

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting
September 20, 2016
4:00-5:00pm
Family Service and Children's Aid



Present: Elyia Lamb, Brenda Webster, Kelly Sheppard, Kelly Friedland, Chrissy Blackwell, Jean Allison, Kathy Hoszkiw, Renee Marks, Don Tassie, Gretchen Dula, Tammy Cushard, Elizabeth McClain, and Bob Powell

Welcome & Introductions

- Group completed introductions

June Minutes

- Reviewed the June minutes.

County-wide Preschool Update on GSRP/Head Start Process

- Head Start and Great Start Readiness Program have recruit children for programs together.
- Families can sign-up online, call the preschool hotline, or visit any of the partners.
- Head Start is a federally funded preschool program to serve 3 and 4 year olds that works on meeting all family needs, while the Great Start Readiness Program focuses preschool.
- GSRP serves families that are higher income (101-250% of the Federal Poverty Level) than Head Start eligibility (100% of the Federal Poverty Level and below).
- Basic joint recruitment process is:
 - Complete interest form
 - Kelly Sheppard and Kelly Friedland review the interest forms
 - Kelly Friedland releases the names to the programs to contact the families
 - Head Start eligible children are released in April
 - GSRP begins July 1 in income order
 - Over income families September 1

- Many families lot of families apply after public schools begin.
- CAA focusing on Head Start and not also offering GSRP, and the timeline worked well for CAA to contact the Head Start eligible families.
- There are not as many part day options as we have had in the past.
- Concern was Napoleon not having enough spaces, but many of those families were able to shift to Columbia.
- Using the new process last year, there was less shifting from program to program.
- Next year the hard waiver will be children must be four years old by September 1, there will no longer be the ability to be four by December 1.
- Find out how many we have after the window.

Building Bridges from Preschool to Kindergarten Series

- Educational series for preschool teachers, preschool administrators, kindergarten teachers, and elementary principals.
- At the end of the series, preschool teachers will go into kindergarten classrooms and kindergarten teachers will go to preschool rooms.

Kindergarten Transition Kit Distribution Ideas

- Teams participating in Building Bridges will receive first priority.
- Would like to see the kits distributed at locations where there are GSRP and Head Start classrooms.
- A lot of programs have family focus night.
- Have events to hand off the relationship from the preschool to the elementary schools.

