Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County School Readiness Committee Meeting

May 12, 2022

Zoom Meeting 1:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Present: Christie Orban, Anna Wiede, Codi Benjamin, Corey Duncan, Wendy Bell, Cathy Brubaker, Karyn Head, Jean Allison, Kim Shiery, Bridget Griffith, and Kelly Sheppard

**Welcome**

* Group completed introductions and shared what they were looking forward to about summer.

**Review Minutes**

* Reviewed March minutes
  1. **Brainstorm Session**

Needs Identified

* Places to take small children:

-Create targeted events for the 0-3 population

* Affordable childcare:

-Looking at Resources to help families pay for child care

-Childcare Network offers scholarships: Bridget will reach out to Brittany Wright for more information to send out to group.

* Transportation:

-Barriers for city bus: bus limits what can be brought on the bus such as only 2 bags. Kelly will connect with JATA to discuss these barriers.

-Barriers for cabs: cabs not showing up when expected, not having car seats

* Mental Health Services: childcare while grownups are getting services
* Families who are not English speaking

Families have noted that they feel like they have less financial support than they had at the beginning of the pandemic.

Things have been very inconsistent and some families can’t pinpoint what they are stressed about…don’t know what they don’t know.

**Jackson Reads Event**

* Huge success!
* Partnered with Ella Sharp Museum and FREE Museum Days
* Close to 1,000 bags of books were handed out to families
* 4 authors did presentations and signed books
* Over 40 volunteers were present to help

**GSRP Data**

* NIEER report reviewed, Michigan was one of the 4 states to receive a perfect 10 rating
* Beginning of the year there were 43 children with IEPS, currently there are 78 children with IEPS which means 13% of GSRP children have IEPS (this will go up as children are still being evaluated)
* 14 children were brought to child study for development or behavioral challenges, 6 of those children had an IEP

**Next Meeting**

* No meeting in June or July
* Group agreed that meeting in August would be beneficial
* Hope to have the August meeting in person, place TBD

**Member Sharing**

* Anna Weide – EHS has a bilingual, Spanish speaking, home visitor starting soon. This will really help in connecting with the Spanish speaking population. Recruitment continues for pregnant moms to age 3 for home visiting program as well as home visiting staff.
* Codi Benjamin – CAA and the JCISD are collaborating in opening a preschool room in the Fall that will hold 17-18 children with 50% being children with a disability.
* Corey Duncan – A workshop is being held at Family Service and Children’s Aid on May 18th and childcare is provided (sign up needed for child care), Bridget will send the flyer out again.

**Next Meeting: August 11th 1:00-2:00 P.M. Face to Face! Location TBD**