

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

10/13/21

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Parent/Islamic Center, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Tracie Bolton-WIC/ICHD, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC Co-Coordinator, Lisa Chambers-ICHD, Kae Dubay-Parent, Marisela Garza-CADL, Lili Gloe-MSU Psychology Clinic, Sheila Henderson-CMH, Kathy Keller-Family Growth Center, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Jason Mellema-Ingham ISD, Corrie Mervyn-Ingham ISD/GSRP, Rebecca Meszaros-MDHHS, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC Co-Coordinator, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD

I. Welcome and Inclusion Activity: To continue the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), the [introduction video](#) on implicit bias was shared with members to spark thought, discussion, and better understanding. Members shared *“What was a highlight or what resonated with you after watching the video?”*

- Implicit bias is not necessarily a bad thing—it’s more neutral.
- A simplistic way of understanding the concept using colors as an example.
- An understanding that people may not have ill intentions through actions or remarks.
- Connectedness knowing implicit bias is innately there—which is good groundwork.
- Video mentioned fairness, which causes one to wonder are we really committed to fairness in our thinking?
- Recognizing implicit bias can cause barriers for others.

The hope is to have one member from each outcome group represent this work in planning for GSC meetings. This could be done virtually or via email. Reach out to [Wendy](#) or [Michelle](#) if you have interest in being more involved with this work. Ingham GSC has several DEI resources on the [DEI page](#) of the [Ingham GSC website](#).

II. Spotlight: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Tracie Bolton, WIC Coordinator Ingham County Health Department.

Today’s [presentation](#) can be found on the Ingham GSC website. WIC has been in place for 40 years providing food and nutrition assistance, breastfeeding support, and various resources for pregnant moms and families with children ages birth to 5. Clinics are located throughout the community and services continue to be offered virtually for safety, convenience, and to eliminate transportation and schedule barriers. The income eligibility for WIC allows participation by many people who think they may not be eligible. Prior to Covid, WIC would lose 50% of babies (clienteles) at age 1, due to a variety of factors include the misperception that older children were not eligible.

- Q: How is family income computed for eligibility?
A: Eligibility is based upon earned, pre-taxed gross income. Families can supply a tax return or letter from their employer (i.e., house cleaning positions). Social security is also considered, with the exception with foster children who are automatically eligible. Stimulus checks are *not* considered; yet unemployment *is* considered for eligibility.
- Q: Is income re-determined every year?
A: Yes!
- Q: If a family drops the program, can they pick up services later?
A: Yes!
- Q: Are relative/kinship caregivers reaching out to WIC for services?
A: Yes, but not as many as WIC can serve.

Please let families know the formula Enfamil contract will switch to Similac beginning 11/1/21. Contact [Tracie Bolton](#) or 887-4326 clients / 887-4667 providers and partners only. Please do not share this number with families.

III. Outcome Groups in Break-Out Rooms Questions:

- How does today's (WIC) Spotlight align with your Outcome group's Activities?
- Reflecting on the Inclusion Activity and the proposal of incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into GSC meetings, what are your thoughts and interest? How does DEI align with and connect to your Outcome group?
- What progress has been made on Activities since the September GSC meeting?
- What are next steps to take on Activities by the November GSC meeting?

IV. Updates

- **Family Coalition:** The September meetings were held 9/21/21 @ 5:00-6:00 pm and 9/23/21 @ 6:00-7:00 pm via Zoom. Meetings will continue virtually, with a potential to meet in-person *once per quarter*. Discussion included back to school, self-care and normalcy. All are welcome to attend. Contact InghamGSCPARENTS@gmail.com for more information. Flyers for future meetings are forthcoming.
- **Parent Cafés:** Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom. October discussion included the second of a four-part series on children's personalities and how to communicate with our children. Future meetings are scheduled for 11/2/21 and 12/7/21 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contact Ingham kdubay82@gmail.com for more information.
- **CADL:** October is **Dyslexia Awareness Month** and new materials are available; **Chromebooks and iPads** are also available for use at the Library or for check out. **LifeKits**, similar to the Raising Reader backpacks but designed for adults, are also available for check out (i.e., yoga, grandparenting, grief, mindfulness, etc.)
- Sheila Henderson of Community Mental Health is retiring effective 10/29/21. Thank you for your support to Ingham GSC and Outcome 2, Sheila!

VI. Evaluation Poll: "How do you feel about engaging in DEI conversation at GSC meetings?"

- I'm excited and eager to engage in conversation around DEI – **62%**
- I'm interested in engaging in DEI conversations at GSC meetings but uncertain about what will be expected - **31%**
- I'm somewhat uncomfortable engaging in DEI conversations at GSC meetings and willing to learn more - **8%**
- I'm uncomfortable in engaging in DEI conversations at GSC meetings - **0%**

VII. Adjournment & Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 12:30 – 2:30pm.

View Agendas, Minutes, Meeting Calendars at www.InghamGreatStart.org
Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/InghamGreatStart