

9-24-20

MINUTES: Combined Family Support/School Readiness Committee

Present:

Marcia Hills-Hoxie
Corey Duncan
Kristin Klug
Wendy Bell
Jen Ganzel
Chrissy Blackwell
Kelly Sheppard
Ann Sloan
John Denney
Elizabeth McCain
Jackie Barber
Jen Houston
Bob Powell
Brittany Wright

Welcome activity = numbered memes to gauge how people were feeling

May Minutes were reviewed

Child Care Network = childcare scholarships were put on hold. *UPDATE* as of 9-2020 per Brittany = the childcare scholarships are low on funding. Funding amounts have been reduced. Many of the families needing care have back balances (even if the family was unemployed and didn't use care they still needed to pay for spots; so there is a lot of debt right now). Many infants are needing care. Parent reach out is normal. 40 families (50-60 children) on the wait list for child care help.

Community Needs Update =

1. Jen Houston (Integro): getting a lot of 3 year old referrals. Part of a U of M cohort to make Infant Mental health an evidence based best practice. Go through LifeWays for all services/supports/referrals.
Integro is able to go ahead and work with pregnant mothers at this time. Tend to get more older kids this time of the year but they need younger ones right now. Seeing a lot of children who have had trauma, parents with mental health issues, parents with unstable situations, Integro is working with Infant Mental Health and health dept.
2. Health Dept: Ann Sloan – needs:
Housing is a huge issue. Nowhere for people to go. There is usually a revolving door but most people are not moving right now. People are feeling disconnected with the Tele health. They want to see someone in person.
Marcia Hills-Hoxie:

Continuing to take referrals for kids for evaluations. Seeing an increase in protective service referrals (prenatal toxic exposure – marijuana mostly). Many times parents are declining services/supports. Doing virtual evaluations. Not sure when in person will begin again.

3. FSCA – Bob Powell and Corey Duncan:
Waitlist for drug treatment and mental health
Hard to do the mental health in the schools via tele health – at max capacity right now.
Parent education = attendance has varied but is picking up. Doing in person and virtual classes.
Getting a lot of out of county families. May have to add some classes soon.
4. CAA – Elizabeth:
Early Head Start started doing in person home visits – doing 1 home visit a day. Home visitors have PPE, folding chairs,
4 days into the home visiting process – going well. Less than 5 families wanted to do virtual (family didn't want to wear a mask or didn't want someone in their house).
NEED – Early Head Start (EHS) referrals.
Getting ready to transition the EHS families into a preschool track. So more openings will be available.
Office is closed at least through end of October – appointment only for visits.
Evictions are on the rise. Lots of need for utility assistance.

32p Work Plan:

Outcome 1 review/discussion:

Looked at the 2 strategies and the 3 activities:

3rd activity = create “developing baby” page on the GS website

Ideas for what should be included on the GS website:

- keep the information simple and easy to understand: John Denney
- images are better than long text: John Denney
- links to other resources: Kelly Sheppard
- Jen Houston will look for resources she would have that would be good information to put on the site – she has access to a baby wheel of information. (also looking at the environmental dangers to a pregnant mom)
- Jen Ganzel would be happy to run the proposed language by families and get their feedback on whether the info is easy to understand.
- Tabs that are specific to stages and/or ages of development – Corey Duncan
- Info on trauma and how it effects developing babies – Corey Duncan. Corey will send Chrissy some resources on this subject.
- Should we market “free pregnancy testing” on the website?
- Include the State's link on the effect of lead? – Ann Sloan
- Add Brittany's comment
- Per Marcia – give tips mom's can do to start impacting the developing fetus (read alouds, fruits, veggies, etc...) help to build the bond between them

- Keep the messaging positive – Brittany Wright
- Can never have too many links – Jen Ganzel

STRATEGY 2:

Activity 1 = Identify the agencies/organizations that have a drug free birth program:

Who are they:

- FSCA – was called Born Free now have Women’s Specialty focus and drug free births is one outcome being measured.
- Maternal Infant Health will address it if the need is identified.
- Would any home visiting program that would address the issue qualify as a prevention/intervention? - yes

Question for Bob Powell from Marcia Hills-Hoxie:

If protective service referral for children under 3 then Early On must be contacted. Does PS referral automatically refer to FSCA? Per Bob....not an automatic, depends on how they categorize it. Some referrals are mandated some are not depending on the category.

GS Families Update: - Jen Ganzel

- Participating in many parent feedback sessions (Home Visiting, 31N around social/emotional and mental health for school age (Janelle/Whole Child), State level feedback
- Keeping Little Free Libraries going/stocked. Book donations have been going well. FSCA would like to do a book drive. Their library is in high use. Per Brittany, Concord trail head one is mostly adult books – this is not a GSC box. The libraries do start to change to reflect the community around it. Jen will make a FB post about needing child book donations.
- Sharing MSU extension learning opportunities for families. Website for MSU ext is a bit confusing.
- Census = few more days left (end of Sept. is the end). Sharing videos and info on Facebook/website, etc... Community members are asked to share the video as they are able. Jackson County is struggling to even get back to our 2010 Census numbers.

Early Childhood Specialist (JCISD) Update:

Wendy Bell:

Excited to gear up this year for GSRP – been waiting for the guidance from MDE, have it now

Starting later this year than last year. Most will start beginning of October!

Back to school PD last week (2 days virtually)

Parent survey has gone out to all of the teachers to help with transition into school. Helps get initial data to best support children.

GSRP – new legislation coming – may be able to serve more over income children

Kits – gave out to the 4 year old preschoolers (GSRP and HS).

WHAT will preschool look like this school year?:

Child Care Network – private centers – Brittany:

- stay as normal as possible
- started on time. Many are going already.
- Using masks
- It is going very well

GSRP – Kelly Sheppard

- later start
- face to face and virtual options
- teachers always masked
- children masked on transportation and common areas

Head Start – starting later at Springport due to positive Covid case

- Face to face classes (4 days a week)
- Same PPE requirements as GSRP
- Virtual options also available
- Staff are excited to see kids and get going

PARENT PARTICIPATION feedback: (How can we ensure parents can still participate in this committee meeting using a remote model?)

- Ann Sloan: face time, duo/phone, tele-health

Barriers – no service for internet, minutes for phone

- Marcia: Zoom

Jen Ganzel – provide a space for the parent to participate at? (library, partner's space)

Stipends would continue.

Time of day is important - Chrissy

What time of day seems to work? – Marcia says her families always want afternoon.

COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES:

Marcia – get your flu shots. Very important

Ann – services are still operating at the health dept (children's services have continued to operate) Good tele-health response. Their services are available for families. Ann is willing to do outreach via Zoom, team meetings, etc... to educate other organizations on what is available.

Corey – Been doing in person and virtual classes. Many virtual participants choose to call in rather than zoom in (they don't love being on screen). Work is picking up.

Next meeting – October 22nd, 1pm to 2:30pm via Zoom