

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
Family Support  
November 7, 2019  
9:15-10:00 A.M.  
Meijer Branch Library



Present: Chrissy Blackwell, Resha Willis, Brooke Rains, Jennifer Ganzel, Kelly Sheppard

### **Introductions**

Most favorite or memorable Halloween costumes were discussed.

### **Intro to GS and Family Support:**

Originally started under Gov. Granholm to ensure child success.

Gov. Snyder modified State-wide Great Start system to be housed at the Intermediate School Districts and created the 4 State Great Start Outcomes:

#### 1) Children born healthy

- focus right now is on building empathy between OB/GYN staff and patients. System scan (survey) data showed that moms felt they were treated differently based on their race, income, insurance, etc... The Collective Impact Grant Award was approved for the MCHAT work to provide a training to the OB/GYN staff on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). The Women's Health Center will pilot this training.

It was suggested that the ER staff be trained as well. 75% of the births at Henry Ford/Allegiance are Medicaid patients.

It is common practice that every doctor visit should be limited to 20 minutes per patient.

- prenatal care importance efforts and post partum definition work is also being worked on. Can we create a universal language that is easy for parents to understand. Go for your "ABC" appointment (After Baby Check-up). Families don't know what "post partum" means

#### 2) Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade

- Purchased an informational baby calendar "From Birth to Age One" for distribution through the hospital. It focuses on social-emotional and physical health. Families can mark milestones and immunizations in it.

- Social/Emotional posters were created, distributed and parent feedback is very good. Resha mentioned the playgroup families really like them.

#### 3) Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry

- Informational family material was created based on parent feedback. "Don't just tell us what to do, tell us why and how". Work is done through Family Support and School Readiness. Make sure the words are family friendly and are easy to understand. Consider different words for "outcomes", "sequence"

4) Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

- Little Free Libraries = placed in 11 areas based on parent-feedback in where they wanted to see them.

Great Start Families is a piece

The Trusted Advisor work is a piece as well:

- The Trusted Advisors were selected because they already have natural connections with those living in poverty and the most disconnected community members in order to help connect them to services/supports and resources

### **Survey Results:**

System scan was done in order to learn more from parents on how we can engage more of them in the work of the Great Start Collaborative.

See survey results for detailed responses....the survey is still open and feedback is coming in:

- many families are using on-line sources
- Childcare costs, behavioral issues and finding free playgroups and parent friend groups are listed as the topics of most need
- Brooke mentioned there is some work beginning in the State focused on social/emotional health needs. It is starting in Flint and some other areas but the goal is that it will expand to the entire State of Michigan.
- Jennifer suggested that we continue to work with providers such as LifeWays, Family Service & Children's Aid, etc...to continue to work on capacity building to assist young families with behavioral health needs.
- A conversation was had about the Family Support Scholarships offered through Child Care Network and the importance of spreading the word.
- A question came up about training available to the Trusted Advisors to "train" families on efforts such as: Love and Logic and Conscious Discipline so that they can be knowledgeable and help families directly.
- Text was at the top that families said was a good method for them to receiving information. Texting apps were discussed such as: Text 4 Baby and the CDC app (helpful tips and videos).
- Time of day was discussed. Best time families mentioned was the time that playgroups are already held (10am to 11am). An idea that was discussed was if parent feedback was needed, the Great Start staff would attend playgroup to have the conversation. Chrissy will reach out to Head Start to see how the Policy Council attendance is now that Policy Council has moved to a 4pm to 5pm time. Recommendation was to go back to main Family Support Committee members and discussed a time that works for everyone who has been meeting. It was recommended to keep the location the same at this point in time for the group to come together and discuss the future meeting times and locations.

- 50 new families expressed an interest in being signed up for the GS newsletter.
- Next meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup> 1pm to 2pm at Jackson County Health Dept. – Room 205.