

02-17-21 Ingham GSC Meeting

Outcome Group: 2

Outcome Group Members: Sidney Bishop, Alex Gaitan-Flores, Madison Goerge, Sheila Henderson, Karen Hoene, Terry Loynes, Rebecca Meszaros, Rachel Prosen, Sharon Rogers, Andrea Ryan, Holly Smego, Stephanie Thelen

Activities:

- 1.) Identify racial equity tools that early childhood providers can use with families during program or service intake, assessment, and planning.
- 2.) Share list of books with GSC members that address racism and promote cultural responsiveness.
- 3.) Work with Kinship Navigation system (MSU) to find out about and share resources for kinship care providers.
- 4.) Work with Children's Special Health Care Services to share resources with families.
- 5.) Utilize Strengthening Families framework for GSPC and Kinship Care Support group meetings/Parent Cafés.

• How does racism impact families' access to services—prenatally through third grade?

- Parents/caregivers are not always aware of their rights (i.e. child's IEP); which can sometimes result in the child not receiving appropriate services.
- Not all school districts are aware of all resources available for families; and oftentimes the funds do not match the needs.
- It's important for parents to speak up. Needs are not always known until after a family exits a program (i.e. Early On).
- Trust issues with "institutionalized" services; thus families may not reach out for services, or are afraid their children could be taken from them.
- Staff not diverse enough in the classroom, and may not match a diverse student population.
- Families may not have access to the "best" schools, and may not live in a neighborhood long enough to make changes needed.
- Don't know what you don't know—especially refugee families. Families may be told to speak English (rather than their first language). Based upon old/flawed research, and causes communication barriers in some cases.
- Some schools embrace diversity more than others.
- Greater proportion of black and brown children being expelled.
- See such positive changes coming, with good people on board, to do good things for the families in Lansing Schools!

• What progress has been made on Activities since the January GSC meeting?

- Children's racial diversity book list is being shared with other GSC members (Outcome 3) and organizations.
- Terry reported MSU Kinship care is in the beginning phases of creating a community resource page for families on their website—diversity booklist could be included. Booklist can also be included in their newsletter.

• What next steps will Outcome Group members take to make progress on Activities?

- **Stephanie** – Follow Up on children's diversity book list on GSC website. When available, share website link with members rather than entire list.
- **Stephanie** – Touch base with Laura to see what she might have learned about domestic violence/abuse data discussed at the January GSC meeting.
- Terry mentioned many kinship providers are struggling at this time; and their office hearing from more cousins and other relatives than ever before.