

**Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support Committee Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
2:00pm-3:00pm**

Present: Melissa Baumgardner, Brittany Wright, Alice Walker, Bridget Griffith, Kathy Schaefer

Welcome

- The group completed introductions and shared what they enjoyed most about the summer.

Review Minutes

- Reviewed May minutes

Re-grounding of what the Great Start Collaborative is:

- **The 4 outcomes:** Children are born healthy. Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade. Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry. Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade by reaching proficiently by the end of third grade.
- **The work plan:** This is statewide and each county runs differently. We have 2 committees, the School Readiness and Family Support Committee. We reviewed the purpose which you can find on our website. We have great representation except with faith based organizations and businesses. We also struggle with family involvement. Bridget wants this to be a safe place where you can come with ideas and struggles. She wants outside groups to see the group as a resource and support for the community.
- **Accomplishments: Social and Emotional Developmental Poster** is complete and around Jackson. Finishing up the other poster. **Jackson Reads** was a great success. 1,000 book bags were taken to this event and all but 10 were handed out. *Alice shared about the concern she has with transportation and how busing is a big issue. Most families struggle with 2 things: transportation and money.* **The free libraries** around town are getting used. Books are being taken and new books are being added. *It was suggested that we add a map on the website with locations of where you can find the libraries.* **The baby calendar-** this is in a bag of goodies given to mom's as they get ready to leave the hospital. **Trusted advisors** are meeting the needs of the community. They go where families are, they give out their phone number, and they work 24/7. **Bright by Text** is a free app that we need to push more as it is an amazing app. Bridget

can send out any article, tips on this app along with Facebook and the website. *If you have anything that you want to send out let Bridget or Kathy know.* **Play Groups** Now that we are back in person this has been a great success. Last week there were over 20 people in attendance. *We do need to get better signage so families can find it easier.*

Brainstorming

- Wonderings of activities and programs that happened before COVID: Kids Fest? Diaper Drives? Community Baby Shower?
- It was mentioned that maybe combining the two groups could be beneficial although the two groups do work on different items from the workplan. Maybe the two committees could come together a couple times of year to share ideas?
- Recruiting families should be a goal. Keeping wording simple when speaking about these committees so that it does not intimidate families is important.

Member Sharing

- Childcare Network shared that they have scholarships to help with childcare. They are going fast. Brittany is also working on the Trishare Initiative. This is where Childcare Network, the employer and the parent all help pay for childcare.
- Trusted Advisors are working hard around the clock. Alice has been leading the work of the Community Gardens and families have been provided with fresh produce from the gardens. Alice Walker is looking for volunteers to help finish building a greenhouse. Suggestions were:
 - NHS high school students and to contact Monica Pierce, JHS principal
 - Contact Mr. Draper (new principal) at the Career Center

Next Meeting: September 8th - 2:00pm-3:00pm at Family Service & Children's Aid, 306 W. Michigan Ave. Jackson