

**Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022
2:00pm-3:00pm**

Present: Bridget Griffith, Brittany Wright, Aaron Pressel, Kelly Sheppard, Kristin Klug, Mariann Gladstone

Welcome and Introductions

- The group completed introductions

Review Minutes

- August minutes were reviewed. If there are changes you would like to make please email Bridget.
- Bridget also brought Bright by Text cards and flyers to hand out to meeting members. She also asked that when talking about Bright by Text to be intentional about signing families up. If you are able to help immediately that would ensure that it was completed before they left.

Talking is Teaching

- This is a great campaign to let parents know that just talking about things is very important. This can happen without costing much or purchasing much.
- Hillsdale County is using the campaign to educate and teach families how simple it is to talk to each other.
- Muskegon County has partnered with Goodwill and they have signage throughout the store from talking is teaching giving the families prompts to talk while they are shopping.
- Other counties have put together recipe cards so families can cook together. Grab bags with materials in it could be placed throughout the community: Grocery stores, laundromats, food pantries, Dr. Offices. The buses might be another great option.

Playgroup Update

- Playgroups are going strong. It is located in the lower level of the Family Services & Children's Aid. There have been a lot of people in attendance and it really would be nice to keep the size a little smaller. Resha does not want to do signups There is the possibility of adding a second playgroup.
- Kelly mentioned that Resha would not be running the playgroups anymore and if you know anyone that you think would do a great job with them please let us know. It is a contracted position through Great Start and is about \$100 a playgroup. We also cover snacks and supplies.

- CAA has a 0-3 playgroup that they have partnered with Jackson ISD. CAA could potentially partner with us to run playgroups.
- The numbers potentially could be less as school is back in session and school age children are in school.
- A second location would be nice. Maybe Countryside (Ganton) Spring Arbor would also be a great location. It was mentioned that there is nothing out Hanover Horton Direction.
- MOPS might be another great connection for playgroups.

Brainstorming

- **Transportation** is still a big need for families. The bus has lots of parameters in place that makes families feel targeted by busy drivers. They are also busy and families can only have 2 bags and they have to be able to put everything on the bus in one trip.
- **Affordable Housing** is always an issue. Lots of families are camping right now and what will they do once the weather gets chilly. Rent also seems to be increasing.
- Kelly asked about Laundry Coupons and how CAA handles that. CAA does contracts with the Laundry Mat.

Member Sharing

- **CAA-** Head Start Enrollment has Hillsdale County low and Jackson County Good. They had to close some centers due to lack of teachers. Head Start will be running a workshop on Saturday, September 24 on Homebuyer Education. All month they have had Financial Education Webinars as well.
- **Child Care Network-** Brittany shared with us that there are scholarships for child care back balances. She also mentioned that Love Inc. will pay for birth certificates.
- **Great Start/GSRP-** Kelly shared that we are working on hiring a Parent Liaison and hopefully this person will bring parents to these committee meetings.

**Next Meeting: October 13, 2022- 1pm- 2pm
In person @ Family Service & Children's Aid (306 W. Michigan Ave.)**

<http://www.greatstartjackson.org>