



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.

August 25, 2022 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Stephanie Wagner (consultant), Aarie Wade, Alissa Finley, Alyssa Bryan, Angela Freier, Ashley Karsten, Ben Brower, Betsy Zandstra, Bryana Hopkins, Chana Edmond-Verley, Fredericka Brown, Gwen Genzink, Heather Boswell, Heather Walczewski, Iris Gipson, Jaime Mueller, Jameela Maun, Jan Wilks, Jayme Vosovic, Joann Hoganson, Kayla Johns, Kristyn Bomberg, K'Sandra Earle, Linda Pickett, Lindsey VanDyke, LyRee Adams, Maggie Lancaster, Mallory Willenbring, Maureen Hale, Nicole Burman, Sara Proano, Sharquila Harris, Susan Chang, Tequia Adams, Wendy Wheeler, Paula Brown, Shanequa Mosely, Tomarra Richardson, Melanie Medema

- Welcome and Introductions

Maureen Hale

Approval of the June 23, 2022 meeting notes – **Approved**

- DEI Activity

Wendy Wheeler
Kent County DHHS

- Video: Seeing Ourselves in Books: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaigpT29pAs>
- Children's books are 8x more likely to feature an animal than a non-white person
- Children need books that both are mirrors *and* windows
- Reflection question: Have you had the experience of seeing yourself reflected in a book in a meaningful way/have you learned something from seeing a perspective other than your own (in a book)?
 - i. The Skin I'm In
 - ii. I Am Enough
 - iii. www.wearelitgr.org
 - iv. www.BlackBookExchangeBox.org
 - v. <https://diversebookfinder.org/>
 - vi. <https://readingspark.wordpress.com/2019/06/19/picture-this-diversity-in-childrens-books-2018-infographic/>
 - vii. <https://www.colorincolorado.org/>
 - viii. <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/>

- Welcome LyRee Adams – new Help Me Grow Care and Relationship Coordinator

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report

Tomarra Richardson

- New Parent Representative

Shanequa Mosely

- Welcome Sharquila Harris

- Books, Blocks & Balls

- Madonna Princer opened Alger Head Start because of rain, GSC able to hold the event indoors – Thank you!
- Attendance slightly lower: 100 adults, 96 children
- 55% of surveyed parents had never heard of ASQ
- 79% very likely/likely to complete an ASQ
- Feedback was very positive
 - i. Event rating 94% completed survey rated Excellent or Very Good
- Doing a 2nd BBB 9-17 10-1 Sparta Baptist Church

- Trusted Advisor

- Fredericka Brown hosted a Summer STEM event with slime, tornadoes, volcanos.
- Many families attended who had not previously been exposed to GSPC
- Beverly the Music Lady event: Chick-Fil-A, Ohana shaved ice

- Parent Support Station Partnerships

- Partnering with AYA Youth Collective, In The Image, ICCF and Storytime In The Park
- Diaper Drive
 - AppleTree & Gilden Woods July drive is officially ended: 15,000+ diapers delivered to 8 pantries in the month of August.
 - 44,440 diapers away from our 2 million diaper goal
 - Please share any organizations (including your own) who may want to host a drive
 - i. Sara Proano: KDL will be hosting a diaper drive in September
- COFI
 - E.V.E. parent group held a Community Mixer 7/29/22
 - Connected with local neighborhood members about crime and violence in 49507

- Child Care Update

Jaime Mueller

- Stabilization Grants

- Providers working on spending funds/completing reports
- Spring grant reports were released Aug 2, due March 1, 2023
- All unspent funds must be returned by March 15, 2023
- Summer grant app opened Aug 9, closes Sept 9
- As of today, 2,469 apps submitted statewide
- 220 providers in Kent County have submitted summer grant apps
- 440 providers in Kent County have not applied (340 are eligible)
- MDE's tax webinars held this week
- Thanks to everyone who helped direct providers to their office
- GSQ undergoing a facelift
 - i. Programs renewing or receiving new Star rating with an on-site assessments (4-5 star) the deadline has passed
 - ii. ...without an on-site assessment (1-3 Star) the timeline is
 - 1. Submit app by Sept 30
 - 2. Submit self-assessment survey by Oct 14
 - iii. Black out period 10/15/22-2/1/23
 - iv. All transition information listed online: www.greatstarttoquality.org "What's Next" tab

- GSC Business

Paula Brown

- Budget

- FY22 guidance and funding allocations rolled out this week
- GSC will share out new FY 2022/23 Work Plan Guidance
 - Incorporating goals/strategies from the Strengthening Families Assessment throughout the plan
 - Engaging more diverse communities
 - Engaging more fathers and male role models
 - Goals need to address early childhood and systems
- Paula and Jaime Mueller meet regularly to discuss early childhood
- Allocations are kept level
 - 32p Allocation = \$411,231
 - No major changes. GSC/PC base: \$120,000.
 - EC programming: \$15,000. 20% of the budget actually goes to programming.
 - 32p4 Allocation = \$249,872 (level funding)
- 32p Local Program Funds Guidance

- Strategic Planning

- Process to Date
 - Leveraging reports community has already generated i.e. Statewide HMGK strategic plan
 - Working to gather data from parent surveys, listening sessions, community events
 - Looked at goals from Office of Great Start in last GSC meeting
- Small Group Work

Stephanie Wagner

- Action Agenda (work plan is designed from this) which is due Sept 15 to the state, whereas the Strategi Plan is due Dec 23.
 - The plan today is small group discussion regarding whether we are meeting our goals, what we can do to address them, where do we have the most impact. 4 groups each with a GSC moderator.
 - Moderator feedback
 - Group 1/Outcome 1
 - Making the presence of the GSC more known in the medical area
 - Engaging with partners
 - Medical pre-natal and post-partum insurance coverage
 - Engaging fathers
 - Group 2/Outcome 2
 - Streamlining resources, having a centralized information hub, families don't know how to access info.
 - Families don't trust people in systems work
 - Standards of cultural competency: language and themes
 - Info/resources for children 5-3rd grade (HGM ends at 5)
 - Group 3/Outcome 3
 - What impacts will Covid have in future? Will developmental delays increase?
 - Staffing crisis is difficult to address. Not enough support for teachers in the classroom.
 - Kindergarten teachers need more support
 - Group 4/Outcome 4
 - Working more with medical communities/pediatricians' offices, new parent kits, storybook walks
 - Closing remarks:
 - Rich dialogue, THANK YOU!
 - GSC will continue work with Stephanie
 - Next communication will be through email: SurveyMonkey email will go out asking for feedback.
- Partner Announcements
 - chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://mlpp.org/2022kcdataprofiles/GrandRapids.pdf
 - <https://mlpp.org/more-forward-momentum-toward-affordable-high-quality-child-care-final-2023-budget-analysis/>
 - <https://www.grpl.org/kids-and-teens/sjbookclub/>
 - <https://kdl.org/babies/>

Upcoming Meetings:
GSC Executive Team – September 2022 – TBD – Zoom
October 11, 2022 – 2:30 – 4pm - Zoom
GSC Membership Meeting – October 27, 2022 – 1:30–3:00pm – Zoom