

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County  
Family Support  
February 9th, 2017  
1:00-2:00pm  
Health Department Room 205



Present: Alice Walker, Ann Sloan, Jen Ganzel, Resha Willis, Kelly Sheppard, Chrissy Blackwell

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Completed introductions

### **2. Review January Minutes**

- Group reviewed January minutes.

### **3. Playgroup Update**

- New 2017 schedule with new locations, dates, and times is now available.
- Music playgroups are being offered at all sites. The Baker College music playgroup was fun with great attendance.
- New locations
  - *Brooklyn: Jan's Dance Connection* - about the same attendance, parents love it. Brooklyn library sends a representative with a tote full of books so children can check them out right at playgroup.
  - *Parma: Mind & Movement* – Parents love the location. 4 new families have attended so far.
    - Discussed the possibility of sending information about this new location to Parma Elementary and local preschool families.
- The Birth-3 Team at the ISD is attending. Can they bring resources to give to families during future playgroups?

#### **4. Child Care Survey Update/Volunteers?**

- An updated survey was handed out, which included a few new entries.
- Industrial Steel will still be putting out surveys to employees.
- Chamber of Commerce put the survey on Facebook and in their newsletter.
- We would like to work with Kristen Klug to hand out surveys during home visits (April/May)?
- Moving forward to our next survey process, should we keep the current survey or add/change questions?
  - Addition ideas
    - Have you heard of Great Start to Quality?
    - Are you working? Why/Why not?
    - If you receive the Child Care Subsidy, can you now afford child care?
  - Looking forward
    - How will child care during 3<sup>rd</sup> shift be tackled? How would families feel about providers coming into their home during this time?
- Resha would like surveys to hand out during playgroups.

#### **5. How Do Families Connect with Community Resources? Or Why Don't They?**

- Word of mouth throughout the community is often the greatest resource.
- Information is available through 211, the WIC office, Early On, First Fruits, food pantries, and Center for Family Health.
- Question - Do you feel like the community is already connected or is more work required?
  - DHHS is a problem. There are long waiting lists, sometimes 30 days to get food benefits. *Maybe an advocate for these struggling families would be beneficial.*

- **Trusted Advisor Grant**
  - \$60,000 grant possibility to be used by the Parent Coalition.
  - There is a possibility to use these funds to hire advocates who will families get access to the resources they need.
  - Discussion will be led by the Great Start Families group. As the decision gets closer, discussion should include Zoe Lyons (DHHS) and Toby Berry (CAA).
  - Would Alice Walker join in on the discussion?

## **6. Member Sharing**

- Diaper Drive - a total of 11, 338 diapers were donated and dispersed into the community.

**Next Meeting: March 9th, 2017 from 1:00-2:00pm at the Jackson County Health  
Department room 205**