



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

10/4/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. October Agenda Approval:
- V. August Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Highlight Presentation: First 10 Project & The BASICS initiative : Erica Joos
 - B. Vice Chair Voting for 2023-2024*
 - C. [PREK for All Update](#)
- VIII. Old Business:
 - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
 - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Elizabeth Buskirk
 - C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
 - D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper
- X. Roundtable Updates
- XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XII. Adjournment
- XIII. Next Meeting Date
 - December 6, 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

8/2/23

I. Call to order:

O'Connor called the meeting to order at 11:34am

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Stephanie Barone, Elizabeth Buskirk, Renae Caudill, Cindy DeYoung, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Karen Marsman, Anita McIntyre, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Nancy Secor, Roger Thelen, Mindy Train

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

IV. August Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Renae Caudill and supported by Jennifer Peterman to approve the agenda of the August 2, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

V. June Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Renae Caudill and supported by Roger Thelen to approve the minutes of the June 7, 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. Legislation & Budget now supports three program options: School Day, Part Day, & Extended Day. Three Sub Recipients are considering' attempting to work out barriers to the 5 day a week/36 weeks programming requirements for Extended day.

Hired one Early Childhood Specialist; still have one position 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!

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

MAISD had submitted GSRP Allocation request for 2023-2024. We requested slots to serve 622 students (2022-2023 year we serviced over 500). We are planning to serve the same number of children (622 minimum) however with additional days and weeks (expansion choice). Greenville and TC Huntey's Clubhouse will be joining the pilot for 5 day a week 36-week programming option. ****Need MCGSC board approval!**

A motion was made by Roger Thelen and supported by Karen Marsman to endorse 622 slots full day – school day/extended day as presented; Motion was carried.

Vice Chair: We need one! Executive Team meets 4 x per year via Zoom.

First 10 Grant through the State of MI: Frist 10 Summer Summit will be on August 8th in Lansing. We will be taking a team of 5 (3 parent representatives) and focusing on Central Montcalm School District due to the level of parent engagement specific to CM. If funding and time allows, Greenville is the second district to support. \$15,000 grant to support Math, Literacy, and Music activities for PreK – 2nd grade target population. Thank you in advance for any time you can contribute.

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32P tentative allocation: We received a significant bump in 2023-2024 32P budget (\$80,000 more) AND an additional \$55,356 for 32 6 (Literacy funds DPIL & Talking is Teaching).

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. Please take the **SURVEY!** <https://miprek4all.org/>

Continuing to work with Central Montcalm Public Schools to support childcare expansion opportunities. Central Montcalm Bond is coming August 8th! Encourage CM parents to get out and VOTE! Bond request will support several areas in CM schools, including childcare. Working with the Regional Childcare work team to help advocate for moving this forward!

Regional Childcare Work Team: Data focused initiative. Meet regularly to work on childcare needs specific to Montcalm County System. Impact: working with Vibrant Futures to funnel monies from the regional grant to the MAISD to support childcare expansion applications. Current partnerships/leaders for Montcalm County work are MI United Way, Right Place, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, and Pathways. Funding for inspections and other licensing related barriers for childcare providers.

GSC partnership Data & Resources: Data links Document in board packet Urgent and High Needs Map shows: Child poverty: 18% Staff Shortage: 6% Child per childcare slot: 1:3 0-12 population: 9,448

Montcalm Facility Improvement grants:

- # of Providers who have become Prequalified 14
- # of Prequalified Providers who have applied for funding 8
- Amount of Funding Applied for \$389,723.38
- Amount of Funding Awarded \$165,712.21

3 min trust & relationship building (Serve & Return): <https://youtu.be/7Pcr1Rmr1rM>

Hired one Early Childhood Specialist; still have one position open! If anyone know of someone with a master's degree, who is looking for contracted work around coaching teaching teams please send them my way!

Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank you!

- United Way for lifting Childcare needs up & participating in Regional Planning Grant
- Montcalm Prevention Collaborative: More First Aid & Narcan kit materials for distribution to childcare providers and parents via the Prevention Network grant

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation: Head Start & Early Head Start Programming Updates

- Lakeview opened an Early Head Start building, 8 slots, ages 1-4 years of age. Receive the same services that home visit children receive. 45 days of enrollment children are accessed, and a health screening is completed. Creative curriculum is used, and additional ongoing assessment is used.
- Early Head Start application and Head Start application available on 8cap.org.
- 6 home visitors in Montcalm County, Maintain a case load of between 10-12 families. 48 home visits a year, for an hour and half.
- Head Start center in every district expect Vestaburg.
- Enrollment is currently 90% full.

B. MCGSC Calendar

Activities that you are putting on, please let us know and we will add them to our calendar.

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C. Vice Chair Nominations Open for 2023-2024

- Vice Chair Currently for 2022-2023 Sue Kearney
- Please add your name to the Principals of Collaboration survey if you are interested.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

1,400 children enrolled.
\$36,000 in our endowment fund.

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

Report attached

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Anyone interested in receiving posters or tip sheets to share with families, please reach out to Monique. Presentations are available to help families and employees understand on how easy Talking is Teaching is and do with their families.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication:

No update, committee did not meet in July.

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. Registration will be available Friday, August 4th.

C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman

No update, committee did not meet in July.

D. Parent Leadership: Monique Cooper

Parent coalition starts back up in September.

X. Roundtable Updates

We Care for Kids- spent time working on protect yourself curriculum resource updates and everything is aligned with the Michigan Health Standards for 1st and 3rd graders and created a 2nd grade curriculum hoping to launch in 2024-2025. Planning for a car seat give away and installation, held at Hollenbeck's in Stanton on September 9th. Working on an internet safety event.

Renae Caudill- Last meeting, going to be a foster grandma in the EightCAP classrooms

Jennifer- National breastfeeding month. The US breastfeeding committee talk to your legislative and encourage them to expand the number of weeks moms go back to work

Alpha Family Services- 200 people come through for the Christmas in July event. 62 people came and received diapers. Danish Festival, Alpha is overseeing the children's activities.

M91 and Lafayette, free play

Dena Kent- Health department will help WIC clients, WIC is back to in person, starting August 9th. Gearing back for back-to-school immunizations. WIC clinic are back at Alpha, also in Howard City at Heritage Methodist Church

Liz Ingraham- Stanton Old Fashion Days 11am – 1pm, Pancake breakfast

CASA- new volunteer training, week of October 9th.

Melissa Stevens- employment opportunities at EightCAP

Cari O'Connor- Playgroup at veteran's park, diaper giveaway.

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XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

Feedback for Head Start/Early Head Start

- Appreciate the update
- Great information, exciting to continue to have options for parents with younger children
- Visuals would have been nice, to see locations of county site, parent involvement, etc.

Other Comments

- Jennifer Peterman nominated herself to be the Vice Chair
- Lunch was great

XII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:30 pm

XIII. Next Meeting Date

- October 4, 2023 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

Minutes recorded by Mindy Train

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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



**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: September 26, 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	23
August	27	40	33	16	26	38	28
September	24	13	25	24	30	27	8*
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 September 26 , 2023

As of September 26, 2023 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 20 Children in Referral
- 142 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 36 of 142 (25.6%) students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

PD Focus:

Early On's Professional Development focus for 23-24 school year is focusing on the following 3 areas:

- Early Literacy Essentials Training
- Book study of "Raising a Healthy Happy Eater" by Melanie Potock and Nimali Fernando
- Making data based decisions

Video:

We used American Rescue Plan funds to partner with Duane Weed Productions to create an informational video regarding Early On. We had parents of children who have been enrolled in Early On as well as staff. We will use this video for community outreach and to share with the potential Early On families.

Books:

We received funds from the Early Literacy hub to purchase books to give away to families through home visits for Early On families.

Playgroups:

Playgroups are up and running. See schedule attached below. We've had great attendance so far in September!

Grants/Funding:

Both 54D (State grant) and Federal Early On grant have been submitted for this school year. We are still using partial 54D funding to support GSC Parent Liaison to support playgroups.

Social Media:

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



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



~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		Montabella Elementary 1456 North County Line Rd Blanchard, MI 49310 Wednesday 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		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		Mt Calvary Church 908 W Oak St Greenville, MI 48838 Thursday 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		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	



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

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

Approved:
6/7/23

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

**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

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