



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

8/2/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. August Agenda Approval:
- V. June Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Highlight Presentation: Head Start & Early Head Start Programming Updates
 - B. 2023-2024 Preschool Annual Report*
 - C. MCGSC Calendar
 - D. Vice Chair Nominations Open for 2023-2024
 - Vice Chair Currently for 2022-2023 Sue Kearney
- VIII. Old Business:
 - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
 - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung
 - C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive & Communication: No update, committee did not meet in July.
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
 - D. Parent Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment
- XIII. Next Meeting Date
 - October 4, 2023 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

Advance health equities.

Early Childhood services meet high standards of quality.

Children prenatal to age five and their families thrive.

Visit our website for the most updated calendar information at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Minutes

6/7/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

I. Call to order:

Meeting was called to order at 11:34 am by Jessica Higley

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Stephanie Barone, Abbey Blondin, Elizabeth Buskirk, Renae Caudill, Monique Cooper, Cindy DeYoung, Emily Dowd, Samantha Ford, Jessica Higley, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Anita McIntyre, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Nancy Secor, Roger Thelen, Mindy Train, Joanna Urban, Tara Allen

III. Public Comment:

None

IV. June Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Renae Caudill and supported by Jennifer Peterman to approve the agenda of the June 7, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

V. April Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Nancy Secor and supported by Renae Caudill to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

2022-2023 Preschool applications are being processed and widely distributed! GSRP is currently Only enrolling income eligible at this point. Head Start is enrolling all eligible families. GSRP is still waiting for a budget process for more details on over-income guidelines!

Joint recruitment campaign in full swing: social media & marketing using technology, Billboards, & Daily News campaign all around Preschool Matters!

MAISD has submitted a GSRP Allocation request for 2023-2024. We are requesting enough slots to serve 622 students (this year we serviced over 500). We are hoping for an increase to support CM and TC expansion considerations. ****Need MCGSC board approval!** Closing MACC classroom, opening one additional classroom at CM if space can get licensed!

A motion was made by Roger Thelen and supported by Nancy Secor to approve the GSRP Allocation request to serve 622 students as presented, Motion was carried.

First 10 Grant through the State of MI: Application was submitted in April, and we were approved! Some of you have agreed to participate in an advisory capacity. I will be reaching out to you to ask for your participation on this subcommittee work through the MCGSC.

Thank you in advance for any time you can contribute.

PREK for All Task Force: First meeting occurred. Reviewing barriers to expanding the current PreK system and ways to build on strengths to expand access NOW! For example, 20 in classroom versus 16, teacher and associate teacher credentialing flexibility.

Summer Playgroup Opportunities! Please help us in spreading the word and connecting with parents by putting this information on your Facebooks & social media!

Finger printing event canceled for childcare support.

Continuing to work with Central Montcalm Public Schools to support childcare expansion opportunities. Bond request is in the works and will support several areas in CM schools, including childcare. Support for a \$10,000 childcare start up grant received, support for \$150,000 grant that was awarded but halted because of licensing barrier. Working with Regional Childcare work team to help advocate for moving this forward!

Montcalm Prevention Collaborative: Greenville partnership SAFE PROM was a huge success! Lakeview is very interested in doing a similar activity.

32P interim expenses report turned in, starting to work on Preschool Community Report, and end of school year reporting. Opening day at MAISD is August 10th, 2023, so summer will be quick!

Two Early Childhood Specialists positions open! If anyone knows of someone with a master's degree, who is looking for contracted work around coaching teaching teams please send them my way!

Summer Resource Challenge Math Walk activity to share with families:

<https://earlymath.erikson.edu/were-going-on-a-math-walk-were-going-to-find-some-math-talk/>

Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank yous!

United Way for continued Dolly Parton Imagination Library support

Montcalm Prevention Collaborative: First Aid & Narcan kit materials for distribution to childcare providers and parents via the Prevention Network grant

All of our board member partners supported the Baby Shower & Summer Swag Bag materials!

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation:

- **Montcalm County Court Appointed Special Advocate: Stephanie Barone**
PowerPoint attached
- **Montcalm Care Network Services for Children & Families: Tara Allen**
PowerPoint attached

B. Vice Chair Nominations Open for 2023-2024

- **Vice Chair Currently for 2022-2023 Sue Kearney**
Write nominations on the principals of collaboration form

C. GSRP 2023-2024 Tuition Fee Policy *Action Needed: Cari O'Connor

Maximum cost for families that fall within the category of quintile 8 or above (300% poverty level) will be charged \$350 for half day programming and \$400 for the school year for GSRP tuition to be paid to the sub recipient directly. Money will be applied directly to the classroom program expenses that the child is being served in. All expenses must fall within the allowable expenses category per the GSRP manual in the attending school year. All monies received and spent will be reported to the MAISD by June 30th end of school year deadline. No carryover of tuition funds is allowable.

A motion was made by Nancy Secor and supported by Roger Thelen to approve the GSRP 2023-2024 Tuition Fee Policy as presented, Motion was passed.

D. 2023-2024 MCGSC Meeting Schedule Approval*

A motion was made by Abbey Blondin and supported by Sue Kearney to approve 2023-2024 MCGSC Meeting Schedule as presented, Motion was carried.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

1,300 children currently enrolled

B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICCC): Cindy DeYoung

Report attached

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Put talking is teaching materials around math in 600 summer bags

Provided a let's talk about school bag and a kindergarten book in each bag, for all GSRP and HS students.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Jessica Higley

Approved 2023-2024 GSRP manuals and went over GSRP/MCGSC budget

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

Planning Early Childhood Conference on September 16th at Greenville High School will be having the same speaker as last year, Sara Szuminski, she will be providing a keynote and 3 breakout sessions, We Care for Kids will be covering her fee. Currently looking for potential speakers.

C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman

The Baby Shower went really well and all those that attended really enjoy the items they received.

D. Parent Leadership: Monique Cooper

The last parent coalition meeting before summer is June 12th at Maddie's Park.

X. Roundtable Updates

- Emily Dowd- Corewell Health walk-in clinics have Narcan and needle drop off. Community Open House Thursday, June 8th
- Lillie McNeill- GSQ infant/toddler learning community has a network group/individual coaching for children under 3 in Ionia/Montcalm
- Tara Allen- Pancake breakfast at the MCN carnival on August 11th. Pride event on June 25th at Veteran's Park in Greenville. Provided 24 Narcan kids at Carson City Frontier Days. Launching a survey around mental health and substance abuse needs and how COVID has impacted that. Hiring 2 staff for the 31n department
- Samantha Ford- Community leaders conference October 12th at Belding High School. Agriculture Festival September 15th.
- Sue Kearney- Family Fun Day went very well, over 700 people in attendance.

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

- Nominations for 2023-2024 MCGSC Vice Chair
 - Liz Ingraham
- Questions/Feedback for CASA
 - Grateful for this program within the county
 - Really love the CASA program, so happy to see how much they have grown over the years
 - Anything RAVE can do, to help with child victims of violence?
 - Do all children in the system have a CASA volunteer assigned to them?
- Talking is Teaching Needs
 - MCN materials for the lobby- 2 locations
- Highlight Presentation
 - Update on Early On or United Way education
 - DHHS about benefits
 - Purpose of the GSC Board
- Other
 - Appreciate the MCN presentation learned a lot
 - Having two highlight presentation was a lot of information at one time

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:30 pm

Minutes recorded by Mindy Train

Next Meeting Date: August 2, 2023, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

**Please see our website for the most updated calendar information at www.GreatStartMontcalm.org.



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Meeting Schedule 2023-2024

Montcalm County GSC Board Meetings (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

Contact person: [Cari O'Connor](#)

- **October 4, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **December 6, 2023**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **February 7, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **April 3, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **June 5, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm
- **August 7, 2024**, from 11:30-1:30 pm

Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:

Executive & Communications Committee (virtual through Zoom):

Contact person: [Cari O'Connor](#)

- **November 1, 2023**, from 11:30-1:00 pm
- **March 6, 2024**, from 11:30-1:00 pm
- **May 1, 2024**, from 11:30-1:00 pm
- **September 4, 2024**, from 11:30-1:00 pm

Parent Leadership Committee - Parent Coalition Meetings (meetings will be located at the Montcalm Area Career Center, 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney, dinner, and childcare provided)

Contact person: **Monique Cooper**

- **September 11, 2023**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Anxiety in Children
- **October 9, 2023**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Challenging Behaviors
- **November 13, 2023**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Understanding Children Emotions (Love Language)
- **December 11, 2023**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Holiday Celebration with Santa
- **January 8, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Developmental Milestones with Children; Fostering Growth
- **February 12, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Sibling Rivalry
- **March 11, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm - Parenting Awareness Month, Special Event for the Whole Family
- **April 8, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Establishing Rules and Boundaries for Your Home
- **May 13, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Dinner Ideas

Approved:
6/7/23

- **June 10, 2024**, from 5:30-7:00 pm – Summer Kick Off- Carson City Park/Splash Pad

Montcalm County GSC Committee Meetings:

Family Wellness Committee (at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton):

Contact person: Monique Cooper

- **October 4, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **December 6, 2023**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **February 7, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **April 3, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **June 5, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30 pm
- **August 7, 2024**, from 1:30-2:30 pm

Early Care & Education Committee (meetings are currently being held virtually through Zoom):

Contact person: Mindy Train

- **October 11, 2023**, from 9:00-10:00 am
- **December 13, 2023**, from 9:00-10:00 am
- **February 14, 2024** from 9:00-10:00 am
- **April 10, 2024**, from 9:00-10:00 am
- **June 12, 2024**, from 9:00-10:00 am
- **August 14, 2024** from 9:00-10:00 am
- **Early Childhood Conference, September 21, 2024**

**Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative
Support Staff Contact Information**

618 W Main St, Suite C
Stanton, MI 48888

Website: www.greatstartmontcalm.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/greatstartmontcalmcounty

Monique Cooper Parent Liaison mcooper@maisd.com	Drew Train Parent Liaison dtrain@maisd.com	Mindy Train Parent Liaison mtrain@maisd.com	Cari O'Connor Director coconnor@maisd.com
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**Don't forget to REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about!
ANYONE can refer.**

Go to: www.1800Earlyon.org or call 1-800-EarlyOn

MAISD Early On LICC Report: August 2, 2023

Comparison Referral Data

	2017-18 Referrals	2018-19 Referrals	2019-20 Referrals	2020-21 Referrals	2021-22 Referrals	2022-2023 Referrals	2023-2024 Referrals
July	16	30	35	20	28	9	19*
August	27	40	33	16	26	38	
September	24	13	25	24	30	27	
October	17	24	19	32	24	19	
November	12	17	12	11	34	33	
December	8	17	21	18	14	20	
January	15	22	35	30	32	26	
February	29	35	34	23	28	23	
March	26	26	25	25	38	29	
April	31	34	14	31	26	28	
May	17	32	10	22	24	27	
June	24	25	16	24	33	23	
TOTAL	229	315	279	266	337	302	

*as of July 24, 2023

As of July 24, 2023 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 32 Children in Referral
- 144 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 37 of 144 students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

Playgroups:

Summer Playgroups have been going well. There are two more the week of July 31- August 4. The Fall school year schedule is available. We will continue groups in 4 settings. See schedule below.

Grants:

The federal grant has been submitted. We are waiting for approval.

Social Media:

Follow us on Social Media to learn how to make a referral and get information about your child's development.



RESOURCES:

Check us out on Social Media



Montcalm Co. Playgroup
Private group



MAISD Early On

- Need more developmental wheels, Early On pamphlets or other materials? Email Elizabeth Buskirk at ebuskirk@maisd.com
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at cdeyoung@maisd.com

Free Playgroup Opportunity in Montcalm Co. for Parents and Children!



Any family with children birth to four years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District are welcome to attend playgroup.
Call for registration or for more information: 616-225-6146

Highlights

- *Try new activities with your child that will stimulate your child's development!
- *Learn songs and read books (receive a copy of each book to keep)!
- *Interact with other parents and children!
- *Learn strategies to use at home and have access to Early Childhood Professionals to ask questions.



Morning

10:00am-11:30am

June 20th: Sheridan Fire Station/Park
113 Evergreen St
Sheridan, MI

July 18th: Curtis Park
401- 419 S 3rd St,
Edmore, MI

August 1st: Ensley Park
518 E Shaw St,
Howard City, MI

Evening

5:00pm-6:00pm

June 22nd: Playgroup Visits the Farm
7212 Kendaville Rd.
Lakeview, MI

July 20th: Greenville Splash Pad
213 N Franklin St. Greenville, MI
(Park next to museum)

August 3rd: Veterans Memorial Park/ Dance Party
710 N State St.
Stanton, MI



~COME PLAY WITH US~
FREE Playgroup Opportunity in Montcalm County
for Parents & Children!



Any family with children from ages birth thru 4 years old living in Montcalm Area Intermediate School District is welcome to attend.

Registration is preferred prior to attending. Call (616) 225-6146 to register or for more information.

Highlights

- *Try new activities with your child that will stimulate your child's development!
- *Learn songs and read books (receive a copy of each book to keep)
- *Interact with other parents and children!
- *Learn strategies to use at home and have access to Early Childhood professionals to ask questions.

Book of the Month			
September - Down on the Farm October - Very Busy Spider November - I Hear a Pickle December - Belly Breathe		January - Snowmen at Night February - Grumpy Pants March - Good Night Gorilla April - The Caring Me I want to Be May - Freight Train	
Tri County Middle School 21350 Kendaville Rd Howard City, MI 49329 Tuesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am September - 12 th , 19 th October - 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 31 st November - 7 th , 28 th December - 5 th , 12 th January - 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd February - 6 th , 13 th , 20 th March - 5 th , 12 th , 19 th April - 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th May - 7 th , 14 th		Montabella Elementary 1456 North County Line Rd Blanchard, MI 49310 Wednesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am September - 13 th , 20 th October - 4 th , 11 th , 18 th November - 1 st , 8 th , 29 th December - 6 th , 13 th January - 10 th , 17 th , 24 th February - 7 th , 14 th , 21 st March - 6 th , 13 th , 20 th April - 10 th , 17 th , 24 th May - 1 st , 8 th , 15 th	
Montcalm Area Career Center 1550 W Sidney Rd Sidney, MI 48885 Wednesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am September - 13 th , 20 th October - 4 th , 11 th , 18 th November - 1 st , 8 th , 29 th December - 6 th , 13 th January - 10 th , 17 th , 24 th February - 7 th , 14 th , 21 st March - 6 th , 13 th , 20 th April - 10 th , 17 th , 24 th May - 1 st , 8 th , 15 th		Mt Calvary Church 908 W Oak St Greenville, MI 48838 Thursday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am September - 14 th , 21 st October - 5 th , 12 th , 19 th November - 2 nd , 9 th , 30 th December - 7 th , 14 th January - 11 th , 18 th , 25 th February - 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd March - 7 th , 14 th , 21 st April - 11 th , 18 th , 25 th May - 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th	
Evening Playgroup at Mt. Calvary Church 908 W Oak St Greenville, MI 48838 5:30pm-6:30pm		September 21 October 19 November 9	December 14 January 18 February 22
		March 21 April 18 May 16	

GSQ Regional Partnership Data
Western Resource Center
Links to Support Data Based Discussion

Caring for MI Future Data: <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/cclb/caring-for-mi-future>

Urgency and High Needs Map: <https://cep.msu.edu/projects/child-care-mapping-project/maps-and-charts/areas-with-high-needs-and-urgency?view=draft>

Child Care Desert Map: <https://cep.msu.edu/projects/child-care-mapping-project/maps-and-charts/child-care-desert-map?view=draft>

CFMF FIF Data: <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/CCLB/Caring-for-MI-Future/May-2023-CFMF-Facility-Improvement-data.pdf?rev=3074749897b54cde8b18ade8c98e1056&hash=81B3730DC1AC7479B192ADCB2EEC4289>

GSQ Facebook Page-FAMILIES: <https://www.facebook.com/GSQFamilies>

Contact: Lillie McNeil for further support regarding this data at lmcneil@arborcircle.org