

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

10/21/20

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Islamic Center/Parent, Effie Alofoje-Carr-Ingham LLG, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD/Family Outreach Services, Kimberly Crampton-ICHHD, Kae Dubay-LICC Parent, Kim Fiebertz-ISD, Marisela Garza-CADL, Sheila Henderson-CMH, Laurie Linscott-MSU CDL, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Lucy McClintic-CACS Head Start, Corrie Mervyn-GSRP/Ingham ISD, Rebecca Meszaros-MDHHS, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC/Early On, Constance Phifer-Tri-County Office on Aging, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Robin Melay Pizzo-WKAR, Jennifer Ries-PNC Bank, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, Holly Smego-ICHHD/Children Special Health Care Services, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Dana Watson-Strong Start Healthy Start, Jamie Yeomans-PNL Group Specialist/Parent

I. Welcome and Inclusion Activity

“What do YOU see?” Members viewed an illustration of a family in their home and reported on their view of this family. Responses are typically based upon our own experiences and perhaps personal biases. Members discussed turning negative responses into a positive:

- Health/safety issues include smoking while pregnant; knives, scissors, hot coffee within child’s reach; cat litter box placed in the kitchen; clutter, house in disarray.
- Is mom pictured in a negative light—why is *she* on the sofa smoking? Or is she resting?
- Two fishing poles could represent one for the child and one for the adult, and how they spend time together.
- Family photos on the wall/fridge encompass love.
- A bowl of fruit is sitting out and available.
- The child is excited to see the father/adult coming through the door.
- Books equal literacy and investing in children.

II. Family Engagement

FY21 [Family Coalition](#) meeting dates should be finalized soon. The first meeting of FY21 is being planned for November via Zoom. More information to follow when available.

III. Spotlight: Strengthening Families/Protective Factors Presented by Jessica Baker (Ingham Great Start Family Coalition Parent Liaison)

Jessica recently completed a 4-day training to become a certified trainer with Strengthening Families, and looks forward to training others in the community.

The Five Protective Factors is a research-informed, strengths-based approach. This approach helps to support the family rather than focus on “what is wrong.” The overarching goal of Strengthening Families is to prevent child abuse and neglect by partnering with and focusing on the wellbeing of families to build on their own protective factors.

The Protective Factors were developed in 2003 by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. For the opportunity to be trained in the Strengthening Families framework, contact [Jessica Baker](#). With Covid-19 challenges, now more than ever, families are forced to be resilient. More information and Infographics (for organizations to use) can be found on the [Ingham GSC](#) website.

IV. Outcome Group Work Includes members responding to the following questions:

Outcome Groups shared a success, progress since the September meeting, or an Activity for the November meeting:

- **Outcome 1:** Brainstormed regarding what to share on the Ingham GSC website related to transportation to/from doctor appointments. Thinking about what current safety protocols (with Covid-19) that might create a barrier for families to get to an appointment (i.e. Are additional children allowed at the appointment?)
- **Outcome 2:** Compiled list of books regarding race and diversity, with sources cross-referenced with CADL for availability. Will post resources to the Ingham GSC website and share with partners; will make families aware of the inter-library loan process to borrow books. Promote WKAR/Robin Pizzo in the vast resources and services offered to families.
- **Outcome 3 & 4:** Discussed Talking is Teaching. WKAR/Robin has curated lists of books on inclusion, racism, and equity—with 600-700 books purchased and distributed to organizations and local school districts. Robin reviewed books for balance—and included those representing humor, joy, and through the lens of fostering literature. A traveling library is available upon request.

V. GSC Updates / Partner Updates

- **Strong Beginnings 3-year-old preschool pilot:** Ingham ISD plans to apply with a maximum of four awards statewide. Eligibility criteria is the same as GSRP, and includes a family liaison component similar to CACS Head Start family advocate. In-person instruction is required with classes slated to begin in January. Districts included in the application are Lansing School District, Holt, Leslie, MSU CDL (Haslett).

Ingham ISD created a short [video](#) with families regarding preschool. Please share! The goal is to explain a virtual preschool setting, and get children enrolled in preschool.

- **FY21 State Budget passed on 9/30/20:**
 - 32p Block Grant funding for GSC's and early childhood programming was funded at the State level at the same amount as FY20. Ingham received a slight reduction from FY20. Contact [Wendy Boyce](#) with questions.
 - 32d funding for GSRP was funded at the same level as last year. Ingham was funded with same number of slots as FY20; and funded for FY22 with the same number of slots as FY20. Income eligibility cap for GSRP waived for FY21; and programs must enroll children based on income prioritization process. Contact [Corrie Mervyn](#) with questions.
 - 54d funding for Early On was slightly increased from FY20. Waiting to receive local allocation amount for Ingham budget. Contact [Michelle Nicholson](#) with questions.

- **PDG B-5:**
 - Ingham applied for a Racial Equity Leaders Cohort team. Teams will be notified of selection soon. Contact [Andrea Ryan](#) with questions.
 - Interviews (in place of local Listening Sessions) related to Outcomes 1 and 2 to be conducted with parents and providers to continue the strategic planning process. Contact [Michelle Nicholson](#) with questions.
- **Literacy Workshops:** Through CAUW funding for the Engaging Families in Early Literacy Collaboration, Ingham GSC will offer virtual literacy workshops using the Scholastic toolkit. The intended audience is Head Start-eligible families of 3-year olds not yet enrolled. The first sessions are full and begin the week of October 26. Contact [Wendy Boyce](#) with questions.
- Andrea Ryan shared Keep Kids Tobacco Free Alliance has a [petition regarding flavored e-cigarettes](#).
- [The Power Of We: A Sesame Street Special' To Help Children Stand Up To Racism](#) (Note: This resource is not associated with the local Power of We Consortium.)
- The Family Center 1-800-359-3722 offers virtual Parent Connect Calls to help support families/children with special health care needs. The next call is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 with following calls to be scheduled twice monthly. For more information: www.michigan.gov/familycenter

VII. Next Meeting Dates

November 18, 2020, at 1:30. p.m., via Zoom. (Start time later due to ACES Conference.)

VIII. Survey and Adjournment

Word Cloud – “What one or two words come to mind when you think of resilience?”



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