

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support
October 13, 2016
1:00-2:00pm
Health Department Room 205



Present: Resha Willis, Julie May, Barb Bowman, Sharon Augustine, Kristin Klug, Elyia Lamb, Jennifer Ganzel, Kelly Friedland, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell, and Alice Walker

Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions and completed an inclusion activity

Review September Minutes

- Group reviewed the September minutes.

Update on Employer Survey Work

- Look at expanding nontraditional hours offered to families by child care providers.
- Two groups who are possibly lacking care: people working alternate shifts and people that do not know their schedule ahead of time.
- Chrissy combined the questions from the minutes and the notes to create a paper and online version of the survey.
- Group would like to see a question added about if your child requires child care.
- Working with Jackson Area Manufactures Association and the Chamber of Commerce to distribute the survey to employers.
- There is a Human Resources group that meet in Jackson and Cheryl Lemons may know who to contact.

Discussion on how to reach families in challenging areas of the community

- People who are on call.
- Who would be the best groups to have those conversations?

- King Center, Partnership Park, and the homeless shelter. There is a neighborhood group at Loomis Park.
- Families with children with special needs. “What are your barriers?”

Strengthening Family Work

- The first Parent Café was completed Monday with the Great Start Families group.
- Learned how to build on the protective factors within their peer groups.
- Theme was parental resilience.
- Parents focus on themselves, and do not provide advice to other people.
- I statements are used for the very easy-going personal conversation.
- First Parent Café lasted about an hour, but the time can be accommodated for different groups.
- Working with the parents within Great Start Families on the five protective factors then the parents will assist in bringing it to other parent groups in the community.
- Family Service and Children’s Aid have been using Strengthening Families for years.
- Parent as Teachers families will be completing the protective factors survey at the beginning and at the end, and it is used with the Children’s Trust Fund Grant.

Playgroup updates/new location process

- Old schedule goes through November and is still available because we are waiting finalize the new locations
- Please let Kelly know if there is anything you need to see that should be modified.
- Will add some new activities, so the information isn’t being repeated.
- Replacing Brooklyn JDL branch with Jan’s Dance Studio in Brooklyn, Parma will be added, and Eastern and Carnegie libraries will remain the same.

Member Sharing

- Resource Expo Night: 14 families attended, but there was great vendor presence

- Barb Bowman: Celebrate babies month: Brown bag lunch at CAA people who attend will receive a candy bar.