



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.

October 27, 2022 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Maureen Hale (Chair), Susan Chang (Arbor Circle), Kristin Geitzen (Arbor Circle), Ryan Huizenga (Grand Rapids Children's Museum), Alyssa Bryan (Family Futures), Kayla Johns (Corewell Health), Iris Gipson (GSPC), Nicole Pratt (Milestones Early Learning), Betsy Zandstra (Grand Rapids Public Library), Sarah Miller (Comprehensive Therapy Center), Yolanda Johnson (GSPC Parent Rep), Jaime Mueller (First Steps Kent), Lindsey VanDyke (KISD-Early On), Merin DeKruyter (KISD-Early On), Joann Hoganson (KCHD), K'Sandra Earle (Kentwood Public Schools), Kathleen Neumann (GRCC), Chana Edmond-Verley (Vibrant Futures), Heather Boswell (First Steps Kent), Jennifer Headley-Nordman (First Steps Kent), Ray Sutcliffe (GSPC Parent Representative), Fredericka Brown (GSPC Parent Representative), Sharquila Harris (GSPC Parent Representative), Lyree Adams (Help Me Grow Kent), Kathie Hoffman (Refugee Education Center), Shanequa Mosley (GSPC), Stephanie Wagner (Private Consultant), Tomarra Richardson (GSPC), Aerie Wade (Baxter Community Center), Paula Brown (GSC), Melanie Medema (GSC)

- Welcome and Introductions

Maureen Hale

Approval of the August 25th minutes – *Approved*

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report

**Tomarra Richardson
Shanequa Mosely**

- New Parent Representatives
- Sparta Books, Blocks, & Balls
- Success Basics Parent Cafe's
- Diaper Drive
 - 2 million diaper goal just under 32,000 diapers to go
- COFI
 - 2 reps and Shanequa just completed Phase I training, Cohort III starts November 2022
 - Iris is trained to facilitate all 3
 - GSPC meetings speakers
 - DeWanda Gichemi
 - Malique Greer
 - Meredith Kennedy

- First Steps Kent Update

Heather Boswell

- Home based provider network
- Introduced Jennifer Headley-Neumann (new president of FSK)
- Millage up for renewal in 2 years

- Child Care Update

Jaime Mueller

- Great Start to Quality
 - Grants opening for applications on Monday, partnering with IFF
 - For new or expanding sites to increase slots
 - Info will be listed on the Caring For MI website
 - GSQ is rebranding, system overhaul
 - Star system going away, will be hosting brand launch event November 12 from 10-11:30am
 - For childcare providers: giveaways
 - Partnering with our strong Start for a community access fair for individuals interested in becoming a licensed provider

- Vibrant Futures

Chana Edmond-Verley

- Partnering with the Resource Center and IFF on the facilities piece. Just called with Our Strong Start, we run the Bridge program that helps folks become a childcare center. There is a lot of money available now.
- Under-resourced children need us now more than ever, and these families don't access childcare, they use older siblings or family members
- VF is Kent County's Tri-Share hub; they have \$3,000 to use
 - www.vibrantfuturesmi.org
 - Video of WZZM 13 covering Tri-Share: <https://www.wzzm13.com/video/news/gov-whitmer-announces-new-mi-tri-share-child-care-pilot-program-expansion/69-578bfc0e-b3d1-46e2-8a0a-26a641c2e522>
 - Cost of childcare is nearly \$800/month
 - Call to action: 3-way match: employee, employer, state shares cost of childcare
 - Moves cost to \$3,700/year
 - For working families between 185-300% of FPL
 - How many of you know someone who could use this? (many hands raised)
 - Reach out to Chana
 - Reaches the ALICE population. Inflation is up 80%.
 - VF and The Right Place are co-planning for the region
 - We will pay parent leaders to participate in the planning process
 - A center could get hundreds of thousands of dollars to spruce up their facility
 - Must be opening a new childcare center or expanding an existing facility

- GSC Strategic Plan

Stephanie Wagner

- The Collaboration Continuum

Systems Change Consultant

- Reflection: 4 C's: Communication, Coordination, Cooperation, Collaboration
 - Think about the work that you do with this group of people and check the C that you are doing
 - Do you share what's happening with your work (C #1)
 - Are you sharing goals with this group? (C #2)
 - Are there opportunities to share resources? (C #3)
 - Are you doing things to help enhance each other's capacity? (C #4)
 - Merging with other organizations: integration
 - Are you happy with where you are?

- Action Agenda Gallery Walk

- Strategies are posted on the walls-please provide feedback and think about how these objectives can help you in your work. What do you want this Collaborative to look like?
- Connect with a person who has been involved in the work for a different duration than you

- GSC Business

Paula Brown

- FY23 Budget

Next Steps

- GSC will summarize the information from today.
- Provide Melanie with information you would like in our newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings:

GSC Executive Team: November 15, 2022 – 2:30pm–4:00pm (Zoom)
December 13, 2022 – 2:30pm–4:00pm (Zoom)

GSC Membership Meeting: December 15, 2022 – 1:30pm–3:00pm (Location TBD)