**GSC Coordinator Report**

**November 17, 2021**

**Social Security Project-**

There has been a decline in SSI benefits and the state of Michigan has set up a workgroup to address the decline among vulnerable populations due to the pandemic.

SSI-a federal program is seeking out agencies that would like to partner and be trained in assisting their clients in the SSI Application process. There are two FREE-90 minute trainings that are necessary to complete and both are virtual. You will be trained on 1) eligibility and 2) step by step guidance for application process. For more information, please contact Takeya Haugabook at [Takeya.Haugabook@ssa.gov](mailto:Takeya.Haugabook@ssa.gov)

**Office of Great Start-**

Every child in Michigan deserves a chance to be the best they can be. What we do now shapes their future health, happiness, and success in school and beyond. Michigan has a number of quality programs to help families stay healthy and support their children’s development, especially during the early years, when children develop the most.

The Office of Great Start has been working on a parent friendly statewide website for the past year. This website was introduced to the collaborative group last year in the infant stages of development. The website is now live and maintained on a monthly basis. Kelly will take a moment to share how to use and navigate through this website to get the necessary information needed to support families or to share with families for their ability to connect independently.

MI Kids Matter website: <https://www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter/0,9220,7-376-101828---,00.html>

**While playing catchup from last year’s Covid-19 lockdown:**

The Office of Great Start published a Family Engagement Toolkit. This toolkit can be found on the MDE website under Early Learning. The link to the PDF is: <https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MIFamily_Family_Engagement_Framework_683447_7.pdf>

A short video accompanies the documents. Kelly will share with you now.

**Trusted Advisors**

We have applied for the last Trusted Advisor Grant Opportunity which is set to begin January 2022 and end October 2022. This grant was submitted with a partnership proposal with MDHHS-Nina Manauis lead and Kelly Isrow in creating a Talking is Teaching Soft Spot at the new MDHHS location. This Soft Spot will include child seating and interactive manipulatives for adult / child interaction and engagement. In addition, Talking is Teaching materials will be available along with totes and take home materials. The applied grant is for 25,000.00.

To date, Macomb Great Start has held the Trusted Advisor Grant for 4 years. In that time we have piloted Talking is Teaching in the Park, distributed over 9,000 books and 2,000 bilingual books, and trained over 1500 Trusted Messengers throughout the county. As we look to continue this work after the Trusted Advisor Grant funding ends, we focus on smaller funding opportunities to do specific work with Talking is Teaching.

**GSRP/MISD**

1. JoAnne Elkin provided the GSRP teaching teams with an overview of Talking is Teaching and Kelly Isrow trained 250 GSRP teachers/associates to be Trusted Messengers. All teaching teams received wonderful materials and resources to promote oral language. The training was excellent!

2. Kim M. and Susan (co parent liasons) worked with all of our GSRP ECSs in the county and shared information on Regie Rainbow and the importance of healthy eating.

3. With the GSRP expansion, we have opened 50 NEW classrooms this year. Please note we have still have many seats available so if you know any families that may be interested please call Great Start Readiness Program at 586-228-3468 half day and full day options are available. The current flier will be sent out with GSC Minutes

4. Also would like to mention that Cory continues to do an amazing job promoting the developmental screener and connecting families to resources and supports in the county

5. November 6 Macomb Reads event brought 784 cars through a drive thru distribution where 1,681 family fun kits were distributed with books, STEM kits, and literacy materials to support the youngest readers in Macomb County.

**ECCS Grant-Family Leadership Opportunities**

In August of 2021, Michigan was awarded an Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant (ECCS) from the federal Health Resource Services Administration. The purpose of this five-year project (2021-2026) is to advance cross-sector collaborations and partnerships, health system improvements, state-level policy and fiscal innovation, equity, and family leadership to promote early developmental health and family well-being. You can learn more about ECCS at <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/earlychildhoodcomprehensivesystems/awards>

We are currently in the start-up phase of this grant and are in the process of identifying individuals to join our internal project team and advisory committee. Specifically, we are asking for your help in filling the following roles:

ECCS Family Coordinator (1 position)-This is a part-time, paid position that reports to the ECCS Grant Lead. Application information can be found at this link: www.mphi.org/careers under the position title of Family Coordinator – ECCS Grant.

ECCS Advisory Board Family Co-Chair (1 position)-This is a volunteer position that offers a per-meeting stipend and transportation reimbursement. The advisory board is expected to meet four times per year, and the chair is asked to make a two-year commitment.

ECCS Advisory Board Family Committee Members (5 positions)-These volunteer positions offer a per-meeting stipend and transportation reimbursement. The advisory board will meet four times per year, and members are asked to make a two-year commitment.

**Meetings:**

The committee will meet every three months for about three hours.

The committee will meet from January of 2022 until September 2023.

We expect all meetings to be virtual by Zoom.

Family committee members will be reimbursed for their time, mileage (if applicable), and childcare.

**Need:**

One Family Co-Chair

5 Family Advisory Committee members

**Applicants should meet these criteria:**

Must be a primary caregiver (foster caregiver, biological parent/caregiver, or adoptive caregiver) of a child (pregnancy through age 3) <https://www.research.net/r/3RPZ3XT>

**Great Start to Quality**

GSQ staff has transitioned from being housed at United Way to the WOM Consortium led by Leaps and Bounds Family Services, Oakland Family Services and ACCESS. GSQ is currently focusing on the Stabilization Grant which is noncompetitive and will be awarded end of year with funds being released in 2022. Over 800 licensed applicants have applied so far. 155 from Macomb.

Carol, Kristyn and Felicia have new emails. They are listed below:

Carol Tresik [carol.tresik@womrc.org](mailto:carol.tresik@womrc.org) 248-949-5857

Felicia Wodarski [felicia.wodarski@womrc.org](mailto:felicia.wodarski@womrc.org) 313-480-4338

Kristyn Letwin [Kristyn.Letwin@womrc.org](mailto:Kristyn.Letwin@womrc.org) 586-504-8478

**MLPP**

Renell Weathers shared that 773 Million of 6.5 Billion dollars of the American Rescue Plan Funding has been spent. The remainder of the funds will be allocated and distributed once representation returns on Dec. 14th. These funds have until 2024 to be spent out.

Bipartisan bill will allocated 10 million to Michigan roads and bridges.

Breakdown can be read on MLPP website. <https://mlpp.org/>

*Happy Holidays!*

**Next Collaborative Meeting: March 9, 2022**