Great Start Readiness Committee Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2022

1:00pm-2:00pm

Family Service & Children’s Aid

1. Welcome: Brittany- Child Care Network, Corey- Children Family Services, Jean- GSRP, Mary- SAU, Kelly- Great Start Collaborative/GSRP, Angie-CAA, Trista- CAA, Colleen- Early Impressions, Kathy-GSRP, Bridget- Great Start Collaborative/GSRP
2. Review of September Minutes: No changes
3. Kindergarten Kits: Jean walked through the kits and why they were purchased. Letters, math tools, calendar, crayons, a journal to write in. COVID shows that if the family does not have things to write on they have a harder time with writing. White board and pens, a feelings chart, a letter chart, scissors, a book on emotions. Kelly puts together a “how to letter” to help parents know what to do with the items in the kit. This is given to children at kindergarten round-up. Schools ask for a certain number of kits.
4. ECS’s have been working closely with teachers who have children that need some extra help. They will be pulling a data pull to see what is going on and will plan PD’s around that pull. The sensory kits was something that was pulled through the data pull and teachers received training. Math training has continued and PD’s have been created around the math training the ECS’s have received. The PD’s are built on each other. This last training teachers were invited and the teachers who attended are very excited about all that they have learned. Each received a book. The Authors of the book made it very concreate. We currently have a camera and we are in the process of collecting videos and using this for further training in the future. We are hoping for a really good data base for sorting. This has been a great initiative. Everything is data driven and they are simple. Teachers do not have to do prep for this. You just need to be consciously aware. We are really excited to see where the math is going to go. We are excited to see what the 2nd data pull in math will show. Kelly shared about the different materials that were on the table that we put in a sensory kit for each classroom. Each classroom was trained as well.
5. Resource Guide: Families are not always aware of the resources that are out there. Bridget is very open to a format or what needs to be put into the brochure. A brochure was handed out to the group. This is a great start but can we build off of it. Mary has copies of a master’s program and her students created a resource guide. She will see what she can come up with from that course and she will see what she has. Mary will send them to Bridget to look at. The Padlet is used a lot, this may be an easy resource for pictures. Teachers also ask for information. Brittany also noticed that there is not a place listed for free clothing. Concord has a free store along with St. Vincent. Hillsdale has a large resource and Bridget asked if Trista can get her hands on this Resource. Jackson had one and 211 was the one who kept it up. Everything went digital and the paper copy was not kept up. Mary talked about a person in Jonesville who helps with Medicaid/Medicare information. Bridget would like this to be very fluid. Change it as it needs to be changed. She also wants more than a phone number. Wants a description. We also needs to have a revised date. Veteran’s information would be great. Corey gets information from Emergency Coalition and a lot of information on what is available. We could also enter seasonal resources that are out there. Henry Ford has a 24 hour pharmacist information like this would also be very important. Trusted Advisor’s information. Bridget will compile more information and then will bring it to the next meeting. We will talk to the parents. We can post this on the playgroup Facebook to see if we get a response from parents. We also could send out a robocall or child plus email about this as well.
6. Corey shared that a father’s support group has been started and the attendance was low. The time has been changed to 4-5 on Mondays and he had a few more shows and they were excited about the support group. There is sharing and also parenting education. Corey will send Bridget a flyer. Kelly will also reach out to the parent advisors and see if they can also help get more attendance. Mary, Next Tuesday is a free community Asis training from 1-4. It is a wonderful training. Mary will send Bridget a link. Bob was sharing that this is set up through April for a monthly training. Kelly, we have preschool openings and we will do a marketing campaign and if they go to the Great Start Jackson website they can fill out the interest form online. Or, they can go to a site and fill out a form online. Angie and Trista are very short staff. They had to close another classroom. We are hoping to get more staff in place. Colleen just a new baby. She will be back to work in January.
7. Bridget passed out a questionnaire and would like you to take time to answer the questions before you leave so we can see where you are at and if we need to make any changes.