

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

04/15/20

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Parent/Islamic Center, Effie Alofoje-Carr-LLG, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Angie Barry-Lansing School District, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD/Family Outreach Services, Kae Dubay-LICC Parent, Alicia Guevara-Warren-MSU Kinship Care, Rose Jewell-PNC Bank, Alesha Keelean-Blue Cross Complete of Michigan, Shelagh Kosinski-Tri-County Office on Aging, Laurie Linscott-MSU CDL, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Corrie Mervyn-Ingham ISD/GSRP, Rebecca Meszaros-Ingham Co DHHS, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC/Early On, Constance Phifer-Tri-County Office on Aging, Theresa Pittingham-Cristo Rey, Jennifer Ries-PNC Bank, Sarah Riggs-Parent, Joni Risner-CAUW, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, LaTia Scates-30th District Court, Holly Smego-ICHHD/Children Special Health Care Services, Casey Sterle-Leslie Public Schools, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Cassie Veselovsky-CADL

I. Guidance and Norms for Virtual Meetings

Due to the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order, today's meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Meeting instructions were shared with members in advance.

II. Inclusion Activity

Members were asked to write down one or two positive things that went well for them this week. Member responses included successfully setting up their home office(s); juggling the schedules of others in the household (those also working/attending school from home); and learning to accept the current situation and challenges that have arisen from the Covid-19 pandemic.

III. Spotlight – Census 2020

Joni Risner, Vice President of Community Outreach and Engagement at CAUW gave an update on the Census 2020 process; the importance of accurate census data on funding long term; and the challenges of collecting data during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although the original census date was April 1, the self-response deadline has been extended until October 31, 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The current response rate for Ingham County is at 54%; while the State of Michigan response rate is at 55%. An important piece to share with families regarding the census is that all information is held private and completely confidential; and underreporting will result in a loss of approximately \$1800 per year, per person. Today's [Census 2020](#) presentation can be found on the [Ingham GSC Website](#). Contact [Joni Risner](#) for more information.

IV. Update on Engaging Family in Early Literacy (EFEL) Grant and [ReadyRosie](#)

The [Ready-Rosie](#) App is nearly ready to be piloted with the EFEL collaboration. Ingham ISD staff and Outcome 3 explored options for an App to align with activities on the Ingham Early Learning Calendar. ReadyRosie was chosen because it was more affordable than developing a brand new App of the Ingham Early Learning Calendar. ReadyRosie is a readymade product with customizable playlists and videos that align well with the Ingham Early Learning Calendar themes and activities. ReadyRosie is narrated in Spanish and English, closed captioned in various languages, and has weekly push notifications that will be sent to a family via email or phone number/text, and. In addition, Ingham Play & Learn Group families will receive invitations to access ReadyRosie, as there are currently no face-to-face playgroups taking place. Families will be asked for outcome feedback such as an understanding of their child's development; their child's needs; or if have they noticed a change in behavior. More families in Ingham County may also be able to access this App depending upon feedback from participants.

The Islamic Center reported that 103 families have taken part in playgroups and parent workshops through the EFEL collaboration. Positive feedback from families includes parents/caregivers are more involved with their child's education and they look forward to the playgroups. The translated literacy video (offered in Arabic, Nepali, Somali, Swahili) is helpful to families with language barriers and has helped families learn more about the 3rd Grade Reading Law. The programs the Islamic Center has provided has stressed the importance of social-emotional development and how to do quality activities at home. Originally, the Islamic Center hosted face-to-face literacy programs; however, due to Covid-19, programs are taking place through Zoom, which has resulted in connecting with additional families that were unable to participate prior to the quarantine. Books and food items have been delivered to families, and videos with activities and stories are being shared to keep families connected.

WKAR has captured some footage for the docuseries on mid-Michigan's literacy crisis; however, production is on hold to promote health and safety.

South Lansing Ministries suspended their Breakfast with Books peer-to-peer literacy program at Wexford due to mandatory school closure. Sixty-three individuals had attended Breakfast with Books, mid-year, including families who participated in multiple sessions. This group was very engaged.

Refugee Development Center (RDC) has had 136 individuals enrolled in their literacy programs. The current focus at RDC is assisting families with basic needs. RDC made 200 deliveries of non-perishable (cleaning, personal care products), and are hoping for success with virtual visits with families before bringing more families into the program.

V. Family Coalition (FC) Update

[Family Coalition](#) meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. The March 12, 2020, FC meeting included 15 families, and was held the day prior to school closings; therefore, discussion focused on literacy, along with urging families to check their local school districts (and [Ingham ISD](#) website) for information and resources. Because the April FC meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Jessica continues to check in with families via email and phone to help ensure they are aware of resources. May FC meeting details have not been determined. Contact Jessica for more information (517.899.4754 inghamgscparents@gmail.com).

VI. GSC Updates

- [Cristo Rey](#) is providing breakfast (9:00 am-11:00 am) and lunch (11:30 am-1:00 pm) Monday thru Friday as a To-Go Meal. Enter from South Parking Lot. The Food Pantry is also offering pre-packaged boxes for Pantry Patrons by appointment. Call ahead 517.372.4700. No walk ins at this time.
- [Forest Community Health Center](#) is providing drive-through Covid-19 testing. Please check the website for specific hours of operation and special instructions about calling ahead if you are experiencing symptoms of illness or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- [The Central Resource Center](#) (CRC) conducted two infant/toddler trainings in late March, and more trainings will be offered. The first Great Start to Quality virtual orientation was also held. Ingham ISD and CRC are working to coordinate childcare for essential workers in Ingham County. Essential workers looking for childcare should visit [Help Me Grow Michigan](#).
- [Capital Area District Library](#) All library content is currently being offered virtually until further notice. There are several amazing virtual activities to choose from.
- Dylan McNaughton Rogers, from [The Robin Theatre](#) in REO Town, is offering [Storyfriends](#) virtually while the Theatre is closed.

VII. Next Meeting Dates

May 27, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. – location and format to be determined

VIII. Adjournment

To gather feedback from today's meeting, a Survey Monkey link we be emailed to today's GSC participants

View Agendas, Minutes, Meeting Calendars at www.InghamGreatStart.org.

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