

Local Leadership Group Notes
December 4, 2019
1:00pm-3:00pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Family Growth Center)
549 Mt. Hope Ave. Lansing, MI 48910

1. Welcome/Introductions

Parent Café Question: How do you deal with not being able to give your children the things they ask for that “everyone else has”?

-Discussed with elbow partners

2. November Meeting Review: November notes were reviewed. There was a correction noted in the notes from the Spotlight. The correct spelling is Brene Brown, not Renee Brown. The notes will be edited to reflect this correction. With this revision, the notes were accepted and approved.

3. Home Visiting Continuum: Need to review the site visit report and regroup. CQI Team and advisors are scheduled to meet in December to go over the report. More information will be provided at the January LLG meeting.

4. 2020 Work Plan Review: This agenda item was removed and will be on the January agenda.

5. Working Agreements Update: Reviewed the current Working Agreements and had discussion to determine what/if any changes are needed at this time to better serve our LLG. Currently, the only item set to be removed from the Working Agreements is Data Collection. Partners were encouraged to share any thoughts or suggestions and time was provided for feedback to be written down and collected at the end of the meeting. All suggestions will be reviewed by the steering team and presented at the January LLG meeting.

6. Great Parents Great Start:

-GPGS underwent the Quality Endorsement process from October 2018 – April 2019 and they now have the Blue Ribbon Endorsement.

-The requirement was to meet 75/100 standards and they met 85/100.

-In order to maintain the Blue Ribbon Endorsement, they must continue to meet all 20 essential requirements.

-Annual Performance Report: Data from the report was presented to the LLG

-Ethnicity: The report shows diversity but due to how families identify/restrictions of options, the report does not fully reflect the diverse population that is served.

-Service area for GPGS is based on the Ingham ISD school district, not necessarily Ingham County. For example, families in the Waverly District are within the service area of Ingham ISD but are in Eaton County.

-Many families graduated on to preschool so there are current openings. Referrals can be made online using the referral form at inghamisd.org

-The target age upon enrollment, age 3, has been successfully achieved. The 3 year old target was set to bridge the gap in services.

- Many families are participating in Play & Learn Groups

-The current retention rate is 82%, not including families who moved out of the service area.

7. Parent Voice

What are the pros and cons of having multiple home visiting programs?

Pros:

+ Get to meet lots of new people and receive a variety of resources

+ Develop bonds with all of the home visitors and the support they provide for the parents.

Cons:

- “Mom Brain” can cause schedule conflicts and unintentionally double-book visits or other appointments.

-Conflict of priority: what do you cancel if you double book?

- Home visitors will check-in with families to remind them of their visits but the parents reported that they may forget to respond and then are unable to reschedule or are late for their visits.
- All the parents reported having a home visitor come for one visit and then never return, without any explanation of why services quit. Keeping track of who is coming, from which program can be stressful.
- What is the best way to communicate up-coming changes with home visitors?
 - Call, text and send letter to the families. They are bound to get one of the three communications. A visit from the supervisor was also requested, if possible.
- Suggested way to reduce families missing visits or falling off was to send a letter documenting all the attempted contacts and giving them a finite time period for a response or their services will be discontinued.

8. Re-imagining Intense Family Support

(Dialogue led by Emily Brewer)

The end goal is for all families who need services to receive services. How can we make this happen? There are limitations to program parameters, what can we do to change this?

- Be open to try connecting families with other programs when they are a better fit
- Encourage staff to communicate with other home visitors in the home or consult other programs when additional needs are identified
- Make sure families are being connected to additional programs if needed
- Ensure that all programs are working together and partnering to build communication and relationships
- Need to establish parameters around what families would be identified to receive more intense supports. Also need to determine how to measure the impacts of additional services to know if it's successful.

- Although additional services may be needed and welcome by some families, having multiple programs in the home can be very stressful. Need to make sure too many demands are not being put on families.
 - Joint visits can be helpful to eliminate this stress
 - Home visitor could consult with other home visitors and provide family with those resources to help reduce the number of people coming into the home. Consult with speech, PT, OT etc.
 - Allow families to step away of it's too much for them. It's okay to do this and letting the families know this is helpful.
- Are the cultural and language needs of the families being met?
 - Yes, there are barriers but translators are available for some languages. The Health Department uses Language Line which is a phone/video interpreter. CMH has interpreters that attend visits. EO/GPGS have connections with Cultural Brokers who attend visits. It's hard to find interpreters for all the languages in Ingham and surrounding counties.
- This discussion will be revisited in a future LLG meeting

9. Spotlight:

Melissa Indish, Immigration Attorney

- Melissa works for St. Vincent Catholic Charities They serve anyone in the State of Michigan.
- There are 2 lawyers who work in the office and there is a current waiting list of a few weeks.
- Approximately 80% of her clients are refugees
- It is likely that many refugees and immigrants will not participate in the 2020 Census due to basic language and education barriers.
- Clients who are eligible and in need of services other than legal assistance are referred to programs who can help
- Immigration Office is not your friend. They are in the business of deporting and removing people from the country. Any contact with Immigration puts families at risk. DO NOT CONTACT IMMIGRATION to get information for or about families. It will not help them.
- DO NOT HELP ANYONE FILL OUT ANY FORMS. Incorrectly filling out any immigration forms can cause irreversible damage to their status

- It is very difficult for refugees/immigrants/foreign nationals to get an ID or license, even if they are here legally
- Families are scared to enroll in any services that puts them in the system
- If a family member or someone in the household is removed due to legal issues that impact their status in immigration, it does not necessarily mean the entire family/residence will be removed. However, there are greater implications for refugees/immigrants/foreign nationals when police are involved in issues.

10. Agency Updates/Announcements

- Kathy Vogel has taken a new position within CMH. She is the liaison for CMH Health Integration and MSU.
- The Health Department provided lead information
- December Family Coalition meeting is December 12th 5:30-7:30pm @ Family Growth Center