Great Start Collaborative of Jackson County

**Community Group**

**February 9, 2023**

**1:00-2:30 pm**

**In person at:**

**Family Service & Children’s Aid**

**306 W. Michigan Ave.**

**Jackson**

**Office of Great Start Early Childhood Outcomes**

***From the Great Start, Great Investment, Great Future Plan***

***from the Michigan Department of Education***

**Outcome 1**: Children are born healthy.

**Outcome 2**: Children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track from birth to third

grade.

**Outcome 3**: Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at time of school entry.

**Outcome 4**: Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading

proficiently by the end of third grade.

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome/Introductions:

Bridget Griffith-Great Start/ISD, Mary Belknap-SAU, Kelly Sheppard-Great Start/ISD, Corey Duncan-FSCA, Wendy Bell-GSRP/ISD, Cathy Brubaker-GSRP/ISD, Kathy Schaefer-GSRP/ISD

2. Review January minutes:

If you see anything that needs changed please let Bridget know.

3. Resource Guide-assign sections:

Today if we can look at who could take some ownership for a specific category . Bridget is going to reach out to Stephanie from Hillsdale County to see if she can give suggestions to start our Jackson Guide. The question was asked: how will we know when it has been updated? - Each section has a date when it was edited so that we know how current it is. CPCAN also has a Jackson Guide; it is a little more simple. What we are working on is an online guide for families to have access to.. Angie Guananini (sp?) DHHS who may also have lots of information that would be beneficial for our committee working on the Jackson Guide. Bridget thinks that there are probably many agencies that have information that can help with this. We need to see what they have and then pool everything together. Conversation took place on what was in the faith based section and Early Childhood. Many sections could easily overlap. Mary mentioned that a category could be added with grieving. Kelly wonders if it would be helpful to talk to the trusted advisors to see what categories we should have in the guide. After today’s discussion we think that the first thing that we need to do is come up with categories. 211 would be a great place to start. Corey will reach out to 211 to see what they have available and work with them. The Hillsdale guide has links included on their guide website. Mary wondered if we have had any conversations with parents about what they would like to see in a guidebook. Legal Advice might be another great category. Mary will check into that as well.

Some possible categories are: food, clothing, shelter, physical, mental, social emotional, education, health care, clothing, transportation. Maybe the start place could be the CPCAN handout and then build off of that as we expand it online.

Before the next meeting we should work on getting links for all of the information in CPCAN, Community gardens, and any other link that you think might be helpful for Jackson County residents. Mary also wonders about other populations: Non-English speaking families. It might be nice to include some of this for Jackson County.

Before the next meeting:

Mary will look into the following: Grief, ESL programs, Legal AId

Corey will look into: 211

Bridget: continue working off of the information she has and will also reach out to Hillsdale County and ask if this is in other languages.

4. Development Poster-edit language to be more family friendly:

We would like to start making these more family friendly. Currently, on the poster the Language comes directly from the CDC.

* Do we need to have the categories? Or, do we just want the bullet points? Corey and Mary like the Categories.
* 2 months? “Watch you as you move” Mary is not sure of the wording.
* Underline the heading or change the colors that way they stand out more.
* Gender- uses different wording. They do go back and forth, but change it to he/she, his/her This is how the first poster looks, Bridget will make it consistent with that first poster.
* Under 2 years- walks, not climbing stairs should it be crawling?
* Do these seem more family friendly then the first one? CDC changes the standards. For instance, crawling isn’t there.
* Maybe something should say remember not everyone is at the same pace.
* On the first poster: Call Early On and a QR code for Ages and stages.
* Whose number should we have on this poster
* The language seems to look family friendly

Next Month: Bridget will make sure it has been updated.

5. GSRP Update:

Ready for winter data pull. Excited to see what that looks like. Kindergarten Kits ordered. Preschool round up is coming up in April. Busy at centers. We still have openings. At the end of the month we will transition to 23-24. March 1 is what we are telling parents when they call and ask about the interest form availability. Governor wants to see universal preschool happen before the end of the term. This could become an expansion plan. Finding staff and space is going to be really tricky. We will have to work through those logistics. Over the next 3-4 years we will make some movement to that. The Governor has also talked about increasing income eligibility to 300%.

6. Playgroup Update:

Meaghan could not be here, but lots of families are coming and she has had some really good showing. Special Ed has funding and wants to expand playgroups. Meaghan has been exploring other places. Vista Grande has agreed to do a playgroup there. This will be an intergenerational site and it is very exciting. Thursday morning will be her target day. Brooklyn is her next focus. But also Arbor Manor. The goal is 3 playgroups a week.

7. Talking is Teaching-who would like to be a partner?:

We are in the works of getting things ordered and finding our trusted messengers within the community. Next, training is in the works and will be working closely with the families for example, Laundromat staff or staff in a pediatricians office.

8. “NEW” Little FREE Libraries:

We have some money to purchase the Little Free Libraries. We are going to order 4- Family Health Dental Office is where one of the new libraries will go.. Do we have any other suggestions? Some suggestions: St. Vincent, St Vincent Hispanic Center, Boos Center, Woodville School area? Canterbury Apartments, Springport?

Currently we have libraries: Family Services and Children’s Aide, The Y, Leaf Park, Ashton Ridge, Chalet, Francis St. Primary, Torrent

9. Member Sharing:

Mary: Has been asked to be a board member for the Catholic group who are forming an early childhood organization. This could be a good thing. Any thoughts or reactions? Kelly thinks that it is great, hoping that it becomes a collaborative system. Kelly says that Mary would be a great resource. We have got to work together in communities. Mary will be a great bridge so it does not become a silo.

Corey is still doing parent education classes twice a week and a father’s group every other week. Corey has heard that it can take a while to get it running well. Did a 211 blast on it last week. Trying to put it out there more. FSCA received a grant for a Jackson County guardian program. We have hired a community coordinator. Her name is Kristin. Currently we have guardian services for elderly but it is now expanded for everyone. Cash Bash coming up on February 25th at the Gene Davis Banquet Hall. $100 per person, $50 dollar raffle. Cash Bar and you can buy your tickets at the agency.

**Next Meeting: March 9, 2023 1-2:30pm**

**In person @ Family Service & Children’s Aid (306 W. Michigan Ave.)**

[**http://www.greatstartjackson.org**](http://www.greatstartjackson.org/)