



GREAT START COLLABORATIVE OF KENT COUNTY

Mission: To assure a coordinated system of community resources and supports to help all Kent County families provide a great start for their children from birth to age five.

April 28, 2022 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Maureen Hale, Joann Hoganson, Mallory Willenbring, Kristyn Bomberg, Jaime Mueller, Iris Gipson, Betsy Zandstra, Heather Boswell, Kathleen Neumann, Sara McMullin, Tonia Latsch, Alyssa Bryan, Linda Pickett, Emily Skavnak, Summer Wright, Ashley Karsten, Kristin Gietzen, Amy Shears, Shanequa Mosley, Rachel Cain, Jennifer Cottingham, Kayla Johns, Angela Freier, Sarah Wilson, Ray Sutcliffe, Karen Lezan, Maribel Garza, Jameela Maun, MaDonna Princer, Bryana Hopkins, Wendy Wheeler, Tequia Adams, Cara Sutcliffe, Yolanda Johnson, Fredericka Brown, Jayme Vosovic, Debbie Whitford, Barb Hawkins-Palmer, Chana Edmond-Verley, Paula Brown, Tomarra Richardson, Nicole Burman, Melanie Medema

- Welcome and Introductions **Maureen Hale**
 - Melanie Medema, new GSC Coordinator – new staff
 - Nicole Burman moving from Parent Liaison into Parent Rep role

- Approval of the February 24, 2022 meeting notes
 - Approved.

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report **Tomarra Richardson**
Nicole Burman
 - Trusted Advisors
 - MLA supports migrant farmers with knowledge on pesticide exposure and the impact on children
 - Mercy Health Reach Out & Read program providing books in Swahili, Arabic, and more
 - COFI
 - Bi-weekly task force meetings on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays (Zoom)
 - In planning process for 3-6 community mixers on a variety of topics
 - i. 1st mixer date is TBD in June – petition signing
 - Parent Support Stations
 - WIC clinics, In The Image, City Impact, Sparta Baptist Hygiene Pantry
 - Spread the word: events are on the GSPC Facebook page
 - Upcoming Meetings & Events
 - May 12
 - i. 10:30a-12:30p (Zoom) rescheduled ACE's training
 - ii. (no time) – First CRC – “Stretching Your Food Dollar”
 - June 10 – First CRC – “Who is the GSC/GSPC”
 - Parent Cafés – in person
 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ Grace CRC: 10a-11:30a
 - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ Sparta Early Childhood Center: 9:15a-11:15a
 - Diaper Drive
 - Please encourage partners to host a drive
 - Goal for 2022 is 2mm diapers; 38k to go

- DEI Activity **Nicole Burman**
 - Core Team for DEI: Nicole Burman, Paula Brown, Chana Edmond-Verley, Wendy Wheeler, Barb Hawkins-Palmer
 - More Perfect Union “café conversation” activity

- i. “Something in the news that shocked you.”
 - ii. What is the relationship between healing self and healing community?
- Small group breakouts.

- Betsey Zandstra from GRPL shared that in her group they talked about the book “Burnout,” by Emily Nagasaki. Found this to be a helpful resource:
<https://qrpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S158C47328741>

- Child Immunization Data

Amy Shears, RN

Kent County Health Department

- JH: Amy Shears is new Immunization Supervisor
- MDHHS releases quarterly COVID impact report with breakdowns of age range vax
- MCIR=MI’s child immunization data storehouse
 - i. Vax coverage for children under 2 years increasing
 - ii. 2.8% below pre-pandemic levels, but rising
 - iii. Coverage rates for children in Medicaid lower than non-Medicaid covered
 - iv. Kent County vax rates higher than state-wide numbers
- MDHHS County Report Card for comparison data: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/immunization/localhealthdepartment/county-immunization-report-card>
- Refer families to the Health Dept for medical questions: 616-632-7300

- First Steps Kent Update

Heather Boswell

- Incentives for participating in RAPID-EC survey (around 600 available)
- Flyer/link added to chat <https://www.firststepskent.org/survey>

- Childcare Update

Jaime Mueller

Kent Resource Center - Great Start to Quality

- 58% of all providers have a star rating (373)
- 645 licensed providers
- Staffing continues to be an issue for childcare/preschool programs
 - Providers may not be full but cannot take more children
 - GSQ asks providers to share openings; email Mikaela at mikaelalamrouex@kentisd.org for list
 - Child Care Stabilization Grants
 - Fall grant reports due May 20 (60% reports have been submitted)
 - Spring application closes May 26
 - Grant In-Person Support Event May 3 @ 6pm at Kent ISD ESC
- Impact Stories

- Vibrant Futures

Chana Edmond-Verley

- 97.8% participating providers (460 regionally) received funds
- Tri-Share: sharing of childcare cost between families, employers, and state of MI
 - \$10,891 average cost
 - Average employer share= \$3,500, many MOUs are in
 - Single heads of household earning \$16-\$41/hour may be eligible
 - 50 county expansion announced in February
 - Expecting to be at capacity by June
 - \$265,000 available
 - Information for employers available on Vibrant Futures website:
<https://vibrantfuturesmi.org/trishare-pilot-program/>
<https://www.grandrapids.org/blog/news/tri-share-kent-county/>

- GSC Updates & Announcements

**Maureen Hale
Paula Brown**

➤ GSC Membership

- Annual signature required materials – send to Melanie
 - Membership Agreement
 - Conflict of Interests
- Operating Guidelines

- Discussed in last GSC meeting
 - Staff transitions
 - Nicole Burman's position is open – PT Parent Liaison
 - PT Help Me Grow Care Coordinator
 - Share organizational updates with Melanie/Paula for newsletter distribution
 - Workgroups will not be open this year due to current strategic plan

- Partner Announcements
 - Kathleen Neumann: Play and Learn upcoming events ([see attachments](#))
 - Chana Edmond-Verley: Hope Visits; 1 County, 1 Book: looking for readers
 - Jameela Maun: Healthy Homes interested in participating in community events ([see attachments](#))
 - Alyssa Bryan: Safe Sleep/Ready by 5, referral form, contact Emily Vandenbos
 - Barb Hawkins-Palmer: Foundation of Fatherhood Summit May 17-19 more info found at: <https://www.foundationsoffatherhood.com/home>

Upcoming Meetings:

GSC Executive Team – May 10, 2022 – 2:30 – 4pm – Zoom

June 14, 2022 – 2:30 – 4pm - Zoom

GSC Membership Meeting – June 23, 2022 – 1:30–3:00pm – Zoom