

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

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

Meeting Notes: Dec. 19, 2018, 1:00–3:30 p.m. Ingham ISD Early Childhood Services

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Parent/Greater Lansing Islamic Center, Effie Alofoje-Carr-Ingham LLG, Oluwakemi Alomo-CACS Head Start, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD, Missy Challiss-ICHHD MIHP/Lead, Mari Garza-CADL, Kendra Gibbs-ERESA SUT, Laurie Linscott-MSU CDL, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Corrie Mervyn-Ingham ISD GSRP, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Robin Pizzo-WKAR, Shelly Proebstle-Ingham ISD, Christina Redmond-DHHS, Allison Richmond-Impression 5, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Kathy Vogel-CEI CMH, Mary Jo Wegenke-Ingham ISD, Jamie Yeomans-Parent

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair: Corrie Mervyn **Time Keeper:** Jessica Baker

The 12/19/18 Agenda and 11/14/18 Notes were approved as stated.

II. Family Coalition (FC) Update

- **Parent Cafes**-The Family Coalition and Local Leadership Group hosted a November Parent Café series. The series was well attended and resources (Ingham Play & Learn Groups, home visiting programs, books, etc.) were shared. No families attended the December 18, Parent Café. Plans are being developed for the February and March Parent Cafes.
- **License-Exempt Providers**—Jessica presented at a recent orientation to talk about the purpose of the Family Coalition and what resources are available throughout the community. Jessica plans to register as a trainer on the [MiRegistry](#) website. Trainings will count toward license-exempt provider requirements to receive reimbursement.
- **FC Work Plan**-A goal of the FC Strengthening Families Work Plan is to outreach to two specific groups. The licensed-exempt providers are one of those groups. A second goal is to update FC outreach materials brochures, pamphlets and information on the [Ingham Great Start website](#).

III. Early On and Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) Update

- The GSC is the advisory to Early On, thus, is the LICC. Early On is using a team approach in how services are provided: 1.) in the *natural environment* where children would be if they did not have disabilities; 2.) using a *coaching* process that provides support and encouragement for families using the “I do, you do, we do” behavior model; 3.) and incorporates a *Primary Service Provider* as the liaison between the family and other team members.
- Statewide funding for Early On was provided for the first time this year in the amount of \$5M (\$154,071 for Ingham County). This has allowed the

Ingham ISD Early On program to reconfigure from three to four teams and add additional staff time to process referrals.

- *Question:* Do you assign the primary provider based upon the family's needs?
- *Answer:* Yes, the needs of the family—not just the needs of the child are considered. (i.e. family schedule, coordinate with medical professionals, choosing the best Service Provider fit for the family.)
- *Question:* What is the increased capacity?
- *Answer:* A hope would be for children, who are eligible, to be served in special education. Previously 30-33% of children were special education eligible; and currently, the placement is 15-17% of children.
- *Question:* What is the age eligibility to be in Early On?
- *Answer:* Birth to age 3. (Children are exited on their third birthday.)
- *Question:* How is a referral made for children ages 3-5 who have developmental concerns?
- *Answer:* A referral is made to Ingham ISD; and the ISD contacts the local school district, who makes a connection with the family.
- GSC Ask: As GSC members work with families or with staff at their organizations, help to share and clarify the Early On philosophy, programming and model. A suggestion was made to have Early On staff present child development information at Stepping Up Together parenting classes.

IV. Outcome Groups

- Members met in Outcome groups to review progress and discuss next steps between now and the January GSC meeting. Members rotated to each group to review work from today's meeting. Outcome group notes can be found on the [Ingham GSC website](#).

V. General Updates

- **Ingham Play & Learn Groups** - An evening group has been added for the [January-March 2019 session](#). This group will meet on Wednesdays at the Okemos Library from 6:00–7:00 p.m. Call 517-244-1267 to register.
- **Trusted Advisors Grant** – This work focused on increased awareness of school readiness from birth to school entry. A long-term goal is that the Trusted Advisors continue to distribute early learning and literacy messages to families.
 - Connections: 251 families (487 children), comprising 15 languages;
 - Successes: Parents are excited to learn new information; are more socially and educationally involved with their child; children spend less time watching TV and playing with electronic devices;
 - Challenges: Language dialects are diverse and do not always translate well; parents are not always literate in their own language, creating a barrier; fewer families are arriving in the US—thus fewer families reached; families residing outside of Ingham County would

like to have the materials—grant monies designated for Ingham County residents.

- **New Marijuana Laws** – A document was shared with members that discusses the harmful effects of Marijuana exposure to children. Some edibles containing THC resemble cookies, candy, and snack items, and may cause severe reactions in children.

Next GSC Meeting: January 23, 2019, 1:00-3:30 p.m., Ingham ISD Early Childhood Services – [6520 Mercantile Way, Suites 1 & 2, Lansing, Michigan](#)

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