



Ionia County Great Start Collaborative Minutes
1/10/19
@ Ionia County Intermediate School District

Present: Molly Perez (The Right Door), Lauri Tjalsma (Sparrow Hospital), Peg Shaull-Norman (Ionia County Health Department), Traci Flanner (Ionia Parent), Darin Magley (IPS Principal), Jessica Higley (DHHS), Matt Kuzma (DHHS), Carri Thayer (Portland Parent), Jessica Murphy (ICGSC Parent Liaison), Wanda Zenk (PSIC), Ethan Ebenstein (ICISD), Kelly Piercefield (ICISD), Claire Hopkins (RAVE), Ashley Jory (Great Start to Quality), Ed Kusmierski (8 Cap), Melissa Stevens (8 Cap), Sally Kapteyn (ICGSC Director), Amy Opperman (GSRP Director)

- I. Welcome & Introduction
- II. Approval of Minutes - *Sally motioned to approve, Carri seconded*
- III. Presentation: Matt Kuzma – Overview of DHHS programs
 - a. *Count for past year - 1700 complaints, 900 investigations, 200 abuse cases, 700 fall under neglect, 34 ongoing cases at a time. 70 kids in Foster Care, 83 in December,*
 - b. *Services – contract with Families First, intensive in home services, refer to Parent Support Program – Parenting skills, case management, budgeting, etc.*
 - c. *Many cases stem from drugs, mental health, and poverty.*
 - d. *Mandated reporters need reasonable suspicion; they don't need to investigate or "know".*
 - e. *How the CPS process works:*
 - i. *Call gets made to central intake*
 - ii. *Decision is made rejected or assigned to an investigator*
 - iii. *Investigator has 30 days to substantiate the claim, evaluating safety and risk*
 - 1. *Deny claim and no involvement*
 - 2. *Deny claim and offer services*
 - 3. *Ongoing CPS case works with the family for more than 30 days*
 - 4. *Immediate Removal – through courts, protocol, etc.*
 - iv. *Once in Foster Care*
 - 1. *Courts have 10-12 months to reunify, for families to make changes*
 - 2. *If reunification doesn't happen a decision will be made to adopt, assign guardianship, etc.*
 - f. *DHHS also provides Prevention Services*
 - i. *Help families to problem solve and get resources*

- g. *Community Resource Coordinator – Jessica Higley*
 - i. *Manages volunteer drivers*
 - 1. *5 drivers at this point serve Medicaid folks, 1,100 miles in December. Medical appointments, etc.*
 - ii. *Knowing about resources, food pantries, helping families get basic needs.*
 - 1. *Providers can contact Jessica to get families resources and services.*
- h. *DHHS also manages MiBridges, Childcare assistance, Cash Assistance, SERs, Emergency support funds to help people keep employment.*
 - 1. *Ask your workers for help*
- i. *Universal Case Load now on hold till further notice, families will continue to get one caseworker.*

IV. Committee Reports

- a. *Parent Coalition: Jessica Murphy –*
 - i. *Holiday Bash on December 19th, very well attended. 50 adults and 62 kids attended. Santa photos, crafts, cookies and punch!*
 - ii. *Read with Santa events at Lake Odessa, Ionia, Saranac, and Clarksville Libraries very well attended. About 150 children attended.*
 - iii. *You are Invited cards – (see attachment) distributed to board, please have providers hand out to parents who they think would be a good fit.*
 - iv. *Next meeting – Core Parent Group Meeting on January 22nd.*
- b. *Early Education & School Advisory: Amy Opperman*
 - i. *Last meeting in November*
 - 1. *Literacy Essentials, SEEDs Training, PLC in Feb to review literacy from last year and plan for this year with Literacy Essentials and SEEDS*
 - 2. *Connecting with Kindergarten Teachers to work on transition, and lessening the gap between preschool and kindergarten expectations.*
 - 3. *Sally, Amy and Meredith talked with principals about pre –k and k alignment.*
 - 4. *Push from legislators to change curriculum, meetings coming up, waiting for more info*
 - 5. *Next meeting January 22nd*
 - 6. *GSRP*
 - a. *All positions are filled!*
 - 7. *Next Meeting January 22nd at the ISD.*
 - ii. *Executive Committee – Molly Perez*
 - 1. *Continuing to update EC funding process*
 - 2. *New Member – Wanda Zenk as the chair of Family Support and Wellness Committee*
 - iii. *Family Support and Wellness- Wanda Zenk*
 - 1. *Last meeting Dec 17th*
 - 2. *Working on Diaper Drive, get churches and other business involved*
 - 3. *Transportation – Heidi Wetzel from Dial a Ride came to our meeting, to let us know about what they do, and what the limitations are with.*
 - a. *Working with them to help provide more transportation in the area*
 - b. *Recruit volunteer drivers*
 - 4. *Next Meeting February 18th*

V. Director Report

- a. *Ionia County Trauma Group, about 20 people signed up, two meetings so far.*
 - i. *Not all areas in the county are trauma informed*
 - 1. *Working on a shared presentation to take to those areas*
 - ii. *There is also a group ready to be trauma responsive, working on ideas to support that as well.*
- b. *Daycare-*
 - i. *Michigan Business Community very involved in the problem.*
 - ii. *Changes coming to Great Start to Quality.*
 - iii. *State Shared Services Committee –Sally is on the committee*
 - 1. *Creating local hubs to help with daycare resources*
 - iv. *Transition to K*
 - 1. *So much easier than last year*
 - 2. *Lots of community members getting involved*
 - 3. *\$1000 from Tri-County*
 - 4. *\$150 from PFCU*
 - 5. *\$500 from Michigan 1*
 - 6. *\$1000 from GSRP*
 - 7. *Submitted Grants to Portland Community Fund and Ionia Community Foundation*
 - v. *Conscious Discipline Training January 26th and February 2nd [Conscious Discipline Training Info](#)*
 - vi. *Working with Rave on an Adopt a Room program.*
 - vii. *Ionia County Welcome, will be advertising Early Childhood programs on a full page.*
 - viii. *ICSAI wrote a grant to bring in a speaker on Drug Trends, September 16th. Audience MS, HS teachers, admins, public safety, professional train the trainer. Open to Ionia County first, then to surrounding counties.*

VI. Round Table Updates

- a. *Molly - January Gatherings, topics include screen time, opioids, trauma, etc. Open to the public. [January Gatherings Flyer](#)*
- b. *Laurie - Lunch and learns at Sparrow- Feb 14th, [Lunch & Learn Info](#)*
- c. *Peg – Health Department is starting birthing classes. [Health Dept Website](#)*
- d. *Jessica Higley –*
 - i. *recruiting for Foster Parents, free stuff!*
 - ii. *Operation Good Cheer, non profit that provides Christmas Gifts for Foster Kids, 13 planes flew in with presents to the airport on December 8th, plus a whole truck full. 171 kids between Ionia and Montcalm county*
- e. *Jessica – Quick Connect is updated ([Quick Connect](#)) and new Early Childhood brochure.*
- f. *Wanda –*
 - i. *First Giving Tree at Ionia Lock and Key, well served*
 - ii. *Ultrasound machine coming in today*
- g. *Claire –*
 - i. *Rave had an awesome Christmas, lots of community support!*
 - ii. *17-18, 4100 bed nights 5600 hours of counseling and advocacy this past year.*
 - iii. *January is National Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Month*
 - 1. *No Defense to Self Defense – Free class*

- h. Ashley – Great Start Quality (GSQ) changes will be coming quickly, decisions made by December. 70 licensed providers, 23 participate in GSQ. Looking for space for office hours and trainings.*
- i. Melissa – Joint Recruitment effort is coming up! 8Cap hubs that effort. Application hopefully ready to go Feb 1st. Will accept the old application as well.*
- j. Amy – Advertising changes went well last year with yard signs, will be targeting Belding with Postcards. Contact Amy for yard signs or postcards.*

VII. [Calendar updates](#)

Next Meeting Date: March 7, 2019