**

Great Start Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2022

**Welcome new GSC members**

*Pandora Brown, Family Advocacy Program Manager from Detroit Arsenal*

*Kathleen Lewandowski, Chief Operations Officer, Crawl Walk Jump Run*

*Kim Faiman Michigan Alliance for Families*

*Amanda Thielen Michigan Alliance for Families*

*Jessica Platte, Early Childhood Director, Trinity Lutheran, Clinton Township*

**MISD/GSRP**

Increase in seats for GSRP programs. There are only a few districts that have not accepted additional seats due to capacity. Community Based Partners have increased and continue to grow. There are plenty of children in the county not in programming. GSRP is working closely with Head Start in joint recruitment and enrollment to fill all slots for the fall. Please check out the videos from Great Start to Quality for preschool marketing below:



**Great Start Collaborative**

It is that time again when the Chair of the Collaborative along with the Co-Chair hand the torch off to another community stakeholder to commit to a 3 year term of chairing the Great Start Collaborative. If you are interested in holding one of these two positions, please reach out to Nina, Cris or Kelly. The work load is minimal and the meetings held are 4 times a year with Executive Meetings held 4 times a year for a total commitment of 8 meetings per year. Kelly will send out email with contact information.

Gov. Whitmer’s proposed budget reflects an increase of funding: $72.6 million for pre-K education programs, including $56 million for the Great Start Readiness Program, which provides free preschool for income-eligible four-year-olds, to increase the full-day allocation from $8,700 to $9,135 per student and provide start-up funds for new programs and classrooms. The budget also includes increased funding for early identification and intervention services for younger children through the Early On Program as well as through home visitation and early childhood collaborative efforts. More from Renell later in the meeting.

**Help Me Grow Michigan** has a new website that routes families to their identifying county to support them in developmental screening and social emotional screening and county resources. The site is: <https://www.helpmegrow-mi.org/>

Marketing materials are in the making and will be available in the summer.

For Macomb County-FY2021 Developmental Screenings in Macomb County totaled 10,928 screens (electronic database) 5237 ASQ3 and 5691 ASQ-SE2. We continue to try and reach high risk communities and bilingual populations. Due to Think Babies Grant that we received, Help Me Grow has a new Arabic Parent Navigator, Dahlia Sadik, who just started on Monday. She speaks 3 languages, Farsi, Chaldean and English. We are hoping she will be able to increase Arabic screens and assist families in connecting to resources and preschool programing.

**Help Me Grow awarded Macomb County** a technical assistance mini grant in January 2022. Cory Marshall and Kelly Isrow have been working with a national HMG team to strengthen the HMG in the county and launch a large social media campaign for Universal Screening.

**Michigan Department of Education:**

**Michigan Department of Education** continues to support the MiKidsMatter website at:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mikidsmatter>

Information is added weekly, please feel free to check out the website and share with families.

**Macomb Social Emotional Network:** The MSN is looking for a new chair for the committee. This group has been around since 2013 and provides some of the best Social and Emotional trainings in the county. MSN is copyrighted and has social media platforms in use. In addition, they are a 501c3 status. If you are interested in becoming part of this group or chairing this committee, please reach out to Kelly Isrow.

The next MSN training is ACEs on Friday, April 8, 2022 (9:00am - 12:00pm) or on Wednesday, May 18th from 9-12. Both are virtual. Flier will be circulated after this meeting.

**Great Start to Quality-**

The Childcare Stabilization Grants funded through ARPA dollars (and allocated by the state to MDE-OGS), allowed for a first round of grants to be opened in the last couple of months. The Resource Centers (Wayne-Oakland-Macomb and Southeast) worked tirelessly to support the roll-out of the stabilization grants from marketing, to application supports, to walk-throughs with providers, validation of applications, and many other supports to assure all childcare providers in our region were supported in whatever way they needed.

The region has over 3,200 licensed childcare providers. In our region, 2,740 providers received stabilization grant awards for a total of almost $192 million dollars going to those providers!

**Trusted Advisors Grant-**Partnership with MDHHS is in progress with creating a soft spot for children and families going through the CPS system. The materials have been ordered and are anticipated to be received by end of month. GSPC / GSC will assist in room arrangement and Talking is Teaching set up.

**Strategic Planning:**

You will be receiving a survey in your email that will request that you place a priority number by the stated topic. This will help us narrow down the issues that Macomb County faces. These topics have been pulled from county needs assessments from FY20-21. In addition, the Office of Great Start has shared MDHHS data for 0-3 population. Please take a few moments to prioritize and add to the suggested area. Your voice is so valuable in meeting the needs of our county and supporting children and families.

**Family Fun Guide-**

If you are interested in ordering any Family Fun Guides, please reach out to Kelly Isrow at [kisrow@misd.net](mailto:kisrow@misd.net)

**Michigan League for Public Policy**- <https://mlpp.org/>

***Highlights***

Increases the state’s Earned Income Tax Credit.

Provides a supplemental monthly payment for cash assistance recipients for children under the age of 6.

Fully funds at risk school aid program.

Starts a phased-in $4,500 per student floor for postsecondary education funding.

Provides additional support for IT systems and data collection.

Investments in the emergency food distribution network and community supported agriculture to ensure healthy food access for families with low incomes.

Support for home and plumbing repairs make homes safer, healthier and more energy and water efficient.

Investments to grow the skilled homebuilder workforce and return land bank properties to the for-sale inventory to increase the supply of attainable housing.

Significant investments in school mental health services.

Funds prison programs from state funds rather than relying on telephone charges on incarcerated individuals and their families.

***Areas of Concern***

As the 2022 budget funded historic expansions of child care through 2023, the budget did not contain any new improvements to the child care assistance program nor did it express a commitment to ensure the improvements continued beyond 2023.

No proposals to shore up long-term revenues, especially in future years when federal aid runs out.

Budget continues to fund postsecondary education with School Aid Fund revenues.

Continues to use TANF for three needs-based postsecondary financial aid programs although a large number of students are not from families with low incomes.

No new funding for Double up Food Books or 10 Cents a Meal, which provide incentives for families, schools and child care centers to purchase healthy Michigan-grown produce.

**Great Start Parent Coalition:**

**Sweet Dreamz** on February 25th was successful with 89 children registered with caregiver or parents. Presentation on how to secure a bedtime routine was provided for children and caregivers with a distribution of pajamas, books, bedtime strategy toolkit, bedtime buddy and carrying case with blanket and dental bags donated by local pediatric dentists in Macomb County.

**Talking is Teaching:** 6 sessions are planned for the Talking is Teaching Reading in the Park this summer: please see attached flier. Events are free and all are welcome.

Trusted Messenger training will take place in August for community members.

Early Literacy Task Force Committee is currently planning the last STAR events and working on a Talking is Teaching resource book.

**MiWorks:**

Cris Robson is currently working on a committee to address the childcare cost/shortage concern in the state and especially in the metro Detroit areas. If you have any information that may be of value to this group from your agency or program, please forward to Cris at the email below.

[cristine@macomb-stclairworks.org](mailto:cristine@macomb-stclairworks.org)

**Crawl Walk Jump Run Therapy Clinic**

<https://crawlwalkjumprun.com/>

Crawl Walk Jump Run Therapy Clinic is dedicated to making every therapy session count. Their goal, their motto, and their livelihood is for each patient to Live Their Best Life. In order to make that happen, they have intensive therapy sessions with the best equipment and highly trained therapists. Their therapists are always researching new techniques and think outside the box to ensure treatment fits the unique needs of our patients. Our PT and OT sessions often run 60-90 minutes, which is double the length of sessions at other providers. For more information please contact Kathleen at Kathleen Lewandowski [kathleen@crawlwalkjumprun.com](mailto:kathleen@crawlwalkjumprun.com)