



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

12/6/23

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. December Agenda Approval:
- V. October Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
 - A. Highlight Presentation: Special Education Mediation: Rebecca Kozlow
 - B. KDL Programs for the Blind & Hearing Impaired: Shelley Roossien
 - C. [PREK for All Update](#)
- VIII. Old Business:
 - A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train
 - B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Cindy DeYoung
 - [Early On Promotional Video](#)
 - 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
 - February 7, 2024 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



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Minutes

10/4/23

I. Call to order:

Sue Kearney called the meeting to order at 11:35 am

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Abbey Blondin, Janel Boulis, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Emily Dowd, Jessica Higley, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Karen Marsman, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Mary Peterson, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Michelle York, Flora Ma, Shannon Behren, Jackie McConnell, Shannon Bowen, Andrea Nista

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

IV. October Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Jennifer Peterman and supported by Monique Cooper to approve the agenda of the October 4, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

V. August Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Jennifer Peterman and supported by Janel Boulis to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

2023-2024 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 programing requirements for Extended day.

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!

MAISD will be resubmitting GSRP Allocation request for 2023-2024 as Lakeview would like to open another classroom (1 teacher, 8 students) in the hope of increasing the capacity for 2024-2025 school year. We requested slots to serve 622 students (2022-2023 year we serviced over 500) so we will bump our request up to 630. Greenville and TC Huntey's Clubhouse are implementing the pilot for 5 day a week 36-week programming option.

First 10 Grant through the State of MI: First 10 Summer Summit completed, and team works We have a team working with Central Montcalm School District and the only district we are working with regarding this grant however as things progress, we will scale up projects results across the county. \$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.

PREK for All Task Force: Continue to meet with the Task Force to move forward. Looking at several states versions and how to avoid their mistakes. Also want to build on their successes. Reviewing barriers to expanding the current PreK system and ways to build on strengths to expand access NOW! Thank you to everyone that took the time to do the survey. Need to make sure our Rural communities are represented, and families have an opportunity to voice their needs/ October 2nd Dr Jill Griffen from MDE Office of Special Populations, visited the MAISD to also lift needs in rural communities.

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Regional Childcare Work Team: Data focused initiative. Meet regularly to work on childcare needs specific to Montcalm County System. Impact: Still working on what that means for Montcalm County as we are working with Vibrant Futures to funnel monies from the regional grant to the MAISD to support childcare expansion applications. Still not happening. 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.

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

Still working on finding out how much money flowed through. The SOM ran out of money and so even the awarded dollars were halted... more to come on this but let's just say it is a mess. So, the Central Montcalm project is halted. Bathroom/plumbing work is all set but carpet and drywalling is not able to move forward. Central Montcalm capacity is there but we need money to flow again to finish the project.

Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank you!

- United Way for lifting Childcare needs up & continued participation in Regional Planning Grant
- Greenville Public Schools for their willingness to partner & pivot
- Corewell Health for their continued partnership with Welcome Baby!

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation: First 10 Project & The BASICS initiative: Erica Joos

PowerPoint attached.

A motion was made by Monique Cooper and supported by Drew Train to move forward with the First 10 Basics Campaign as presented, Motion was carried.

B. Vice Chair Voting for 2023-2024*

Jennifer Peterman self-nominated herself for the MCGSC vice chair position for 2023-2024

A motion was made by Karen Marshman and supported by Jessica Higley to accept Jennifer Peterman as the 2023-2024 MCGSC Vice Chair as presented, Motion was carried.

C. [PREK for All Update](#)

Due to sound quality issues, this agenda items have been tabled for the December MCGSC meeting.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

Currently 1,460 children are enrolled.

Stanton Women's Club provided a donation of \$675

B. Early On Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC): Elizabeth Buskirk

Updated attached.

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Passing out 8 different books at various events over the next few months and created posters and play, learn, and reads to go with each book.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney

Reviewed 32P and 32P6 budget allocations, 2023 preschool report and First 10 work

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

Early Childhood conference was on September 16th from 9 am – 11 am virtual. 18 participants, keynote speaker Sarah Szuminski presented on Let Go Outside: Building Better Mental Health Through Outside Play, what Sarah shared was very well received.

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C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman

Attached Sheridan's Boo Bash on September 30th and gave out 267 books, will be attending the Heritage Village Trick or Treat and providing books and resources.

D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper

Family Coalition is October 9th at the MACC, with Chuck Hill presenting on Challenging Behaviors. Dinner, childcare, and gas cards provided.

X. Roundtable Updates

- Karen Marsman shared that Alpha Family Services has been implementing Talk is Teaching and has created monthly themes.
 - Is participating in various events this fall
 - Applied for COVID money and received \$25,000
 - Received a grant from Central Montcalm Community Foundation to purchase weighted blankets and sensory items
- Dena Kent- MMDHD has updated WIC guidelines
 - Walk in Flu clinic coming up October 12th
 - Looking for a breastfeeding peer counselor
- Emily Dowd- Corewell health has a fly clinic in Greenville and Lakeview
- Jennifer Peterman- United Lifestyles and We Care for Kids Council partnered for an car seat installation event and installed 40 car seats. Hoping to host another event in December
 - Maternal Infant Health Program has recently added a community health worker
 - Licensed social works have been trained in survivor mom trauma informed care model
- Flora Ma- Western Regional Resource Center is finalizing professional development calendar for 2024. Looking to host infant/toddler meetings in Montcalm County
- Janel Boulis- Early Head Start has slots available
- Abbey Blondin- RAVE emergency shelter is full, there is currently a waitlist
 - October is domestic violent awareness month. Training is available if anyone is interested.
 - The shelter needs children's crafting supplies
- Mary Peterson- Is excited to be back to attending MCGSC meetings and is available to volunteer when needed
- Cari O'Connor- Welcome Baby partnership continues
 - Partnerships with WIC and promoting childcare with GSQ.
 - Excited to share the resource based curriculum purchased for Alpha to provide prenatal classes was highly received and serviced 800 families.
- Sue Kearney- We Care for Kids receives money from Children Trust Michigan and received an additional \$10,000 and with the money received from 100 Women Who Care was able to provide the following events in Montcalm
 - MCGSC Early Childhood Conference Speaker
 - Car seat for the car seat event held at Blake Hollenbeck s in partnership with United Lifestyles
 - Infant CPR/First Aid 64 participants
 - October is Safe Sleep month and provided play yards and safe sleep sacks to 6 different Montcalm County Organizations
 - Protect yourself classes at elementary schools in Montcalm
 - October 16th hosting a internet safety training.

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

- What other information do you want to know about regarding the Frist 10 initiative in Montcalm County?
 - Excited to hear how the conference event goes with launching this

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- Thank you for sharing, I'd love posters to hang in our office and emergency shelter
- What is the end goal with the initiative? It sounds a lot like Talking is Teaching, so does the Frist 10 just open the door to more funding?
- Get the word/information to community partners and agencies. Have other counties used this before, if yes, what successes have they had?
- How can we help community partners to promote this? Other than just sharing information
- What supports do you need to continue to be engaged in the Talking is Teaching campaign?
 - Just continue discussion
 - I'll connect with you about getting some framed posters for my empty office walls
 - Posters for body safety for young children/families
 - Season posters
 - Please contact us for getting started at MMDHD mschultz@mmdhd.org and dkent@mmdhd.org
- Highlight presentation ideas
 - We Care for Kids
 - DHHS Services
- Other comments
 - Thank you
 - Dark chocolate dessert, soup/chili, coffee
 - Taco Soup

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:15 pm was made by Drew Train and supported by Monique Cooper

XIII. Next Meeting Date

- December 6, 2023 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

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MAISD Early On LICC Report: December 6, 2023

REFER today for any infant or toddler you have concerns about! ANYONE can refer.

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

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	18
October	17	24	19	32	24	19	27
November	12	17	12	11	34	33	17*
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 November 27, 2023

As of November 27, 2023 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 26 Children in Referral
- 132 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 36 of 132 (27.3%) students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) audit:

Montcalm Area ISD was one of 4 ISDs chosen to be audited by the state this fall. They looked specifically at Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) implementation. We had our closing meeting on November 20 and will receive the final written report soon.

Professional Development Focus:

We continue to work on the following 3 areas for Professional Development:

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

Outreach and Early On Video: [Early On Video Link](#)

Cindy presented to Leadership Montcalm about early childhood opportunities in Montcalm county. We have used our new video to share with local districts at all levels and also in social media campaigns.

Playgroups:

Playgroups are up and running. See schedule attached below. We’ve had great attendance this fall!

Early On Talking is Teaching:

We have an Early On Talking Is Teaching poster that we have been using for promotions. We are including it in the initial parent packets and providers are discussing when a child qualifies for services.



Check us out on Social Media



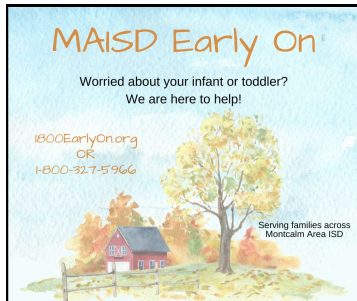
Montcalm Co. Playgroup

Private group



MAISD Early On

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



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

SUPPORT FOR
CHILDREN WITH DELAYS

SUPPORT
FOR
DEVELOPMENT

LET'S TALK
ABOUT
EARLY ON

HOME
&
COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

COACHING

GO TEAM!

TALKINGISTEACHING.ORG



TALKING IS
TEACHING.

TALK
READ
SING

