

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

07/15/20

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Present: Effie Alofoje-Carr-LLG, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Tracie Bolton-ICHD WIC Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Lisa Chambers-ICHD/Family Outreach Services, Kae Dubai-LICC Parent, Shera Emmons-Williamston Public Schools, Marisela Garza-CADL, Sheila Henderson-CMH, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Gabby Naula-Quintero-Early Autism Services, Constance Phifer-Tri-County Office on Aging, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Rebecca Meszaros-Ingham Co DHHS, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC/Early On, Kristin Osterhouse-Central Resource Center, Robin Pizzo-WKAR, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, LaTia Scates-30th District Court, Holly Smego-ICHD/Children Special Health Care Services, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD

I. Welcome and Inclusion Activity

Today's inclusion activity included a temperature check about how members are feeling as an individual agent of change in addressing racism?

- *"Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary."* - Dead Poets Society, 1989 = **11%**
- *"You're gonna need a bigger boat."* - Jaws, 1975 = **28%**
- *"Just keep swimming."* - Finding Nemo, 2003 = **22%**
- *"You can't handle the truth!"* – a Few Good Men, 1992 = **28%**
- *"My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."* – Forrest Gump, 1994 = **17%**
- *"To infinity and beyond"* – Toy Story, 1993 = **0%**

II. Family Engagement – [ReadyRosie](#) Update

Families in the Ingham ISD catchment area are now able to register for the ReadyRosie App! This App includes school readiness activities/videos for children ages birth to Grade 3. Approximately 100 families have self-registered for the App to date, with zip code data collected to track the geographic area of families who have registered. Promotion for the App is underway in hopes of registering as many families as possible over the next year of the contract; and includes inviting Ingham Preschool families; posting to the [Ingham GSC](#) website; and to [Ingham GSC Facebook](#). Ingham GSC members are encouraged to "like" the Ingham GSC Facebook page and share ReadyRosie info with anyone who might benefit.

III. Racism as a Public Health Issue

Per the discussion on racism from the June GSC meeting, members were asked what steps they have taken since the June meeting. Members responded in the chat, as well as verbally:

- PBS has a series of free webinars, productions, movies, etc., to spark conversations. Signed up for webinars to consistently learn and re-engage on the topic of racism, as this is never a one and done type of experience.
 - Robin also shared the GSC conversation regarding racism with her team at WKAR; and she applauds the GSC for addressing systemic racism— offering a safe place to embrace conversation of this nature.
- Viewing webinars and trainings. Organizational Boards are taking a stand against racism by creating a group, including people of color, to reach out to locations across states to allow a platform for employees to have individual conversations to ask what things could be changed organizationally.
- The Capital Area Mentoring Partnership is working with youth, ages 15-21, to give them a voice to speak their opinions and facilitate conversations regarding racism.
- It can be risky to have those conversations with family and friends, but still very important to do so.

Ingham GSC is working to create an equity statement to post to the Ingham GSC website. The statement could be an intentional step that will have ongoing meaning. A draft of the equity statement was shared with GSC members, and input was asked regarding if the statement should list what the GSC *stands for, against, or both*; are people comfortable with a statement being posted front and center on the website, etc.?

“The Ingham Great Start Collaborative stands firmly with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in their continued fight for equity, social justice and human rights. Racism has recently been declared a public health crisis in Ingham County. The Ingham GSC renews its commitment to consistent targeted action to counter the devastating and oftentimes deadly effects of systemic racism on local families. Going forward, the Ingham GSC will collaborate monthly with its partner organizations to ensure more comprehensive, safer and culturally empathetic services. Join us in the fight.”

GSC member feedback included:

- Liked the alignment with ICHD regarding racism as a public health crisis.
- Racism can appear to be a social issue; however, it affects all areas of health!
- Regarding health, there is a pathology related to racism, which causes stress and burdens the body, as research shows “the body remembers.”
- The inclusivity and collaboration with community partners is nice.
- How do people feel about the word “fight?”
- Liked how inclusive the statement is; may need to grammatically tweak the first sentence.

The equity statement will be emailed to GSC members for additional feedback.

IV. Outcome Groups in Breakout Rooms

Members met in Outcome groups to discuss:

1. Considering the Activities your Outcome group is working on, what additional steps need to be taken to address racism?
2. Report on progress made since the May/June GSC meetings.
3. What are some next steps you can take between now and the August GSC meeting?

Members reconvened in the main room. Outcome groups shared one item from discussion to address racism:

- **Outcome 1:** Review some of the data again and focus on activities that relate; get in touch with health providers/doctors to see what they are doing regarding this issue rather than re-invent the wheel; and figure out the why.
- **Outcome 2:** Change/update monthly Facebook posts to add (or replace a month) with lists of books for parents and children regarding anti-racism; consider putting together a guide for families that provides a way to navigate talking to their child about racism.
- **Outcome 3:** Offer training to licensed-exempt providers (through [MIRegistry](#)) on racism and going back to school.
- **Outcome 4:** WKAR put together a list of culturally-responsive books for Pre-K on racism. Find a way to promote those books with families, childcare providers, preschools, etc. Books should include positive experiences not just traumas. The following resources were provided by Robin Pizzo:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/childrens-books-about-race-and-diversity>

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/picture-books-to-celebrate-diversity>

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/20-picture-books-for-2020>

<https://diversebooks.org/resources-for-race-equity-and-inclusion/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/2017/culturally-responsive-classrooms/>

V. GSC Partner Updates

- Updates (some being time-sensitive) were placed in the chat and will be emailed to members separately.
- The Preschool Development Grant Birth to 5 is offering a Listen and Learn Symposium featuring early literacy, transitions, no wrong-door framework, etc. EFEL partners plan to participate as panelists on the early literacy session.
- MDHHS has begun a weekly [Virtual Housing Forum](#) on Friday's from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in partnership with Holy Cross Services and Legal Services of South-Central Michigan. People who are facing eviction, need assistance with relocation,

live in a condemned house, or have questions about the eviction process or court documents are encouraged to attend.

- Check your email for an invitation to the Needs Assessment Data Review meeting scheduled for next Thursday, July 23, from 9:00 to 10:00 am via Zoom. This review is hosted by LLG with the purpose of identifying geographic areas where families are facing elevated risk and how those risks are manifesting in outcomes that evidence-based home visiting models are designed to address.
- Register for the (virtual) [2020 Michigan Home Visiting Conference](#). The conference this year is FREE!
- The Central Resource Center is distributing bags with masks on July 16 and 20 to childcare providers. Ingham GSC resources are also included in the bags.
- [The Childcare Relief Grant](#) just opened for June. Approximately 10% of licensed-exempt providers have applied for the one-time grant of \$550.00. It was suggested the Family Coalition share this information with licensed-exempt providers who have participated in their meetings.

VI. Next Meeting Dates

August 19, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. More information to follow regarding location.

VII. Evaluation and Adjournment

Members were asked to share their feelings about today's meeting. Results are shown below, with duplicate responses resulting in "larger" words.

One Word to describe how you feel about today's meeting?



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