

Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County
Family Support
August 11, 2016
11:00am-12:00pm
CAA- Large Conference Room



Present: Kelly Sheppard, Elyia Lamb, Julie May, Resha Willis, Alice Walker,
Chrissy Blackwell, and Kelly Friedland

Welcome & Introductions

- Completed introductions

Playgroups

- Attendance at playgroups is good.
- A few months ago, a parent was open carrying during a playgroup at the Eastern Branch library. He attended another playgroup at Carnegie, and Resha asked if he would put his gun in the car during playgroup.
- Allowed to open carry in public spaces, and we are looking for weapons free facilities to hold playgroups.
- Ella Sharp museum would cost \$25 per playgroup and was willing to take the gun free policy to its board.
- Resha will follow up on Ella Sharp, and the playgroups are staying at the library for the time being.
- The Y is very interested, but a concern is the distance from the entrance to the upstairs gym.
- There is a bus route on S. West Ave for Ella Sharp and the bus for the Y would be on the same block.
- Look into a space that would consider doing a community partnership and donate space.
- King Center or the Boos Center were suggested as locations.
- Jan's Dance Studio in Brooklyn for \$25 a month for two groups. The library would be willing to bring materials to the dance studio.
- Resha has been trying to find an insurance policy to cover Resha at Mind and Movement in Parma.

- Resha's time and the space come out of the Great Start Collaborative's operating budget.
- Baker, Brooklyn, and East were being attended by ISD staff.
- Playgroups are considered marketing to build a parent network from the state.

Area of Focus

- When we discussed where we want to kick our work off childcare expansion and affordability were toward the top of the list.
- We were waiting on a grant South Central Michigan Works wrote a grant for childcare expansion, and they did not get the grant. No one in Michigan received the grant.
- A new representative from Child Care Network will be attending this committee.
- Connecting with employers and child care directors to discuss the needs and barriers to providing alternative hour care.

Committee Chair

- Kristin will no longer be able to chair the meetings, and a new chair is needed.
- Chair leads the meetings and helps develop the agenda for each meeting.

New Meeting Location

- Would like to find a new meeting location because CAA's conference rooms are much busier with the closing of Lincoln.

Member Sharing

- Alice: Provided use materials on Fresh Fruits and Veggies and Step by Step card program were you receive rewards with each card completed from attending community events.