

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
Family Support  
April 14, 2016  
1:00-2:00pm  
CAA- Large Conference Room



Present: Wendy Gonzalez, Kristin Klug, Elyia Lamb, Resha Willis, Barb Bowman, Julie May, Sharon Augustine, Angela Mitchell, Kelly Sheppard, Jen Ganzel, and Kelly Friedland

### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Group completed introductions and shared what they are looking forward to this summer.

### **Review March Minutes**

- Group reviewed March minutes.

### **Playgroup Update**

- Copies of flyers are available and were distributed at the meeting.
- Resha looked into an alternate space in Parma, but she is not sure this location will work for the playgroups.
- The church in Parma is requesting \$150 to use their space twice a month.
- We possibly have funding to pay up to \$125 a month for the Parma playgroup.
- Jen suggested the fitness center in Parma.
- Barb Bowman noted that the Parma Church is owned by Jackson Nazarene, and they do not charge for Toy Talkers playgroups because their families are invited. Resha may be able to contact the church about extending this to the Parma playgroup.
- Jen spoke with someone from the Y about possibly establishing a playgroup at the Y. The Y would have the gym and additional equipment not available at other locations.

- Discussed having a parent survey to determine what they value in the playgroup locations.

### **Pediatrician Talking Points**

- Need to determine the goals of establishing relationships with pediatricians.
- Some goals would be communication on:
  - The required screenings for low income families
  - The importance of early literacy and early education
  - Parents connections to community to open the door to where parents can find other parents with like age children.
  - CPCAN has been working to provide education on safe sleep practices and bring the Period of Purple Crying out to the community.
  - Stewards of Children
  - Ages and Stages
- The doctor's office is one of the places in a child's life on a regular basis.
- Suggested included creating a reference guide of early childhood programs.
- New family welcome package, a tab on the GSC website, or have the directory electronically.
- Organizations and the website could partner to help the new families in the community find information.
- Next steps: Foundational pieces suggested by Kim on what physicians are receptive. See if Kelly Sheppard received the information on students from EMU.

### **Member Sharing**

Kristin Klug: Applications for Head Start are being completed. Families interested in Head Start or GSRP are being provided information on [Greatstartjackson.org](http://Greatstartjackson.org) and the hotline number 517-768-5130.

Barb Bowman: Early Educators group meets next Tuesday at noon. Keith Knox and someone from the Center for Family Health dental clinic are going to speak.

Julie May: Looking at transitions from 0-3 to the preschool program. Have some new inclusion locations.

Jennifer Ganzel: Spring Great Start Families meetings flyer is available. Parent group sending a flyer out to every elementary student in the county with information on the May and June meetings. May meeting will be presentations on summer kids programs. June meeting will be at an earlier time and will be yoga for parents and children of all ages.

Wendy Gonzalez: CPCAN Humor for the House with Heart fundraiser at Jackson College. Pinwheels for prevention for Child Abuse Prevention month. Annual meeting at Jackson Coffee Thursday, April 21 at 8:30am. First session of fatherhood program beginning Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-10 week program. Childcare and pizza dinner. Limited to 10 dads per session.

**Next Meeting: May 12, 2016 1:00-2:00 P.M. at Community Action Agency**