

## Local Leadership Group Notes

January 6, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm

### Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Regine Cherry, Michelle Nicholson, Effie Alofoje-Carr, Andrea Ryan, Antanea Robinson, Holly Smego, Jessica Baker, Kae Dubay, Kathy Kelly, Kelly Uhlmann, Melissa Threadgould, Rachel Prosen, Rebecca Meszaros, Sara McMahan, Tianna Leon, LaSean Thompson, Deanna Curry & Jasmine Tucker

1. Welcome/Introductions

*Share a memorable moment of your life.*

2. November Meeting Recap

November notes were reviewed and approved.

3. Great Parents Great Start

Several children graduated out of Great Parents Great Start so there are openings for new children. Visits are virtual via phone or zoom. Any needed supplies or materials are dropped off to the families. Referrals can be done on the Ingham ISD website:

<https://www.inghamisd.org/ouracademics/earlychildhood/gpgs/>

4. MiBridges Home Visiting Referrals

-The ISD had not previously been connected with MiBridges. MDE made contact in November informing the ISD that the referral process can go through MiBridges with the Referral Type Partner status. All of the information needed to be updated in 211 as the first step.

-Michelle walked through what the referral process looks like for a parent.

-MiBridges has an algorithm that will link all programs available in specific age groups that match the criteria that parents/caregivers select. The parents are asked questions to find the best fit.

-Referrals are made directly to the programs through MiBridges

- All communication is tracked.
- Several programs reported struggles with log-ins and password access.
- A parent shared similar struggles and that all of the resources available could be overlooked by the families if they are struggling to gain access.
- A parent discussed the EBT App: The App tracks benefits and also provides resources such as food and phone programs. This parent prefers the EBT App to MiBridges.
  - Need card, DOB and last 4 digits of social security number for the App.

## 5. Parent Voice

*Have you or will you set goals for you/your child and your home visitor for this coming year? If yes, tell us about them.*

Parent Voice discussion moved to February.

## 6. Spotlight

*Expectant Parent Organization*

- Provides prenatal education:
  - Labor and Delivery
  - Newborn Care
  - Infant Safety
  - Breastfeeding
- Classes are available in Lansing
- 30% of the parents qualify for scholarships for the classes and there is an effort to target low income families.
- Baby Cafes: Breast feeding support classes with certified lactation consultants are available.
  - Goal is to normalize breast feeding.
  - Café is every Wednesday from 10-12pm.
  - Currently virtual due to Covid-19.
- Pre and postnatal outcomes for baby and mom increase with prenatal care. EPO wants to empower mothers with information and resources for the best outcomes.

-Can accommodate non-English speaking families with advance notice  
[epo@epobaby.org](mailto:epo@epobaby.org) (email)

[www.epobaby.org](http://www.epobaby.org) (Website)

## 7. Agency Updates

-KN95 masks are available at the Health Department (Door 4) and other service providers at no cost for the public. Can contact the Covid Hotline: 888-535-6136 or the website for more information:

[https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100997\\_100998---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-100997_100998---,00.html)

-Virtual Parent Cafes are scheduled to begin Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> 4-5pm and will resume the first Tuesday of each month. All families are welcome but the target families are EHS, NFP and Great Parents Great Start families. Contact Effie for questions.