

Ingham Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Notes

11/10/21

12:30 – 2:30 pm

Present: Sondos Al-Hachim-Parent/Islamic Center, Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Angela Barry-Lansing School District, Heather Bourgeois-Community Mental Health, Wendy Boyce-Ingham ISD/GSC Co-Coordinator, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD, Carrie Chance-CACS Head Start, Cosette Daher-PNC Bank, Kae Dubai-LLC Coordinator, Marisela Garza-CADL, Lili Gloe-MSU Psychology Clinic, Allison Horne-Parent, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Sarah Martin-Central Resource Center, Robin Melay-Pizzo-WKAR, Rebecca Meszaros-MDHHS, Barb Monroe-Central Resource Center, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Kristine Ranger-Lansing Housing Commission, Andrea Ryan-Stepping Up Together, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Jasmine Tucker-LLG Parent

I. Welcome, Introductions, October Evaluation Poll Results, and Inclusion Activity

The 10/13/21 GSC meeting Evaluation Poll results were shared with members:

“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%

The plan is to incorporate a DEI activity or discussion at GSC meetings with the next activity scheduled for December. GSC members who are interested in being a part of the GSC planning team should email InghamGSC@gmail.com to further discuss this opportunity.

Today's Inclusion Activity was *“Name one thing in your life that is different today than a year ago and that you are grateful for?”*

- Grateful for our recent home purchase
- Adoption of a kitty (x 2 members)
- Gained a new son in law
- A new baby (four months old now)
- New office space for Central Resource Center
- The amount of support I have within my community of friends and professionally
- My growth and also my spirituality
- I think I might actually have a small group over for Thanksgiving....And first time making the meal :).
- Being able to see more family since COVID began!
- I feel a lot more connected to people this year than last year. It's nice to be back at the office every day.
- Lots of personal growth
- I am interviewing for positions for the next phase of my graduate degree!
- I am thankful for all the changes that we have encountered over the past year! Definitely proud to embrace all of it.

II. Family Engagement

- **Parent Cafés** – Held the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom. Recent discussion at cafés has included personality types and strategies to communicate with your child. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for 11/2/21 and 12/7/21 at 4:30 – 5:30. A new series is being planned to include a new topic of discussion for implementation in January.

- **Family Coalition** – All are invited to attend meetings via Zoom. The schedule (Nov, Dec, Jan) and topics can be found at inghamgsc.org. Family Coalition welcomes parents and caregivers who have children birth to 12.

III. Spotlight: Community Mental Health Advancing Resilience in Children (ARC) Program presented by Heather Bourgeois presented this social-emotional consultation program through Community Mental Health for Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. ARC provides support to licensed and licensed-exempt providers to help children birth to five years old to succeed in a childcare setting. Research shows the prevalence of a mental health consultant in the schools assists in reducing the preschool expulsion rates and closing the gap in racial disparity. To enroll a child, call ACCESS at 517-346-8318, Early Intervention Services at 517-887-5250 or Heather Bourgeois directly at bourgeois@ceicmh.org 517-819-5626. Today's presentation can be found at [InghamGSC.org](http://inghamGSC.org).

Question: How has the response been from childcare providers?

Answer: Overwhelmingly positive; providers are generally able to think of a couple of children in their classroom who might benefit from services.

Question: What age group is served?

Answer: Up until the child's fifth birthday—or before kindergarten.

Question: Do you make referrals to therapy? How do you do the parent collaboration?

Answer: Yes, and sometimes children are already enrolled in the program for other services.

Parent consent is a first step before any identifying info is shared with ARC staff. We could provide a brochure and welcome letter through the provider to share with the parent—the parent would then sign a consent for information sharing. Zoom calls have created an additional option to meet.

IV. Outcome Groups in Break-Out Rooms Questions:

- How does today's Spotlight align with your Outcome group's Activities?
- What progress has been made on Activities since the October GSC meeting?
- What are next steps to take on Activities by the December GSC meeting?

V. Updates

- **Literacy Hub Grant** – The goal of this three-county grant is to expand literacy workshops currently offered through the EFEL collaboration, to be sustainable over time for families and providers and connected to B-3rd grade literacy. Trusted advisor/messengers will support this process through delivery and instruction. Ingham ISD will work to purchase supplies and develop an implementation plan for workshops scheduled from January 2022 through December 2022. Ingham's focus is families with low socio-economic status and families who have eligible children in state/federal programs but not enrolled; Eaton's focus is the communities of Maple Valley and Pottersville; Clinton's focus is WIC eligible families.
- **Preschool Enrollment** – With GSRP expansion funds, Ingham is working to open ten (10) new classrooms with current GSRP programs. Staffing challenges and the licensing process has slowed some program openings. Waitlists (for some communities) and various closures due to Covid resurgence has also impacted opening for some programs. Conversations continue with community-based organizations who have interest in becoming a GSRP provider.
 - **CACS Head Start** – Enrollment is currently at 75%; however, programs are closed until November 29 due to higher Covid cases and staffing challenges mostly due to the increase in Covid cases.
 - *Question:* How does/or does transportation affect the program?
 - *Answer:* CACS has bus routes based on local geographic areas. Dean Transportation is experiencing staffing issues. Typically, a tuition preschool child is not eligible for bussing. CACS employs "bus riders" to be on the busses; and the hope is the riders may take part in the bus driver program to work into becoming full-time bus drivers. Mari shared a funny "[Due to Nationwide Shortage Pigeon Allowed to Drive the Bus.](#)"

- **Childcare Provider Stabilization Grants** are in process. Pass the word and contact BMonroe@Midlandesa.org with questions.
- **ICHD** - Covid vaccines are available to adults and children ages 5-11.
- **WKAR** – 11/20/21 is (virtual) [Be My Neighbor Day](#) and story time with Mrs. Pizzo. Family Activity Kits will be distributed by Daniel Tiger will be at Impression 5 on 11/13/21. Cristo Rey, CADL, Head Start, and Lansing School District are each receiving 50 Family Activity kits to distribute to families.
- **CADL** – [STEM of the Upper Peninsula](#) is winding down this weekend at the Haslett and Okemos locations.
- **WKAR** submitted a proposal and was accepted to present the work of the Ingham Racial Equity Leaders Cohort at a national workshop for the TV association in January 2022!

VI. Evaluation Poll – *“What topics within DEI would you like to learn more about?”*

- Diversity in our reading materials such as different races for the books our kids receive. I can only speak for me, but most books come with one race.
- Addressing microaggressions
- Implicit bias
- Any topics would be great, learning and growing is necessary regarding DEI.
- The issue with preschool expulsion and racialized history of early childhood education.
- Any and all topics are helpful.
- I think I would be really interested in learning how to talk about concepts related to Black Lives Matter and using the term "woke". I use it a lot in library land related to read woke reading lists. But I am learning many are put off by these terms. how? why? Is this the right sort of topic?

VII. Adjournment & Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 12:30 – 2:30pm.

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