

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County

Joint Committee Meeting

April 8, 2021

***Zoom Meeting***

1:00 – 2:30 P.M.



**Present: Jean Allison, Corey Duncan, Kymalee Gresh, Mariann Gladstone, Resha Willis, Wendy Bell, Cathy Brubaker, Jen Houston, Andrea McCabe, Kristin Klug, Becca Hurst, Jennifer Ganzel, Jackie Barber, Mary Bleknep, Jessica Hendricks, Pam O'Brien, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell, and Kelly Friedland**

Welcome Activity & Introductions

- Completed introductions and shared what we enjoy about warm weather.

Review March Minutes

- Group reviewed the March minutes.

Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) - Resha Willis

- Maternal Infant Health Program is contracted through the state and mothers and children are required to receive Medicaid.
- Program offers visits from RNs and social workers.
- Serve pregnant moms and infants up to a year. Can serve substance exposed infants up to 18 months.
- Provide developmental screenings for children and screening for parents.
- Families can receive multiple 0-3 services depending on what the family needs.
- Programs make referrals and connect with the other providers.

2021-22 GSRP Slot Allocations - Tentative

- This committee oversees the Great Start Readiness Program.
- Programs have not all filled completely this year, but the state decided not to recoup any funding or slots.
- Currently 18 slots not allocated that were returned back to ISD from a provider.
- Request for Proposal will go out to any licensed center with a 3 star or higher in the star rating system.

- The Springport area has been a high demand area. Early Impressions is running a second GSRP classroom in Springport.
- Have not had any areas with large waiting lists. We had one child on the waiting list for Columbia, but we were able to place that child later in the year.
- Have an automated call system that goes out to families who apply because we usually do not start enrolling children until July.

#### Kindergarten Kits & Videos

- Superintendent subcommittee asked if some videos could be created on the item in the kindergarten kits.
- Each program was asked to make a video on an item in the kit, and the videos are coming in.
- The kits have a QR code that go straight to the kindergarten page on the website.
- 12-13 videos will be available.

#### MiRegistry Update

- System used to track training hours for childcare providers.
- The system is only allowing certain training to count toward training hours.
- Anyone who is recertifying this year is able to self certify their hours. Anyone recertifying next year must have their hours in MiRegistry.
- Loading in 950 training sessions for staff so they have their training hours in MiRegistry.
- Deb Spencer at the ISD loaded the attendance into the Mi Registry system.

#### Virtual Job Fair

- ISD is working with most school districts and most of our community partners.
- Working to fill 60-80 K-12 positions and numerous preschool positions.
- Schools or programs create landing pages for candidates.

#### Jackson Reads

- Opening to the public starting tomorrow.
- We want to get books in the hands of kids.
- The literacy and early childhood teams at the ISD have teams up.
- There are two parts: book distribution and an author interactive page.
- Parents sign up their children to receive 10 free books for children 3-3rd grade.
- We have enough funding to serve 600 kids in our county.
- 159 children in need were pre registered before registration opened to the community.
- May 8th books will be distributed at the Jackson County Fairgrounds.
- Public registration opens tomorrow.

#### Trusted Advisor Updates & Webpage

- Doing a lot of free online learning opportunities for families.

- A new four part series on building leadership skills for parents in early childhood.
- MSU Extension offers parent talk times around lots of different topics including a new one on math concepts for early childhood.
- Trusted Advisors group of community members that we sought out champions from the hardest to reach communities. Provided them computers, hotspots, and printers for the Trusted Advisors to provide information to people they build relationships in the community.
- Trusted Advisors have been working with families during the pandemic.
- They are drawing a lot of regional attention, and Jen has been involved in meetings with the state on the Trusted Advisor model.
- Jen is presenting next week to the Michigan Librarian's Association.
- GSC added a page for Trusted Advisors on the website
- The page contains, contact information, past data sheets, and photos of the Trusted Advisor work.
- Send any suggestions for the page to Kelly Friedland.

#### Community Partner Updates

- CAA: wrapped up parent teacher conferences. Working on adding to their platform for the virtual job fair. Online registry for Head Start and GSRP for next year. Families can still apply for preschool for this year. Will have many Early Head Start vacancies.
- Family Service and Children's Aid: All services are open for face to face following safety protocols. April 24th 9:00 A.M. Run for Fun starting at Grand River Brewery. Jump program back in schools permitting outside agency in their buildings.
- ABC: Celebrating their 37th Anniversary this week and gearing up for summer camp for pre kindergarten and school activities.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:00-2:30 P.M. via Zoom