021 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Attendance: Kathleen Neumann, Joann Hoganson, Kristyn Bomberg, Ben Brower, Jayme Vosovic, Misti DeVries, Kayla Johns, Betsy Zandstra, Mallory Willenbring, Cara Sutcliffe, Sara McMullin, Jaime Mueller, Angela Freier, Alyssa Bryan, Karen Lezan, Bryana Hopkins, Amber Davis, Lindsey VanDyke, Fredericka Brown, Susan Chang, Heather Boswell, Ashley Karsten, Wendy Wheeler, Nicole Burman, Tomarra Richardson, Ray Sutcliffe, Summer Wright, Jennifer Cottingham, Sarah Wilson, Linda Pickett, Jennifer Leys, Jewel Davis-Tombul, Kristin Gietzen, Paula Brown, Leslie Hawkins, Maureen Hale, Aarie Wade, Rachel Cain, Anna Silva

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Maureen Hale

Approval of the October 28, 2021 meeting notes: Approved

- **Great Start Parent Coalition Report**

Tomarra Richardson
Nicole Burman

- **Trusted Advisors:** TA5 ended on 11.26.21. The grant report is due at the end of January. The final round of TA has been applied for and waiting to hear if the grant has been approved. During the last TA there were Latinx Coalition meetings held completely in Spanish. They were very impactful. One member joined the Latinx Police Academy after a presentation by the Kent County Sherriff.
- **COFI:** The Phase II cohort is currently canvassing in the 49507 community. They will hold a townhall on January 17th to talk about next steps for a community project.
- **Literacy Mini Grant:** Received \$500 for 20 literacy kits related to the Success Basics. Used our literacy calendar along with the book from December and items to do the activities.
- **Fall Into the Basics training:** Held a training with KDL and GSQ. First session reviewed the Basics. In the second providers shared how they implemented them.
- **Diaper Drive Kent:** Thank you to those who participated in our GSC drive. We raised approximately 14,000 diapers. Family Futures raised the most totaling 3,898. Only 38,000 diapers away from our two millionth diaper! Partners can help plan the diaper celebration. Let Paula or Maureen know if you'd like to help.

- **Preschool Update**

Ashley Karsten

Running about 200 classrooms in Kent County. Dependent on staffing and COVID numbers. Openings still for preschool. Send people to the website. <https://www.kentisd.org/early-childhood/free-preschool/> Need staffing at all levels as do partners around the county. Can use compliance plans to help staff get credentials while working. If a program would like to add GSRP to their organization, they are able to do that. Next week will reach out to families that started applying but don't have all the materials in.

- **Child Care Update**

Jaime Mueller

648 licensed providers in Kent County. 550 eligible providers for the grant. 496 providers submitted applications. Over 55% of applications were not star rated across the state. This gave the opportunity to build relationships with those providers. Thank you to partners who helped spread the word! The ones who weren't eligible were things like Head Start, out of school programs. Another round coming in March. Hoping those that chose not to submit will see how it works out and they will apply at that point.

- **Legislative Update:** **Jayne Vosovic**
Build Back Better Act
 Universal preschool for all three- and four-year-old. Funding will be for six years. Money for affordable childcare, no more than 7% of a family's income at 250% of state median income and below. Funds are for those working, seeking work, in training or dealing with long term health issues. Also for 6 years. States have to opt in and there has to be funds matched for it. Child tax credit extended projected to lift 47% of children out of poverty and narrows the racial disparity gap as well. Summer grocery benefit will be extended through 2024 for those that receive free and reduced lunches through school. Expanding affordable health care through 2025 and much more funding for housing stability. Funding for first time home buyers within that as well. Revenue increases that will help pay for it and will be permanent. Make sure to let your representatives know you want Michigan to opt in. Expansion for Medicaid, families to not pay a premium and more families have access. Think Babies can help with advocacy points, check out their site: <https://www.ecic4kids.org/policy-thinkbabiesmi/> .
- **Social/Emotional Health** **Mallory Willenbring**
Trends in Young Children **Alyssa Bryan**
 Do people take the SE because there's been a lower score on the general ASQ? Not necessarily. Another barrier may be the ASQ has been around a long time, the ASQ-SE has not. It's the prime time to be promoting. Mallory and Alyssa would be happy to help those with questions about using the ASQ-SE. Mallory: mallory@helpmegrowkent.org Alyssa: abryan@familyfutures.net
- **GSC Updates** **Paula Brown**
Maureen Hale

 - Staff Changes: Leslie is leaving for another role. The position will post soon.
 - Grant Applications: Office of Great Start released an application for a Coordinated Entry and Enrollment cohort. Eight communities across the state will be chosen. We applied for \$30,000. The cohort will meet 10 times over the course of 10 months beginning in February. Application was turned in right after Thanksgiving. The application focuses on the use of the coordinated preschool line. Four-year-old line is working well, will expand to three-year-old. Goal is to build family awareness of resources in the community. Ensuring we have the right resources and advancing our processes. Will hear back sometime in January. Working with Ashley Karsten, Madonna Princer, Nkechy Ezech, and Melissa Boman. Also applied for a mini-grant through ThinkBabies. The goal of the grant is to prioritize connections to resources for pregnant families and children under three. Applied for \$10,000 unsure when will hear. Will expand on Books Blocks and Balls and building out in possibly a more virtual format. Targeting rural and marginalized communities
 - Nomination Committee Update: We plan to have the new leadership presented at the February meeting. If you do have someone to recommend, please reach out to Paula or Maureen. We are replacing both chair and a co-chair.
 - GSC member engagement: Conflict of Interest and Membership Agreement were last updated in 2016. The executive team will work on revising and will have new edits presented at the February meeting. There's still opportunity to complete the survey monkey. Leslie will send out the link.
- **Partner Announcements**

 - Thank you for the help connecting families to the holiday support. Unfortunately, programs are now closed for Christmas gifts but can still support other needs to help alleviate stress around the holidays.
 - Vaccinating children 5 – 12 is important. Christmas break would be a great time to do it! Many more clinic sites opening. Hispanic Center is open Wednesday afternoon to anyone.
 - Normal is Never Enough campaign. If you'd like to be a part of that work reach out to Jayme from MLPP (jvosovic@mlpp.org)