

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

06/17/20

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Present: Effie Alofoje-Carr-LLG, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Tracie Bolton-ICHHD WIC Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Juanita Castillo-Rowan-Small Folks Development Center, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD/Family Outreach Services, Kae Dubay-LICC Parent, Shera Emmons-Williamston Public Schools, Marisela Garza-CADL, Laurie Linscott-MSU CDL, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Gabby Naula-Quintero-Early Autism Services, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Rebecca Meszaros-Ingham Co DHHS, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC/Early On, Robin Pizzo-WKAR, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, Holly Smego-ICHHD/Children Special Health Care Services, Laura Spees-CACS Head Start, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Dana Watson-Strong Start Healthy Start

I. Welcome and Inclusion Activity

Today's inclusion activity included a temperature check about how members are "feeling" and the types of resources clients are requesting. Results follow:

Q: How are you doing?

- I am feeling really good = 22%
- I am feeling ok = 72%
- I am not doing all that well = 6%
- I am struggling = 0%

Q. Which protective factor(s) have you seen families, who receive services through your organization, use and demonstrate during this time?

- Concrete Supports in Times of Need = 61%
- Social and Emotional Competence = 17%
- Social Connections = 67%
- Parent Resilience = 28%
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development = 39%

II. Responsibility of Early On Report and Application

The [2019-2020 Early On Annual Report](#) was shared; and the budget and application process for the coming year was supported by GSC members with a virtual "thumbs up." Highlights from the 2019-2020 year include:

- *Question:* Why the gap between the number of referrals and the families served?
Answer: Not every referral turns into a family who receives services (i.e. Early On is voluntary for families and some families decide not to participate). Also, the data

shown is cumulative for the child up to age three, meaning data may include families who began services prior to the current year.

- *Question:* How can we engage more families in Play and Learn groups? *Answer:* The numbers are typically higher. The lower attendance is likely due to no face-to-face instruction (from March onward) because of Covid-19 governance.
- Budget allocation last year was \$310,655; while this year's allocation is \$315,460. Funding accounts for one half time Playgroup Specialist and one three-quarter time Early Interventionist. Gap services include funding for interpreters and transportation. Much of the expenses to employ the 40 staff are billed to school districts through their Special Education funding. *Question:* Does the State match expenses? *Answer:* No, the reimbursement rate is 28%.

III. [ReadyRosie](#) Update

Community access to the ReadyRosie App is now available. This digital platform aligns with the [Ingham Early Learning Calendar](#) activities. A [flyer](#) and [registration link](#) will be provided so families can self-register using their zip code—which allows for data collection by geographic location or for targeted outreach. This App is for all children, ages birth to grade 3, residing in the Ingham ISD catchment area. Those registered will receive weekly push notifications to support their child's early learning. The GSC Webmaster is working to add ReadyRosie social media posts to the website.

IV. Dialogue on Racism as a Public Health Issue

In conjunction with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) has written a letter to Ingham County residents regarding the killing of Mr. George Floyd, and affirming their commitment to addressing bias and racism that undoubtedly exist within our own community. Racism is a public health issue. ICHHD is committed to antiracist action and addressing racism as the root cause of health disparities. For the full letter: <https://bit.ly/2U75T19>.

Dana Watson and Lisa Chambers co-facilitated dialogue amongst GSC members in regard to racism and social justice. In their respective roles at Ingham County Health Department, they are involved in health equity, racial disparities, and reducing infant mortality rates for black, and Latino families. The hope was this conversation is a starting point for open and continued discussion about moving forward together, as community partners, to address the serious issue of racism.

Members began with a "check in" and shared responses to the question "*Where are you with where we are in the world today?*" Members then discussed how to move this process forward. A compilation of this first step of shared conversation follows:

- Feelings vacillate to include fear, frustration, disgust, irritation, anger, sadness, vulnerability and feeling exposed. Acts of continued racism are a shock to some, yet are no surprise to others. The images shown on social media are deeply painful and a blatant reminder of historical inequities that have no place within humanity. Some expressed fear for their children’s safety and well-being, or are burdened by the fact their child may grow up to experience a repeat of current events. Earning an advanced degree or becoming economically established does not change health disparities nor brutality. Some expressed the political climate is damaging.
- Members are hopeful, and committed to working together—personally and professionally—to recognize racism as a health crisis; to address biases within themselves; to address white privilege; and to continue dialogue, discussion, and training opportunities for thoughtful, intentional ways to impact change. A starting point for change could include:
 - Do *one* thing!
 - Start having difficult conversations about racism and inequities.
 - Be that person to push positive change, and model that behavior.
 - Children filter negative thoughts more than those that are positive. Combat every negative remark with 16 positive statements.
 - Make sure children know they are valued and worthy—through books with positive images that show black boy joy and black girl magic.
 - Racism needs to be addressed within schools. Empower children to recognize and address unconscious biases. Have a conversation about white privilege.
 - Look at hiring practices within our own organizations. Talk with principals about hiring people of color.
 - Review funding to hire people of color to engage, teach, and train about inequities and disparities and how to imbed that work in organizations.
 - Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance is a wonderful resource.
 - 21-day free Michigan League for Public Policy (MLPP) Racial Equity Challenge—emails are sent daily with articles to read, videos to watch, only requires self-accountability
 - WKAR has a multitude of resources for adults and children
 - Social media

VI. GSC Partner Updates

- Updates were placed in the chat and will be emailed to members separately.

III. Next Meeting Dates

July 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., held virtually via Zoom. A link will be shared with members.

IV. Survey and Adjournment

Q What do you plan to do after our meeting today?

- Learn more about resources shared = 81%
- Share resources with someone else (coworker, friend, family) = 69%
- Start a conversation with someone else = 31%
- Take the MLPP 21-Day Challenge = 38%
- Sign up for a webinar/training = 38%
- Something else = 25%

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