

Local Leadership Group Notes

April 14, 2021

1:00pm-2:00pm

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Melea Bullock, Lisa Chambers, Regine Cherry, Sara McMahan, Rebecca Meszaros, Antanea Robinson, LaSean Thompson, Melissa Threadgould, Jasmine Tucker, Kelly Uhlmann, Effie Alofoje-Carr, Jessica Baker, Kae Dubai, Michelle Nicholson, Holly Smego, Tianna Leon

1. Welcome/Introductions

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

2. March Meeting Recap

March notes were reviewed and approved.

3. Home Visiting Continuum

Effie will email documents for everyone to review.

4. Great Parents Great Start

-New funding: MOU has to be done at the state level. Contracts are being finalized. Staff will receive mental health consultation. Adding 1 home visitor but have asked to use the funding across all 4 staff so existing case loads won't have to be shifted, new families coming may have higher needs so this may help staff not to get burnt-out, and to help us function as a whole program.

-There are openings and accepting referrals for Great Parents Great Start (GPGS).

-Department of Health and Human Services referrals will not be accepted until closer to Fall 2021.

5. Parent Voice

***How does/did your program provide support or resources for your child?
(educational, physical, emotional or developmental growth)***

-Parent #1: Received lots of paperwork but mom liked that. Home visitor brought lots of toys to help with motor skills. Lots of helpful information was provided.

-Parent #2: Home visitor really helped mom understand social and emotional development. She helped her understand what it meant and what was perceived as normal in development. That really helped mom and the home visitor supported her parenting.

-Parent #3: Home visitor provided lots of resources and support for what mom and child needed. Lots of support with breastfeeding which was most important to her.

6. Spotlight: Strong Start Healthy Start

-Provides care for families throughout Ingham County

-Goal is to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality and perinatal health outcomes.

-Initiative to improve the health of African-American and Hispanic/Latinx families and infants.

-Provide resources/support for moms, dads and families with children 18 months and younger.

-Mom and dad can have different case workers. They sometimes meet together but are encouraged to have separate visits as well.

- If parents do not live together, the baby has to be born for dad to enroll. (Cannot enroll while mom is still pregnant if not living together.)
- A variety of screening tools are used.
- This is the only program that offers support for dads. Contact the father advocate for more information: Quintin qbaptiste@ingham.org
- Staff are conducting virtual “home visits” via Zoom, FaceTime or phone calls.
- Also offering virtual health education events and workshops via zoom.
- Offering porch drop-offs or designated pick-up spots for tangible needs:
 - Resources such as breastfeeding supplies; diapers; and pack and plays can be picked-up at the Health Department or dropped off.
- Look at the social determinants of health to make sure families have the resources they need.
- Racism plays a large role in health outcomes.

7. Updates and Announcements

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website has Toxic: A black women’s story. Effie will send the link via email.
- Zoom Sib-Shop this Saturday 10am. Parent Info meeting tonight 7pm. Email Holly for more information: hsmego@ingham.org
- Community Mental Health (CMH): Hired 4 part-time infant and early childhood mental consultants. Going through state’s orientation.
- Home visiting program Covid Check in- Virtual vs. Face-to-Face Visits:
 - All Health Department is virtual.
 - CMH is mostly face-to-face, some hybrid.
 - Early Head Start (EHS) is still virtual. Outdoor visits will be an option with warmer weather
 - Early On and GPGS are allowed some face-to-face. Currently back to virtual for a few weeks due to rising cases.