

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support
November 10, 2016
1:00-2:00pm
Health Department Room 205



Present: Amanda Crosby, Kristy Storm, Resha Willis, Alice Walker, Eliya Lamb, Kristin Klug, Chrissy Blackwell, Kelly Sheppard, and Kelly Friedland

Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions and shared what their Thanksgiving plans.

Review October Minutes

- Group reviewed October meeting minutes.
- Add Kelly Sheppard to October attendance list.
- Connections in the community. Alice contacted Jen after the last meeting to add Wendy White from Together We Can Make a Difference to the list of community outreach. Wanda Beavers and Julie Weisbrod should be added as well.
- Shaun LaPorte works as an inspector on the east end of Jackson.

Update on Employer Child Care Survey

- Through the Great Start system scan and United Way, we have seen a need for nontraditional child care hours.
- We decided to create a survey that is given to employees by their employers.
- This first survey is intended for manufacturing employers.
- There will be future surveys for families who work in other industries including fast food.
- Kelly Sheppard met with Industrial Steel Treating, and Chrissy has been contacted with several employment agencies.
- They surveys are for individual employers, so we can provide employee feedback to each participating employer.

- ABC Academy is willing to participate in discussions about the logistics required for alternate hours care.
- United Way has changed funding to focus on helping families be financially stable.
- This child care surveys will provide information on if there truly is a need, and the specifics of the child care need.
- We wrote a letter of intent looking at nontraditional child care. The next step of the United Way funding process is to prove you are a legitimate entity who could receive funding.
- If we are funded, we could use it to create alternate hours child care.
- Sometimes child care options can depend if family receives Child Development and Care Subsidy.
- Would like to see a question added if families qualify for the subsidy.
- The income levels to qualify for the Child Development and Care subsidy are on the DHHS website.
- 3rd shift single parents also need extended hours to sleep not just to cover their work shifts.
- Unlicensed providers can complete 7 hours of child care training to receive the subsidy. If the unlicensed provider continues with 10 hours additional hours of training, they receive an increase in the payment.
- Question #3 will be changed: Do you feel there are options available? Are you happy with the child care options available?
- Afterschool programs do not have to be licensed as child care.
- Future question: Would you work more hours if you had additional child care?

Strengthening Families/Parent Café Work

- Great Start Families held the first Strengthening Families Parent Café last month as part of their regular meeting schedule.
- The concept of Strengthening Families is to have a judgment free discussions and share examples of where people are showing leadership in their home.
- The table host needs to foster the conversation to let the others think about their own circumstances.
- Barb Bowman was a wonderful table host.

- Head Start holds monthly family focus where they are required to use Parenting Counts. Discussed having using Strengthening Families at the May Family Focus.
- Please let Jennifer Ganzel know of any groups interested in having a parent café.

Parent Outreach ideas, materials, etc.

- Tabled until December.

Playgroup Updates

- Tabled until December.

Diaper Drive Update

- Runs through December 9th.
- Meijer and Walmart have offered large donations.
- ABC Academy held a competition among their locations.
- CAA will be offering the employees a chance to where jeans if they bring in diapers. Elizabeth will be giving the employees who donated diapers a sticker to notify others they donated to the diaper drive.

Member Sharing

- Chrissy Blackwell brought coupons and information for the Priceless Gift Toy Store.

Next Meeting: December 8, 2016 from 1:00-2:00pm at the Jackson County Health Department room 205