

# ***Ingham Great Start Collaborative***

## ***Meeting Notes***

12/18/19  
1:00 – 3:30 pm

**Present:** Sondos Al-Hachim-Islamic Center, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Angela Barry-Lansing School District, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD/Family Outreach Services, Marisela Garza-CADL, Alicia Guevara Warren-MSU Kinship Care Resource Center, Rose Jewell-PNC Bank, Adriana Leo-ICHHD/Smart Start, Healthy Start, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Corrie Mervyn-GSRP/ISD, Rebecca Meszaros-Ingham Co DHHS, Barb Monroe-Central Resource Center, J. Munley-Child and Family Charities, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Jennie Povenmire-MSU, Jennifer Ries-PNC Bank, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, Casey Sterle-Leslie Public Schools, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD

**Chair:** Barb Monroe      **Time Keeper:** Lisa Chambers

- I. The 11/18/19 Meeting Agenda and the 11/20/19 Meeting Notes were approved as stated.

### **II. Inclusion Activity**

Strengthening Families Protective Factor Concrete Support in Times of Need  
*“What is the most difficult part of accessing services and what strategies have you learned to make it easier?”* Members discussed with elbow partners.

### **III. Family Coalition (FC) Update**

The [Family Coalition](#) meetings are now held the second Thursday of each month, rather than the last Thursday as in years past. Updated qualitative and quantitative data would be helpful in assessing root causes and activities in the FY20 Action Agenda. The Family Coalition families are able to provide qualitative data by lending their voice regarding their experiences if needed. The January FC meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2020, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the [Family Growth Center](#). Call in advance for childcare/more information (517.899.4754 [inghamgscparents@gmail.com](mailto:inghamgscparents@gmail.com)).

### **IV. Spotlight: Kinship Care Resources**

Director of the Kinship Care Resource Center and Navigator Program, Alicia Guevara Warren, shared the importance of kinship care providers having knowledge of and access to services available to them throughout Michigan. Trainings, workshops, support groups, various events, and respite care are

offered to kinship providers. It is estimated that of the 66,000 kinship caregivers in Michigan, 37% are through formal care arrangements and 63% are informal. Recently navigators, who have also been kinship care providers themselves, were hired to assist families with resources. More information can be found at [MSU Kinship Care](#) or by calling 800.535.1218. (Director of Chance at Childhood, Joe Kozakiewicz, was unable to attend today's presentation due to family illness.)

## V. Summary of Outcome group feedback regarding alignment with Spotlight:

**Outcome 1** – Prevention services for families as they relate to the Parent Nurturing classes (i.e. Cristo Rey).

**Outcome 2** – Include Kinship Care flyers in newsletters (i.e. Head Start, etc.); Kinship Resource Center has information to share with families (i.e. Home Visiting program information and [www.inghampreschool.org](http://www.inghampreschool.org)); how to connect kinship caregivers to Kinship Resource Center and Chance at Childhood; support for kinship providers to enroll children in childcare and preschool (i.e. getting a physical, the birth certificate, and immunization records).

**Outcome 3** – Provide Ingham Early Learning Calendar and other early childhood resources to Kinship Care Resource Center. Work to reach kinship providers regarding preschool. Possibly have targeted messages in everyday locations. Provide kinship care resources to early childhood programs/facilities to share with families.

**Outcome 4** – Supporting families with children who have IRIPs regarding Ready by Grade 3 and kinship care resources if needed. Increase awareness of GSC to kinship care families.

## VI. Outcome Groups

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

## VII. GSC Updates

- **Early Childhood Support Network Grant** – The budget for this grant (awarded in May 2019) has recently been approved. The newly-hired ECSN Director is Karen Black, who starts December 20, 2019. The focus of the ECSN is to support the Collaboratives and PCs for 18 counties and 2 Resource Centers in our area. Recommendations for Advisory Council members will be accepted in January.

- **54D for Early On** – With the additional funding, and due to high need, a position for another Ingham ISD Speech and Language Pathologist was posted. This new position will help provide a more balanced, sustainable workload.
- **GSRP** received extra slots, which allowed a new full-time GSRP classroom to open at Cradles to Crayons Childcare Center (on MLK just North of Jolly Road). This site offers wrap-around care and extended hours not offered by other sites.
- **ICHD Women’s Health Center** is temporarily being moved to the River Oak Facility near Potter Park Zoo during renovations.
- **CADL Raising Reader Backpacks** – An update to backpacks was recently made to include activities for children ages 0-5. Backpacks include books, music, and early literacy themes. CADL will soon roll out additional backpacks focused on K-1 phonics, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary to assist children who are learning to read.

**VIII. Evaluation** – Members shared one word to describe how they viewed today’s meeting: fuzzy; inspired; accomplished; moving on; excited; energy; connected, motivated, educated, hopeful, idea sparking.

**IX. Next Meeting Dates**

01/22/20, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at Ingham ISD Early Childhood Services, [6520 Mercantile Way, Lansing](#).

**X. Adjournment**

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