

**Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
School Readiness Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2022  
1:00pm-2:00pm**

Present: Cody Blair, Colleen Childrey, Cathy Brubaker, Wendy Bell, Brittany Wright, Katie McCollom, Anna Weide, Mary Belknap, Bridget Griffith, Kathy Schaefer

**Welcome**

- The group completed introductions and shared what they enjoyed most about the summer.

**Review Minutes**

- Reviewed May minutes

**Re-grounding of what the Great Start Collaborative is:**

- **The 4 outcomes:** Children are born healthy. Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade. Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry. Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade by reaching proficiently by the end of third grade.
- **The work plan:** This is statewide and each county runs differently. We have 2 committees, the School Readiness and Family Support Committee. We reviewed the purpose which you can find on our website. We have great representation except with faith based organizations and businesses. We also struggle with family involvement. Bridget wants this to be a safe place where you can come with ideas and struggles. She wants outside groups to see the group as a resource and support for the community.
- **Accomplishments: Social and Emotional Developmental Poster** is complete and around Jackson. Finishing up the other poster. **Jackson Reads** was a great success. 1,000 book bags were taken to this event and all but 10 were handed out. **The free libraries** around town are getting used. Books are being taken and new books are being added. *It was suggested that we add a map on the website with locations of where you can find the libraries.* **The baby calendar-** this is in a bag of goodies given to mom's as they get ready to leave the hospital. **Trusted advisors** are meeting the needs of the community. They go where families are, they give out their phone number, and they work 24/7. **Bright by Text** is a free app that we need to push more as it is an amazing app. Bridget can send out any article, tips on this app along with Facebook and the website. *If you have anything that you want to send out let Bridget or Kathy*

*know. **Play Groups** Now that we are back in person this has been a great success. Last week there were over 20 people in attendance. *We do need to get better signage so families can find it easier.**

- Mary asked if centers would be willing to let her students do some fieldwork in their sites. She shared how she has her students visit and share about Great Start in their hometown. Centers would love to have SAU students in their classroom. This would allow students to see a diverse population.
- We have refugee's around town with children and it was brought up as to whether or not they had connections and were working with anyone in the community who were pointing them to resources.
- Cody shared his concern about having a student with diabetes at this site but the staff were not comfortable if he had issues. He was wondering if anyone had any ideas as to how to get some help to train staff, have a plan in place if an emergency arose, and someone to just consult with. Many suggestions were given: Emergency Needs Coalition, Health Department, Head Start would talk to the Health Manager, Health Advisory, SAU Nursing

#### **GSRP Updates**

- Kathy shared that we were in the process of placing children at the sites. Approximately 300 children have been placed.
- Wendy and Cathy about the Professional Development training that will be coming up and that they have been touching base with the Centers.
- Expansion of programs- Lil' Beginners Learning Center in Napoleon, Phoenix has gained a classroom at Vandercook Lake, Concord schools will be running the GSRP classroom in Concord. East Jackson has a classroom that is moving into the elementary school.

#### **Member Sharing**

- Early Head Start has had issues with hiring staff members other than that everything is going well. They have hired a Spanish speaking home visitor. She is also doing translation for teacher visits. Both programs have seen an increase in Spanish speaking families.
- Head Start teachers returned on Monday. They closed 6 classrooms due to staffing shortages. Some classrooms are full and others are not.
- Childcare Network shared that they have scholarships to help with childcare. They are going fast. Brittany is also working on the Trishare Initiative. This is where Childcare Network, the employer and the parent all help pay for childcare.

**Next Meeting: September 8th - 1:00pm-2:00pm at Family Service & Children's Aid, 306 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson**