

Ingham Great Start Collaborative Operations Committee Notes

10/08/20
3:00 – 4:30 pm

ATTENDEES: Effie Alofoje-Carr, Jessica Baker, Wendy Boyce, Lisa Chambers, Corrie Mervyn, Michelle Nicholson, Stephanie Thelen, Melissa Threadgould

I. The 10/08/20 Agenda was approved and 09/10/20 Meeting Notes were approved as stated.

II. **Inclusion Activity** – *“What is your favorite candy, dessert, or sweet? Or, what is your favorite season?”*

- Fall fashion
- Warmer weather, outdoor walks by the lake, nature center nearby, is so beautiful!
- Fall because of the leaves changing color
- Enjoy making apple crisp during this time of year
- The smell of fall candles
- Embrace the weather no matter what it is, as it will change; old-school candy corn

III. **Family Engagement, Family Coalition (FC)**

In August, families received a survey asking what meeting times would work best. Families responded they are looking forward to participating in meetings. Most likely, meetings will be virtual twice/month, which allows for more flexibility with attendance. The finalized meeting schedule will soon be released. Jessica reported families are not as anxious knowing more information about how school may look this year.

IV. **Operations Committee Updates (potential GSC updates)**

State Budget – Approved on 9/30/20, with positive news for Early Childhood.

- **GSC 32p** – The same funding will be received across the State; however, the local allocation is currently unknown with more information expected this week. There are a few minor changes to the language of 32p (i.e. an emphasis on goals, objectives, strategies), with guidance due out soon regarding the work going forward.
- **GSRP 32d** – An overall win for GSRP! MDE met with lobbyists and legislators with the goal of stabilization of the early childhood system. GSRP was fully funded as a state, and local allocations will remain the same as last year. To fill slots, GSRP is allowed to deliver face-to-face, hybrid, or remote instruction. The Legislature removed the eligibility cap as long as income-eligible families are served, with no one on the wait list who is income eligible. There will be full funding for teacher pay, rent, bus drivers, etc. The funding for FY2022 will be based on “hold harmless” criteria from FY 2020. Districts are offering various deliveries based upon the school district and/or program.
- **Early On 54d** – Two years ago, a line item was added to the State budget to include *some* funding for Early On. This year’s State funding is slightly up from last year. During the first year, an additional Initial Service Coordinator, and a Speech Therapist were hired; however, neither began work until January/Feb, resulting in the carryover.

Funding is also used for Reflective Supervision. Budget changes will be brought to the Ingham GSC for approval.

- **Parent Honorariums** – The State parent honorarium reimbursement rate increased to \$18.00/hour. (Last year, the rate increased to \$16.00/hour.) Also, the childcare reimbursement rate increased from \$50/day to \$60/day. Rate increases will be implemented with LLG parent participants. Discussion took place about what rate to use for GSC meeting participation. GSC is working with a different budget, leaving less funds for parent reimbursement.
 - There are two separate reimbursement forms. The parent honorarium is considered income; and additionally, the childcare reimbursement is also considered income if a signature from the childcare provider is not included on the form (acting as a receipt to reimburse parents directly for childcare).
 - Parents attending LLG statewide vs local LLG meetings have been paid differing rates.
 - Virtual meetings are shorter; thus possibly less costly.
 - Parents must make up 25% of GSC meeting participation. With a consistent 20-25 in attendance at GSC meetings, that equates to 4-5 parents.
 - Suggestion to update/create a parent role description for GSC mirroring the LLG role description.
 - Suggestion to review the GSC budget, then decide upon a reasonable rate.

- **PDG B-5**

- **3-Year-Old Pilot** – The Strong Beginnings application is due 10/20/20, with programming scheduled to begin in January. This is a model built on GSRP for 3 year olds and includes a family liaison similar to a family advocate role. There will be four awards given statewide allowing for 12 or 13 classrooms in total. Criteria includes being a current GSRP partner in good standing for at least two years, in-person instruction only, no braids or blended classrooms, and for families who meet GSRP eligibility requirements. Eligible children would automatically be eligible/enrolled in a 4-year program.

Lansing School District, Holt, Leslie, and MSU CDL are Ingham sites interested in the 3-Year-Old Pilot. Site information is being gathered, and discussion is taking place with Head Start to contract for the family liaison services, as this is something they already do. It is unknown what other ISDs may apply for the Pilot. Per-slot funding is more than GSRP; however, the classroom size is capped at 14 rather than 18 children—costing more to run a classroom. Funding is only guaranteed for two years. Programs will be notified of awards near 11/3/20.

- **Interviews** – School Readiness Consulting is conducting (1 on 1) in-depth interviews with participants from communities where they are seeking more information for the Statewide Needs Assessment. GSCs were asked to nominate individuals (providers/parents) for interviews. Work is focused on Outcomes 1 and 2.
- **Trusted Advisors Grant** – In previous years, Ingham has applied and received the grant for dual-language supports (EFEL books, Ingham Early Learning Calendars translated in various languages, and Trusted Advisors sharing literacy messages throughout the community). The current application

is due 10/28/20; the grant amount is \$25,000; is non-competitive; with implementation January - November 2021. Ingham GSC is considering Talking is Teaching for the Trusted Advisors Grant. Outcome 4 Activities would align well. Because of ReadyRosie, more discussion is needed regarding if/when this grant should be implemented.

- **Racial Equity Cohort** – This opportunity provides for a team of two to five members to participate in professional development and train with a coach for a racial equity project. Several Ingham people attended an informational webinar, with five applying to the Ingham team. Selections will be made by 10/23/20, and trainings will begin 11/9/20. Karen Hoene (ISD Early On), Andrea Ryan (SUT/ISAP), LaDawn Caldwell (Cradles to Crayons), Dana Watson (ICHHD Strong Start Healthy Start, and Robin Pizzo (WKAR) are applying as the Ingham Team. If selected, this team will support our GSC members in learnings, and could help develop areas of the Strategic Plan. In addition, Head Start may be forming their own team (from across the State).
- **Pritzker Implicit Bias and Childcare Funding Workgroups** – Three policy area focus groups were created through Pritzker funding: Implicit Bias Training; Child Care Funding; and Cross-Sector Workforce Development. Michelle is part of the Implicit Bias Training, which looks specifically at how the whole early childcare workforce will be receiving implicit bias training. Wendy is part of the Child Care Funding Committee, and reported the first meeting included discussion on improving child care funding—teacher pay; the subsidy amount; and the overall mindset about child care. Data from Child Trends on equity was presented at the first workgroup meetings.
- **EFEL Virtual Groups** – The CAUW grant funding continues for year two, with the award being 65% of last year’s amount due to a decrease in donations to CAUW. Year one carryover funds can be used in year two. Some of Ingham GSC funding is used to cover Coordinator, Kae Dubay, and ReadyRosie through June 2021.

With the remaining Ingham GSC funds, Early On Playgroup Specialist, Jamie Yeomans, will facilitate literacy workshops using the Scholastic Toolkit, with the intended focus of Head Start eligible three year olds not yet enrolled in Head Start. Workshops are scheduled to begin the week of 10/26/20, with additional sessions running through June 2021. Packets of materials will be mailed to families prior.

V. Plan 10/21/20 GSC Meeting Agenda

- a) **Inclusion Activity** – Jessica will lead.
- b) **Family Engagement Update** – Jessica will share updates.
- c) **Potential Spotlights**
 - October: Strengthening Families Framework per Jessica. Will discuss protective factors, resiliency, tie in inclusion questions.
 - November: Kids Count 2020
 - Preschool Enrollment—Options and Data
 - Conversation on Racism (with question to discuss during Outcome group work)

- d) **Outcome Groups & Questions and Suggestions**
 - How does racism impact protective factors?
 - What progress has been made on Activities since the September GSC meeting?
 - What needs does your Outcome Group have to make progress on Activities?
- e) **54d and 32p Responsibility** – Place holder if needed to discuss at GSC.
- f) **Updates to bring to the GSC** – Informational updates regarding state allocations; racial equity; 3-year-old pilot will be included on GSC meeting agenda.
- g) **Evaluation** – Zoom poll

VI. **Operations Committee Updates**

- [Virtual Great Lansing Baby Fair](#) – Was held October 9-11, and will continue to be available for the foreseeable future. Ingham GSC had a virtual booth, featuring an outreach video created by Emily Brewer. ReadyRosie flyers and Ingham Preschool information was distributed to families through drive-by, swag bag pick up.
- [Drive Thru Flu Clinic](#) scheduled for 10/10/20 at Ingham County Health Department, Human Services Building.
- [Community Mental Health](#) announced they are bringing back the childcare expulsion program and hiring for a coordinator. Op Comm members were thrilled to hear this news, and suggested this could be a future Spotlight.

Operations Meetings: 11/12/20 at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom

GSC Meetings: 10/21/20 at 1:00 p.m.; 11/18/20 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom (Virtual ACES Conference will be held prior.)

Adjourn

View Agendas, Minutes, Meeting Calendars at www.InghamGreatStart.org.
Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/InghamGreatStart.