

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



Present: Bob Powell, Andrea McCabe, Tammy Cushard, Kathy Hoszkiw, Irene LeCrone, Cathy Brubaker, Wendy Bell, Jackie Barber, Brenda Davis, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions and shared what we did over President's Day weekend.

2. Review January Minutes

- Group reviewed January minutes.
 - Update – it will cost \$3 extra to update labels for kits rather than using stickers.

3. School Readiness Definition (next steps)

- What do we want to accomplish in Jackson County in order to achieve the definition?
 - Make sure preschool and kindergarten teachers have access to the definition so everyone is on the same page.
 - Ask teachers if they could provide a copy of the research-based assessment they use.
 - How can we help parents understand the definition?
 - Break it down – give activity examples so they can help their children meet goals in each area. Keep it simple.
 - Give examples of what it looks like for a child to be ready.
 - We are missing parents in this conversation.

4. Preschool Info/Location Needs

- Preschool cutoff date is now set in stone (age 4 by Sept 1st) for GSRP, but Head Start still has the waiver (age 4 by Dec 1st).
- 2017-2018 Preschool Interest Form
 - The new interest form will kick kids out of GSRP if child is 4 after Sept 1. Parents will then receive a message forwarding them to contact CAA (Head Start).
- Support Staff Informational Flyer
 - Created to help staff who are answering questions about GSRP over the phone understand the process.
- Preschool Program Location Map
 - Could we add school district lines to the map?
 - Where is there a need for more locations?
 - Rural areas – Springport, Parma, Rives Junction, Pleasant Lake
 - Families in Eaton Rapids have attended Springport in the past.
 - Is there a waiting list in these areas?
 - In order to qualify for a GSRP location, the provider needs to be rated as 3 stars or higher. Are these locations available?
 - Check Munith/Stockbridge/Eaton Rapids
 - Pull info from RFP

5. What barriers do families in Jackson County face in meeting the needs of their family?

- Transportation
- Daycare
- Uncertain when businesses are open
- Uncertain about eligibility requirements
- Daycare

6. How do families get information about community resources?

- Catholic charities
- Community leaders (ie. Wendy White, Wanda Beavers)
- Shelters
- Anyone that does outreach
- Food pantry workers
 - Is there a way we can rejuvenate the food pantry meeting group?

7. Community Partner Updates

Next Meeting: March 21, 2017 from 4:00-5:00 pm at Family Service and Children's Aid