

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Our vision: Every child is ready to succeed in school and life.

Ingham GSC Meeting Agenda, February 21, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

LOCATION: Grace United Methodist Church - 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing

I. Welcome and Working Agreements

Chair: Corrie Mervyn Time Keeper: Jessica Baker

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Islamic Center, Effie Alofoje-Carr-LLG, Kemi Alomo-CACS Head Start, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Angela Barry-LSD, Janet Bowen-ICHHD, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD, Missy Challiss-ICHHD, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD, Kae Dubay-Parent, Marisela Garza-CADL, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Corrie Mervyn-GSRP/Ingham ISD, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD, Robin Pizzo-WKAR, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Cassie Veselovsky-CADL, Dana Watson-ICHHD, Jamie Yeomans

The 2/21/18 Meeting Agenda was approved with one change: There will be no Great Start to Quality Spotlight presentation this month. The 1/10/18 Meeting Notes were approved as stated.

Inclusion Activity – Parent Café Question

Today's Parent Café question aligns with the Strengthening Families Protective Factor Social Emotional Competence of Children - *"Where do you and your children have the best communication?"* Members discussed with elbow partners.

II. Responsibility – Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

The GSC serves as the LICC, and is a requirement of the Early On Program (serving children birth to age three). The LICC is required to meet four times per year; thus the Early On Program will be listed and addressed as a responsibility item four times per year on the GSC Agenda. The LICC will also review and give input to the GSC as part of this charge in regard to grant applications, etc. A description of the LICC from the LICC Parent Handbook follows:

"The system's vision for LICCs/GSCs was to create a structure where families and agencies from a community would work together to share expertise and resources in order to provide the best and most effective early childhood system for their community.

An LICC may be organized as a standalone entity or may be part of an existing collaborative body. If the LICC is a standalone entity, the LICC should also have a relationship with the Great Start Collaborative/Great Start Parent Coalition to broaden community partnerships.

The LICC/GSC must meet a minimum of four times per year. Financial support for the LICC/GSC is provided through the Ingham ISD."

MAASE Statement of Support

A statement of support was shared with members regarding Early On funding. The Executive Budget for FY2019 was released by Governor Snyder on 2/7/18. Fortunately, this budget includes a line item for Early On funding. This is important, as providing Early On services to children is a *requirement*, not a choice. Unfortunately, the funding (\$5M) is much less than what is needed to provide the required services. In addition, this funding is currently deemed to be a pilot and would be competitive to access. Ingham County served 963 children in 2017—and already 900 children by January 2018. GSC members are encouraged to contact legislators to: 1.) Thank legislators for adding the funding to the FY2019 budget, and to continue the funding as a line item in future budgets; and 2.) Consider using the existing non-competitive Federal formula, rather than making the funding competitive. The following questions were asked:

- Q: *How do you make up for the large financial gap (from the funding)?*
 - A: The respective school districts are billed for services. A large portion comes from special education. The state reimburses only 28% of *actual costs* for special education (which is based upon a 1980's law). Much of the funding comes from the ISD general fund, Medicaid, property taxes, and trickling funds.
- Q: *Just to clarify, are you asking that we reach out to senators and representatives to encourage them to keep the line item in the budget and also to keep the existing formula currently used rather than have a competitive process statewide?*
 - A: Yes. The competitive process would not provide equitable funding. Early On children from one county are not of a greater or lesser need than Early On children from another county. Michigan is one of the only states that does not provide state funding for Early On. Current funding is not adequate to provide Early On supports and services.

As GSC parent representatives, Jessica Baker and Kae Dubay attended a recent Ingham ISD Early On staff meeting to talk about the LICC and to recruit additional parents to participate in the LICC/GSC. Kae shared her family's personal experience with Early On regarding her child's speech services, which were successful!

III. Outcome Groups

A brief overview was given of each of the four Outcome groups for new members. Following discussion at the February Operations meeting, a decision was made to extend the end time of GSC meetings by 30 minutes to allow for additional work time in Outcome groups. ***Beginning in March, GSC meetings will start promptly at 1:00 pm and end at 3:30 pm.***

Members were encouraged to use the green half sheet of paper to record actions they committed to take between now and the March GSC meeting. Members were also encouraged to take the green half sheet as a reminder of actions, which were also recorded on the Outcome group meeting notes.

Outcome group work consisted of discussing the following questions:

- A. What progress has been made on the Outcome group's activities since the January GSC meeting?

- B. What action will each member of the Outcome group commit to between now and the March GSC meeting?
- C. What are ideas for future Spotlights that align with Outcome group's activities?
- D. Who else would have knowledge/expertise to move activities forward and should be contacted? Outcome groups reviewed a list generated by GSC members in the fall.

IV. Outcome Group Share Out

Members rotated from group to group to hear progress made and next steps.

V. General Updates/ Meeting Evaluation

- **3/1/18 – March is Reading Month** begins at [CADL](#) for children ages 3-8.
- **3/1/18 – Diaper Program** offered through [Strong Start Healthy Start](#) for Medicaid and WIC eligible families. Contact Dana Watson by phone or text 517.512.3074 to pre-register for diapers.
- **3/18/18 – Literacy Celebration Stage Show & Activities**, begins at 1:00 at the Hannah Center. This event includes music, a book reading, storytelling, storybook characters, and a free book per family while supplies last.
- **Kindergarten Round Up** schedule is available. Contact your local school district for more information.
- **Robin Pizzo** (formerly of LCC) is the new director of education at [WKAR](#). Visit [WKAR Connects](#) to learn more about various resources and services, including [PBS KIDS Parents and Family Resources](#) to learn more about how to talk with children about national tragedies, trauma, Daniel Tiger's animated series, etc.

***The next Ingham GSC meeting is scheduled for 3/21/18
1:00 – 3:30 pm at Grace United Methodist Church.***

Visit the Ingham GSC website at www.InghamGreatStart.org
for Agendas, Minutes, Meeting Calendars, Ingham Early Childhood Action Agenda, and more.
Check out our Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/InghamGreatStart>