**Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County**

**Community Group**

**January 12, 2023**

**1:00-2:30 pm**

**In person at:**

**Family Service & Children’s Aid**

**306 W. Michigan Ave.**

**Jackson**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome/Introductions-** This is our first meeting where we have combined the School Readiness and Family Support Committee’s. What is your first that you want to share and introductions: Bridget Griffith, Great Start Collaborative, Brittany Wright, Child Care Network, Corey Duncan, Family Service and Children’s Aide, Chelsea Schantz, WIC Coordinator, Megan Lowe, Play Group Coordinator, Tista Rink, CAA, Cathy Brubaker, JCISD/GSRP, Wendy Bell, JCISD/GSRP, Kathy Schaefer, JCISD/GSRP

**2. Review November minutes-** Minutes were emailed out before Christmas and are attached to today's agenda. If you have any questions or changes please let Bridget know.

**3. Our Mission and why?-** Reviewed the 4 outcomes, and reviewed a short video clip- “Know your why/Michael Jr.” Everyone received a notecard to write what their “why” is with this group. Megan shared her why- Sharing the importance of Early Childhood with the community. Bridget shared her why- “serving the community and its families.”

**4. Time of meeting-** Mornings on Thursday won’t work for Brittany and mornings are hard for the ECS’s. Wendy has suggested a google questionnaire that we could send to parents to find out what times might work best for them and use this questionnaire as an awareness piece for this meeting. A suggestion was made to have a raffle for those answering this. We also have a $25 incentive for families to attend the meeting.

**5. Bright By Text-** This is $5,000 we have 215 members and we are going to start transitioning into Talking is Teaching. Bridget will be meeting with Superintendents tomorrow to share this new agenda and will start moving forward with this new campaign. This will end in Mid February. Corey wants to know how Talking is Teaching will be presented- The role will start with collaborating with local places and then we will train people who have relationships with families on how to encourage them using Talking is Teaching.. Ads on the radio, on social media, and also a very specific group of people. We have received a lot of support from Livingston County. Bridget has already started reaching out to organizations to support this new campaign. The Library also has a new texting program- TALK and it is similar to Bright by Text though it is more literacy focused.

**6. Resource guide-** We need to talk about the nitty gritty of this project. How do we want to do it? We have Hillsdale’s copy of their resource guide and it is wonderful. How do they keep up on it? Bridget shared that every person would need to take ownership of a certain portion of the guide. You would be responsible for a specific piece. Hillsdales is all online so it would- be easy to access, and easy to update. CAA had a small resource guide. WIC also has a resource guide. It is more like a handout. Chelsea thinks that a resource guide for the community would be great. Trista thinks it is a good idea. A QR code would be great to have on the guide. You could put that in a restaurant or somewhere around the community. Brittany says that the emergency coalition has a lot of this information. Bridget has that information and this would be a great resource. Mary from SAU sent out some family resources that her students have created. She sent these to Bridget. All of this information and samples were passed around for viewing. Start thinking about what part you would be willing to own so we can create this guide.

**7. Development poster-** We reviewed the poster, we will add the QR code which will take the parents to the ages and stages site. As well as the CDC information. Early On did change their phone number and so the social- emotional poster is wrong and this will be corrected and new posters printed. Cathy would like to look at the new poster’s and make them more family friendly. Bridget is wondering if we need to change the font color to black versus white. How would we like to go about looking into the language? We can send it out electronically and you can look at the language and at the next meeting we will discuss this. We will also encourage parents to attend the next meeting. CDC- has also made some changes recently which should be what we are looking at. Visually we do need to make changes. The colors? We were trying to keep it more oceany colors. This way when they are on the walls they will look different from the other poster. We will continue this discussion next month.

**8. Post Card for Education on preschool**- This is something that was done a few years past (2018-2019). These were set out in Dr.’s offices, and other offices around town. Trying to educate the families of the importance of preschool. There were different postcards for different subjects. Do you think an educational piece like this is beneficial? Do we want to pursue something like this? Megan was wondering if there were any fliers out there for listing of child care in the area? Child Care Network would be where they should go. At this time we are going to pause the post card.

**9. Member Sharing-** Brittany still has scholarship Dollars for families who need help with child care for 6 months. Child Care Network just received money from Jackson Community Foundation. Corey is still doing nurturing parent classes Tuesday 10-noon, Thursday 6:00-8:00pm. Corey will register them so if you have interested families send them his direction.. Father support group - trying to boost attendance. The most has been 4 fathers attending and a few are regulars 4-5 every other Monday. Corey has a flier and it is also attached to the minutes. Chelsea shared that WIC is still doing remote appointments. 75% of WIC appointments are done over the phone and it will be extended through the summer. This is really helpful. Jackson is such a different environment then where she came from (Ottawa County), We are going through a lot of formula and we are switching to where the families can just do Similac. She still has staff that are working from home. Meaghan had a great playgroup this week. 9 families, most were 1-2ish. Resha contacted Meaghan about a sensory table and Meaghan will want some aprons for that. Megan would love to share information with families and would love for you to put up flyers and information out to social media. Her new families heard about the playgroup from social media. The playgroup runs on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30. We are also hoping to get another one up and running. If you have any ideas for a good location let Bridget know. Someone suggested Central Campus. Trista shared that Head Start has hired 6 new people. We are almost fully staffed. As always looking for new people. Handle with Care- is a training that they are working on with staff for children who need some type of restraint. This training should be beneficial to keep staff safe. Cathay and Wendy shared that GSRP still has openings. The Jackson Reads event is coming up on January 21st from 11:00-1:00 it will give away free books, you can explore the Y, cookies and Hot Chocolate. Preschool Round up is scheduled for April 28th and June 16th.

**Next Meeting: February 9, 2023 1-2:30pm**

**In person @ Family Service & Children’s Aid (306 W. Michigan Ave.)**

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