

MINUTES
Family Support-School Readiness
10-22-2020

Present:

Jennifer Ganzel
Kelly Friedland
Chrissy Blackwell
Jean Allison
Andrea McCabe
Kathy Hoszkiw
Mary Belknap
Bob Powell
John Denney
Stephanie Denney
Resha Willis
Jackie Barber
Wendy Bell
Kristin Klug
Kymalee Gresh
Corey Duncan
Becca Hurst

Welcome = Name and what is your favorite candy?

Reviewed September Minutes = No changes indicated.

Great Start FY21 Budget Discussion = Update on funding provided.

GSC FY21 Work Plan – Reviewed Outcome #3 = Kelly

Bright by Text = Chrissy shared the power point presentation.

Questions:

Is the \$10,000 fee one time or yearly? - It is yearly

Can 211 be used as a partner to get the word out and possibly partner to save money? -John

How can we sustain this? - Bob

Thoughts:

- Jen Ganzel talked about the response/engagement rate is 97% for this type of method.
- Jean Allison had some good thoughts around the data; informed and more confident is two different things. Price tag might be worth it if the data can be meaningful.

- Mary Belknap agreed the data needs to be meaningful and aligned to the GSC work. Mary had an idea to approach pediatricians for support in getting this information to parents and possibly support financially.
- John Denney mentioned the John George Fund may be a potential funder. Focus is literacy, mental health, which aligns with Bright by Text.
- Low income families use “minute phones”. Will this work for them? - Bob
- Noticed that some of the other GSC partners are rural. Good to know it works rurally. How might this effect minutes on phones? Would families sign up knowing they would lose minutes? - Jean
- Kelly S – Can we have Jen reach out to parents to get their feedback/thoughts on if they would use something like this? The group liked this idea to gather parent input. Per Mary – ask pediatricians to help with this needs assessment.

Playgroup Conversation: Resha Willis

- Craft kits that families can do after watching Resha’s “modeling videos”.
- Read aloud videos that incorporate literacy tips
- Mary offered her students as a resource to possibly provide material for the playgroup families. She also mentioned a Detroit preschool teacher that is re-designing some learning ideas for preschoolers. Mary will send the link to Chrissy to consider.
- Chrissy stated she has seen Resha’s many posts and that Resha is doing a great job with keeping families connected.

Great Start and Trusted Advisors: Jen Ganzel

- Need to start thinking how to help families seeing an increase in substance abuse.
- Little Free Libraries: Going well. Mini book drives are still happening in the community. Need more early learning books (board books, picture books).
- Looking into MI Kids Matter. This web-site is filled with information, videos, etc... May be a useful resource/tool.
- Census is over. It was halted October 13, 2020. Michigan surpassed the national response rate by 5%. 3% increase over 2010. 73% self-response rate in Jackson County. 2010’s response rate was 70%. Every census track in Jackson County surpassed 50% response rate.
- If you have books to donate, contact Jen Ganzel directly and she will come pick up books or can let you know where to take them.
- Family Service & Children’s Aid and YMCA are very popular Little Free Library sites.

Early Childhood Specialist Updates (ECS): Jean Allison and Wendy Bell

- MDE Guidance was received regarding Remote Learning Guidance (Virtual and Distance Learning).

- October 19th PD – 390 early childhood professionals completed PD. Approximately 700 participants participated in this PD day that covered Pre-K to 12th grade.

GSRP Enrollment Numbers:

- Kelly F. went through the current enrollment numbers. We have openings.
- MDE is not taking GSRP funding away for the 20-21 school year.
- Ideas for lower numbers: parents are worried, low-birth rate, parents don't want their child to wear a mask,
- Kristin shared about their early head start home visiting program. Just started in person visits at the end of September. Almost back to full enrollment in EHS. Families are feeling more comfortable to let people come in.
- GSRP "virtual" families are now starting to consider moving back to face to face.

GSRP NEW Flyer:

- New guidelines for 20-21 school year. No more income cap for GSRP.

November/December Meetings:

- These meetings fall on holidays – conversation was had about when to move them to.
- Idea was made to combine them into 1 meeting. Dec. 3rd or 10th was discussed.
- Decided to make it December 10th from 1pm to 2:30pm.