

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support/School Readiness
May 28, 2020
10:00-11:30 A.M.
Via Zoom



Welcome and Introductions

- Completed introductions and an inclusion activities

Community Needs Conversation

- Concerns about what is school going to look like or will preschool opportunities be available in the fall.
- Jen Ganzel and Kelly Sheppard have been working with JCAN since the middle of March.
- Laundry was a struggle for many families.
- Question if any organization collecting returnable bottles and cans.
- If families cannot pick up lunches, deliveries are available by contacting the district.
- Many child care scholarships were put on hold for families when they return to work.
- Many of the children in care are school aged children who didn't need care in the past.
- Integro has openings for infant and child mental health and open for referrals 0-18.
- Highfields mental health needs are rising, but the contact and engagement with families has been decreasing. In need of referrals for 0-2 for home visiting.
- Lack of internet and phone minutes are barriers to connecting with families.

Great Start Website/Newsletter

- Now a Find Help and Coronavirus Resources on the Great Start website.
- Chrissy will add information about contacting schools if the pickup times do not work for families.
- Includes: food information, behavioral health, and early learning links.
- Newsletter platform has changed to Smore.
- Can sign up for the newsletter on the website.

Great Start Families

- Resha has continued to hold playgroups via Zoom.
- Trusted Advisors and Great Start Families have been included in several committees requiring feedback from families.
- Start talking now and often on parents getting and keeping their children's immunizations up to date.
- Trusted Advisors has been working with Partial to Girls who have been providing baby items and delivering those items.
- 2020 Census education is continuing. If they haven't responded to the census by now, they should have received a paper copy.
- Census deadline delayed until October 31st.

Kindergarten Transition Kits

- School Readiness Committee worked on the contents of the kits.
- Including a feelings chart.
- Typically kits are distributed at kindergarten roundups.
- We talked with the elementary principals about giving them to preschoolers.
- Programs picked them up and distributed to all GSRP and Head Start children.

20-21 Preschool Enrollments

- We have directed to plan for GSRP like we would normally.
- We had a lull in families applying, but it has picked up.

- GSRP is a state funded program, and we don't know if GSRP will have any type of reduction.
- We probably won't have a signed state budget until September, and we may see a later start date for programs.

GSRP Distance Learning Efforts

- GSRP partners wrote continuity of learning plans similar to those of K-12 schools.
- Teachers have been incredible.
- Kindergarten teachers and principal attended the Zoom meeting to help with bridging between preschool and kindergarten.
- A teacher set up a Zoom playdate for two students who wanted to connect with other.
- Programs have been demonstrating activities via Zoom or over explaining over the phone.

Will look at continuing these meetings monthly.