



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.

Minutes

December 15, 2022 – 1:30pm-3:00pm

Attendees: Maureen Hale (Chair), Wendy Wheeler (DHHS), Kristin Gietzen (Arbor Circle), Ryan Huizenga (GRCM), Sarah Miller (CTC), Sara Proano (KDL), Keven Kammeraad (KDL), Abby Bishop (WIC), K'Sandra Earle (KPS), Joann Hoganson (KCHD), Rebecca Boot (FF-Healthy Families), Alyssa Bryan (FF), Jenn Harrod (HealthNet), Merin DeKruyter (KISD-Early On), Kathie Hoffman (Refugee Education Center), Yolanda Johnson (Parent), Iris Gipson (Parent), Fredericka Brown (Parent), Sharquila Harris (Parent), Angela Frier (Conductive Learning Center), Shanequa Mosley (GSPC), Tomarra Richardson (GSPC), Melanie Medema (GSC)

- Welcome and Introductions **Maureen Hale**

- Approval of the minutes: October 27 – *Approved*

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report **Tomarra Richardson**
Shanequa Mosely
 - Grants
 - Trusted Advisor Grant-applied for the no-cost extension (2023 deadline)
 - Applied for the CSSP \$1,600 grant
 - Upcoming Meetings & Events
 - Parents are starting to reengage post-pandemic
 - January GSPC meeting speaker Malique Greer “Speak Life”
 - Books, Blocks, & Balls
 - Please reach out if your agency would like to participate: GSParents@SuccessStartsEarly.org
 - Save the Dates: Grand Rapids: 8/12/23, Sparta: 9/16/23
 - Focus: activities allowing parents to observe child’s interaction while completing an ASQ
 - One County, One Book
 - 32P dollars fund this initiative
 - Hope to launch during reading month (March)
 - 2019/2020 launch: 8,000 books (The Gruffalo)
 - 2022: 8,776 books (The Caring Me I Want To Be)
 - 2023: Reach out if you’d like to assist in the book selection process. \$1 books are no longer available from Scholastic.
 - COFI
 - January 25, a 7-week leadership training begins
 - Stipends, dinner, childcare, transportation, cleaning supplies
 - Flyer will be sent to group

- Kent County Health Department **Joann Hoganson**
 - MI Recovery <https://mirecovery.org/>
 - i. The program has been in place approximately 6 years, new emphasis on pregnancy (6 months)
 - Universal substance screening during OB visits so children are born healthy

- It is more difficult for healthcare workers to ask a pregnant woman about substance use during pregnancy if they don't know how to help when she says yes.
- Website of resources for women identified as substance users: how to access resources, outcomes for children born to a mother who used substances during pregnancy, steps toward recovery.
- Stigma reduction = healthier babies
- Joann to send info to Melanie
- Would be great for home visitors

- Social Emotional Health Workgroup
"The Importance of Play" Videos

Wendy Wheeler
Kristin Gietzen

- S/E Health Workgroup focuses on the impact of S/E development on school readiness
- Viewed 7 videos developed by the workgroup
 - i. Brief Interactions, By Reading, Early Learning, Growing Stronger, Join in the Play!, Learn Best Through Play, Unstructured Play
 - ii. Feedback from the group: love the bite-sized nugget length of each video; GRCM Megan Geiken will connect with Melanie about sharing on their site; would like to see them shared in newsletters, websites, GSC website; lots of reel followers on partner Instagram pages; TikTok?, subtitles can be produced in 7 languages (Sara Proano)

- Small Group Activity

- What does it mean to bring an "equity lens" to your work?
 - i. Group 1 (Iris, Fredericka, Yolanda, Sharquila, Angela)
 1. Yolanda: Non-judgment; understanding your own unconscious bias; trust building; awareness of trauma; listen; historically punitive environments; equity is used as a buzzword; learn from mistakes
 - ii. Group 2 (Jenn, Merin, Alyssa, Rebecca, Kathie)
 1. Collaborative discussions to expand ideas and views; focus is often through lens of white privilege; be conscious of the words: cultural competence and humility; diversifying our workplace (lots of white women); explore ways to push DEI; awareness of the wheel of privilege, race, mental health, housing etc.; amplify parent voice-consider lived experience; encourage vulnerability and feedback
 - iii. Group 3 (K'Sandra, Abby, Joann, Tomarra, Shanequa)
 1. Look for gaps in subgroups; policies have unintended consequences-look at the long-term impacts before putting policy in place; equity in ECE; the challenge of dismantling systems
 - iv. Group 4 (Kevin, Sara, Ryan, Wendy, Kristin, Sarah)
 1. Addressing accessibility issues; presence; systemic and policy issues-looking upstream is where sustained change comes; include families in the planning and design of services
 2. "Good communities support their *own* children; great communities support *all* children."

- GSC Updates

Maureen Hale

- Staffing
 - Open position: HMG Care and Relationship Coordinator, full time. Will be posted in January.
- FY23 Budget
 - Enough responses were received from this group to approve. Reach out for more information.
- GSC Strategic Plan
 - SP will be finalized 12/23/22
 - Implementation Plan 2023-this will be addressed in the February GSC meeting.
 - The SP feeds GSC workplan and workgroup initiatives.

- Partner Updates

- 2022 Successes & Highlights

- Sara (KDL): Books for Babies initiative-choose a book and those in direct contact with newborns can get books. Calendars with Success Basics are available here or upon request. Every branch has revamped their play space, every library has a theme using Loose Parts (unstructured play): called Wonder Nook. Wimee's Words relaunch in 2023; current exhibit at GRMC.
 - <https://www.grcm.org/wimeesdreams>
- Kevin (KDL): Breaking away from FB and YouTube (unsafe) and using an online virtual broadcasting platform. The focus is interactive programming, not just kids watching tv. Working with Casual Simulation who may allow live interactive viewing. The Bookmobile can visit agencies with this programming. Will be available in multiple locations (such as daycare centers) to make it more accessible.
 - There is an option at KDL to rent tablets and hotspots. Community members who are not residents of an individual branch region can use an institutional card.
 - <https://kdl.org/community-resources/>
- GRMC is bringing back "New Year's Early Eve" December 30 4pm-6pm. They are a participant in the Museums For All programming (\$1.75) and pay-what-you-can membership (\$20/year)
 - <https://34355.blackbaudhosting.com/34355/New-Years-Early-Eve-30Dec2022>
 - <https://www.grcm.org/join>
- CTC has lots of new programming: Staycation ages 2–14 can be dropped off for 3 hours while kids receive therapy services (registration closes tomorrow); will be offered again during spring break. Preteen and Teen program partners with GVSU: video game playing and educational session for parents about the benefits of gaming. Playgroups are starting again in February.
 - <https://therapycenter.org/staycation/>
- CLC: Focusing on 0-3 prekindergarten: feeding and dressing for children with cerebral palsy. Currently offering an 80% reduced rate for 1st 4 weeks. Free assessments every 2 months. Physician referrals not required, working hard to get insurance coverage.
 - <https://conductivelearningcenter.org/programs/>
- Iris: COFI's 3rd phase is policy and system change. Share COFI with families and encourage participation: COFI is a powerful leadership development model for families.
 - <https://cofionline.org/>
- Abby: WIC is federally funded program; it can be challenging to make significant policy changes. Looking forward to collaboration with this group.
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/wic>
- Joann: Health Department is hiring many positions!

- Next Steps

- Minutes will be sent with: COFI & GSPC meeting flyers, MI Recovery info, Health Dept hiring

Upcoming Meetings:

GSC Executive Team: February 14, 2023, 2:30pm-4pm (Zoom)
April 11, 2023, 2:30pm-4pm (Zoom)

GSC Membership Meeting: April 27, 2023, 1:30–3:00pm (Location TBD)