

**Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
School Readiness Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022
1:00pm-2:00pm**

Present: Bridget Griffith, Karyn Head, Brittany Wright, Corey Duncan, Aaron Pressel, Mary Belknap, Kelly Sheppard, Mariann Gladstone, Andrea McCabe, Trista Rink, Anna Weide, Colleen Childrey

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.
- 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. Mary has a potentially good contact for Distribution.
- Research shows that 60% of children start kindergarten under prepared. Covid has probably increased this number. Early on has had 350 referrals and 70% are getting services.
- The starting point for Talking is Teaching will be getting grab bags into the community. It was suggested that Family night for GSRP would be a good possibility. A tent or a table during a fall festival.

- The community baby shower is September 24, 2022 You can find information at Donna and Jim Benedict
St. John's United Methodist Church
DonnaJimBenny@yahoo.com
517-937-1342
Registration is required and they have 2 time slots 10-2 and 3-5.

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.
- 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.
- Libraries were suggested as a good location to run a playgroup. The problem with that is the lack of storage for supplies.

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.
- **Affordable Housing** is always an issue.
- **Parents are looking for classes for children on the spectrum.** Is there anything that the Department of Ed at SAU knows anything about? It would be great if we could offer something at a central location such as Frost (new ISD building) which is also on the bus line.
- **Infant and toddler care** is always a need in Jackson County.
- Is **Affordable Food** an issue? Churches are still running a month fresh food program. Open Table is once a month and Hanover Horton has the red
- backpack program for weekend food.

Member Sharing

- Corey shared that a Nurturing Father Support Group has started. If you would like a flyer email him and he will get it to you.
- GSRP Slots are filling up. Professional Development is taking place with the GSRP teachers. PD's in Literacy and Math happened in August and there were a lot of new teaching staff so PD's took place with new teachers as well. We also have a new literacy coach and she will be doing a ½ day PD. She will focus on 4 hand picked essentials to train teachers.
- CAA Head Start classrooms have started.

There were some items on the agenda that were not covered as the wrong agenda was used for the meeting. We will look at those next month.

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

<http://www.greatstartjackson.org>