



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

August 24, 2023 – 1:30pm-3:00pm

Zoom

Attendees: Joann Hoganson, Jennifer Headley-Nordman, Ashley Karsten, Chana Edmond-Verley, Kristyn Bomberg, Mary Claire Meimers, Karen Lezan, Tequia Adams, Lesly Sis, Linda Pickett, Sarah Proano, Shelby Brueck, Ellen Sawyer, Heather Walczewski, Maggie Lancaster, Tonya Clevenger, Alissa Hofstee, Karrie Roy, Rebecca Boot, Betsy Zandstra, Barb Hawkins Palmer, Melissa Hartley, Wali Thomas, Brittany Price, Cara Sutcliffe, Ray Sutcliffe, Kathryn Steiner, Kayla Kucz, Lianna Tagle, Wendy Wheeler, Amari Fuller, Lee Ritzema, Bryana Hopkins. Kathie Hoffmann, Pam Shoemaker

Staff: Paula Brown, Tomarra Richardson, Shanequa Mosley

- Welcome **Joann Hoganson**
 - Approval of minutes for June 22nd

- Inclusion Activity **Wali Thomas**
 - The Basics Caregiver's Promise

- Great Start Parent Coalition Report **Tomarra Richardson**
 - COFI Cohort III Group Project
 - Events
 - Diaper Drive Celebration
 - Community Baby Shower
 - Books, Blocks & Balls- Grand Rapids
 - Family Scavenger Hunt
 - Parent Cafés, Parent Support Stations & Parent Meetings

- GSC Updates **Paula Brown**
 - Home Visiting Video Project with WMPQIC
 - Home Visiting Workgroup-Increase participation with the services
 - The parents wanted it to be organic and focus on their story
 - Share the video throughout the networks-partners
 - GSC Local Program Funds Update
 -
 - FY24 Work Plan requirements
 - A minimum of one goal per outcome
 - At least two parent led strategies and cannot be under the same outcome
 - Parent Support Stations
 - Parent Cafes



- COFI
- Incorporate the goals and strategies from the Strengthening Families Assessment
 - Engage diverse communities
 - Engage more fathers and male role models
- Each goal should also serve the components of the early childhood system.
- New this year- MAX of 15% of 32p allocation for local childhood programming
- FY24 Allocations
 - \$504,804
 - \$249,872-Home Visiting Expansion Grant (32p4)
 - Baby Scholars
 - Bright Beginnings
 - Early Head Start
- New this year- \$162,144 just for literacy efforts from birth to 5
 - Must prioritize enrollment of those families with the highest levels of economic need
- GSC Literacy Initiatives
 - Success Basics
 - Ready4K
 - One County One Book

Open Discussion/Brainstorm:

- Betsy Zandstra: First Book marketplace is another good giveaway vendor
- Barb Hawkins Palmer: Books in Barber and Beauty Shops
- Karen Lezan: has some resources for books in different languages
- Melissa Hartley: Books for young kids and little older kids for families have different age groups in the home.
 - Also helping parents transition kids to kindergarten especially if it's their first child going
- Lianna Tagle: We'd love a survey monkey! I'd love to share with my Programs manager and some of our other staff who have tons of literacy based experiences!
- Barb Hawkins Palmer: There is a safe sleep book in English and Spanish - Charlie's Kids
 - Sleep Sacks with Literacy Wording
- Lee Ritzema: neurodivergence is a big deal now so books about or something around that; especially ADHD and Autism
- Wendy Wheeler: Willow Tree Library has books in barber shops and laundromats
- Bryana Hopkins: Do we have anyone from Ready for School on GSC? They might have ideas and partnering
- with its Reach Out and Read program might be a good option as it is evidence based. Connect to Reach Out and Read. Contact is Angie DeLost, adelost@readyforschool.org
- Local Program Fund Presentations
 - Spectrum Health – Baby Scholars
 - Fox 17 news interview
[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.fox17online.com/news/a-path-forward/baby-scholars-program-helps-parents-get-their-children-school-ready_!!DQv46r5x2oY!PNUgf9gfTGE0-RUS-MaOfweJretidp40VukNsQosXlMYEEejXwx2SuPwFbGyKwZsbMJnUTI-vf6qd4KOI2s4Dilo8diB4A\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.fox17online.com/news/a-path-forward/baby-scholars-program-helps-parents-get-their-children-school-ready_!!DQv46r5x2oY!PNUgf9gfTGE0-RUS-MaOfweJretidp40VukNsQosXlMYEEejXwx2SuPwFbGyKwZsbMJnUTI-vf6qd4KOI2s4Dilo8diB4A$)
 - Fantastic 4 goals
 - Oct 2021-June 2023
 - ✓ Served 331+65 families
 - ✓ 298 families graduated /58 (32p)
 - ✓ Percentage of Referrals made to other programs

Tequia Adams



100%-Success Basics, Ready4K, ELNC/GSRP,

Kent ISD – Bright Beginnings

Karen Lezan

- See attached slides

➤ Partner Announcements

- Region 3 In-Person Listening Session for Mi Preschool for All - Tuesday, August 29, 2023 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at Unified Sports & Inclusion Center, Special Olympics Michigan @ 160 68th Street Southwest, Grand Rapids, MI 49548.

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/663878357037>

Upcoming Meetings:

GSC Membership Meeting: October 26th, 1:30–3:00pm (In person: Health Dept)

GSC Executive Team: September 12th, 2:30pm-4pm (Zoom)

October 10th, 2:30pm-4pm (Zoom)