

# Ingham Great Start Collaborative Meeting Notes

05/11/22

12:30 – 2:30 pm

**Present:** Jessica Baker-Parent Liaison, Lisa Chambers-ICHHD Family Outreach Services, Natalie DeVolder-MSU Kinship Care, Sandee Donald-Ingham ISD, Kae Dubay-LLG Coordinator/LICC Parent Rep, Alex Gaitan-Flores-Ingham ISD/Early On, Tianna Leon-ICHHD, Terry Loynes-MSU Kinship Care, Sarah Martin-Central Resource Center, Jason Mellema-Ingham ISD, Robin Melay-Pizzo-WKAR, Rebecca Meszaros-MDHHS, Travis Neller-Ingham ISD/GSC Co-Coordinator, Michelle Nicholson-Ingham ISD/GSC Co-Coordinator, Kristen Osterhouse-Central Resource Center, Theresa Pittington-Cristo Rey, Stephanie Thelen-Ingham ISD, Brandi Thomas-CACS, Jasmine Tucker-LLG Parent, Marney Turner-Lansing School District, Dana Watson-ICHHD

**I. Welcome, Introductions, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Activity:** Presented by DEI Committee members Michelle Nicholson, Dana Watson, Tianna Leon, and Rebecca Meszaros: How can we measure and identify our own biases? Members viewed Module 3, Lesson 2 from the Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Center of Excellence Racial Equity [Toolkit](#) and Kirwan Institute Implicit Bias Modules followed by an [Implicit Association Test](#) (IAT) of skin color through Harvard University. Members worked in breakout groups to further discuss feelings and reactions from the IAT and reflections from their own experiences that could have influenced these results and how the results may affect future actions and decisions.

## II. Spotlight: Capital Area Community Services (CACS)

Through two service centers (located in Lansing and Mason), CACS provides emergency services to families such as food; housing and utility (including water) assistance. Additionally, home repairs such as roof, electrical, plumbing, and weatherization are currently being done. Other services provided include preschool and early education, financial counseling and tax preparation, and a partnership with Tri-County Office on Aging for senior assistance. Families can apply for assistance through Clinton, Eaton, Lansing, Mason, or Shiawassee locations or online at [www.cacs-inc.org](http://www.cacs-inc.org). Today's PowerPoint with contact information for locations can be found on the [GSC website](#).

## III. Outcome Group Break-Out Questions:

1. How does the Spotlight align with your Outcome group?
2. What progress has been made since the April GSC meeting?
3. What next steps will you take between now and the June GSC meeting?

## IV. Updates:

- **Family Coalition (FC) Meetings** – One family was able to attend the April FC meeting. The **May FC Meeting flyer is forthcoming**. No FC meetings will be held June, July, August.
- **Parent Vitality Café Meetings** – The May Café included discussion on advocacy. A new LLG parent was in attendance. No Cafés are scheduled for June, July, and August. The September meeting will include a GSC orientation as two long-term parents will be leaving, and new parents are expected to join.
- A huge thank you to WKAR and Robin Pizzo-Melay for the literacy bags. Central Resource Center distributed 331 bags to families in Eaton County, with 13 or 14 Early Childhood programs in attendance. Ingham ISD gave 150 bags to the Lansing Housing Commission!
- **05/18/22 Dome Day at the Capitol** – Kinship families have an opportunity to meet with legislators to advocate for services for relative caregivers.
- **05/19/22 In-Person Spring Job Fair 10 am – 2 pm** in ICHD parking lot, 5303 S. Cedar. Partners include MDHHS, Lansing Police and Fire, Capital Area Michigan Works.
- **WKAR Family Pop Up Tour begins June 2-August 13** in various locations throughout Mid-Michigan. Literacy guides, books, and stem activities will be shared. Subscribe to WKAR newsletter to keep informed of events.

- **WKAR Century of Service** plans are underway for August 2022.
- **Racial Equity Leaders Cohort** to provide workshops through [MiRegistry](#) in June and November. Providers can earn continuing education credits. Flyer forthcoming.
- **06/11/22 Lansing Access Fair 11 am – 2 pm @ Wainwright Elementary** for childcare providers who wish to open their own licensed program or expand a center.
- Congratulations to Dana Watson on her new position as Health Equity and Social Justice Coordinator!

**V. Adjournment & Next Meeting Date:** June 8, 2022 @ 12:30 – 2:30pm at Hawk Island County Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (Parking fee waived.)

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