

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support
September 8, 2016
1:00-2:00pm
Health Department Room 205



Present: Barb Bowman, Resha Willis, Sharon Augustine, Dawn Holland, Julie May, Alice Walker, Angela Mitchell, Elyia Lamb, Chrissy Blackwell, Kelly Friedland, and Jennifer Ganzel

Welcome & Introductions

- Group completed introductions.

Review August Minutes

- Clarify that the playgroups fall under the marketing portion for the GSC budget and do not need to go through the RFP process for programming funding.

Playgroup Update

- Resha contacted the King Center and Jackson College North Campus.
- Mr. John Willis said the King Center would be interested.
- Kelly Sheppard said she would review the locations with Resha.
- Alice said the King Center is not busy during the day except in the summer.
- Jackson Rec Department may have other locations besides the King Center.
- Crouch Senior Center has a large room at the Health Department.
- Discussed having one consistent location instead of East and Carnegie.
- Would like calendars once everything is established.
- The Brooklyn location will be Jan's Dance Studio, and the library is going to come to the site with materials that can be checked out.
- Resha needs to obtain insurance or looking into taking care of this through the ISD by hiring Resha or having a waiver.

Employer / Child Care Needs Survey

- Survey will be sent to families asking if they use childcare and about the type of childcare.

- Looking to accommodate families who work alternate shifts.
- Contacting with employers on how we can survey their employees and how Child Care Network can be involved.
- What we want to ask parents:
 - Does any alternate hour care exist?
 - If there is anyone is taking their kids out of the home for any type of child care?
 - Do you struggle with child care?
 - What is their work schedule?
 - Is cost a factor in the child care options available to you? Some people need to use a family member or a neighbor because they don't have the choice of quality care.
 - Is your current child provider licensed?
 - Are you satisfied with your current childcare?
 - Are you using the childcare tax credit?
 - Are they aware of childcare ratings?
 - Ask parents to prioritize what they look at in childcare.
- Keep the survey as simple as possible and send it out via Survey Monkey.
- Early Head Start families would be a great group to share information and reach out to staffing companies.

Messages to Parents Regarding Importance of Early Childhood

- What kinds of statements or messages would we want to share with parents?
- Importance of the first 2,000 days
- How the dollars invested in early childhood save money later on.
- Knowing that high quality child care is important, and we need to be able to help provide it.
- Child Care Network wants parents to ask providers on how to get providers on the quality ratings system.
- Early literacy is exploring books.
- 700 connections are made in a baby's brain every second.
- The learning of early childhood is through play
- Brain Builders website has a lot of 0-3 information.
- Importance of quality and responsive caregiving.
- Words spoken help with reading.

- Importance of talking to babies
- Importance of dress up play
- Importance of relationships
- No app can replace your lap – a poster in the WIC office.
- Missing a child's life by being on your phone

Member Sharing

- Sharon Augustine: flyer on community resource night
- Dawn Holland: Wendy White Together We Make Difference – priceless gift toy drive at the Dream Center on Tomlinson St. starting October 1 for looking for donations of new and used toys and volunteers 1:00-5:00pm on Wednesdays and Saturday.
- Third Week in October appreciation of the care givers of infants and toddlers. Monday October 17 born bag lunch any agencies who would like more information.
- Alice: winding down with step by step events and visiting the farmers market 10:00am-2:00pm to give out \$10 vouchers to families.
- Chrissy will be making a flyer about the newsletter, and she tries to include information about the newsletter.
- Elyia: Every dollar donated at Arby's toward the No Child Hungry program goes toward 10 healthy meals. Receive a free slider with each donation.
- Jen: Shred Hope attended the last meeting to talk about child trafficking. New meeting time will be 10:30am-12:20pm. Great Start families will start hosting parent cafes in the community.

Meeting Location

- Group would like to move the meeting to the Health Department