



Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
School Readiness Committee Meeting  
March 21, 2017  
4:00-5:00pm  
Family Service and Children's Aid

Wendy Bell, Jean Allison, Catherine Brubaker, Kathy Hoszkiw, Jen Ganzel, Chrissy Blackwell, Tammy Cushard, Andrea McCabe, Gretchen Dula, Don Tassie, Irene LeCrone, Bob Powell, Kelly Friedland, and Kelly Sheppard

### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Completed introductions and shared what we enjoy about spring.

### **Review February Minutes**

- Reviewed the February minutes.

### **Preschool Conversation**

#### Locations

- Reviewed maps of current Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program locations and school district boundaries.
- There are large gaps between Springport and Jackson, Springport and Concord, and the Northwest area north of the schools.
- Population concentration is another consideration in the locations.
- Waiting to hear if we will be allowed to serve over income families in GSRP.
- Race/ethnicity information was added to the interest form to be more intentional in creating more diverse classrooms.

### **Data Update and Pre-K Literacy**

- Form B is one assessment per recipient
- Form A is by classroom.
- Countywide scores are not surprising.
- Program director background is based on the very highest level of background on the PQA.
- Professional development 10 opportunities for in-service and professional development.
- Teacher turnover has to do with pay and benefits.

### **Kindergarten Transition Kits**

- 1500 arriving on Friday, and we have a grant in process for another 300 kits.
- Two schools have not responded at all, and Kelly Sheppard sent two reminders to elementary principals.
- All the GSRP preschools teaching teams will have the kit, and the teachers will show the families how to use the kits during home visits.

- The calendar says Macomb ISD with their 1-800 number, and the group did not think it was necessary to cover the phone number with a label this year.
- The front of the bag has the label with the phone number.
- Schools will have one week to pick up the kits from the ISD.
- Tammy Cushard from ABC Academy provided a listing of all schools kindergarten roundup information.

### **School Readiness Definition – Next Steps Conversation**

- Presented the school readiness definition to Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs) group.
- Asked MOPs how the definition should be marketed to parents.
- Suggestions:
  - Easy to understand language.
  - Cognitive skills what the looks like.
  - Kindergarten teachers would rather see a little more self care.
  - Tell me what is important and show me why it is important.
- Jennifer Ganzel will ask for more parent feedback at Kids Fest on June 16 to have a more diversified population.

### **Essential Instruction Practices in Early Literacy**

- Provided copies of Prekindergarten Essential Instruction Practices in Early Literacy.
- 10 practices that are being used around the state be affective in early literacy.

### **Imagination Library**

- Imagination Library will be pausing after the April books arrive in the children’s homes until additional funds are raised.
- A press release is being created to provide the community with information on the pause.

### **Member Sharing**

Jennifer Ganzel: Great Start Families will be having quarterly community fair events rather than monthly meetings. Flyers were available for the Arby’s Imagination Library fundraiser tomorrow.

Andrea McCabe: 441 people are signed up to attend the Early Childhood Conference.

Irene LeCrone: Michigan College Access Network awarded Jackson a Flagship Award to recognize our collaborative efforts.