



Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

Agenda

2/7/24

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. February Agenda Approval:
- V. December Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Maria Montessori: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3_-4XUo5r8
- VII. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VIII. New Business:
 - A. MAISD Bond Proposal Information: Kyle Hamlin
 - B. KDL Programs for the Blind & Hearing Impaired: Shelley Roossien
 - C. Inclusive Child Care Resource: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV-JCXJ63wM&ab_channel=InnovativeProjects
- IX. 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
- X. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney
 - B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train
 - C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman
 - D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper
- XI. Roundtable Updates
- XII. Principals of Collaboration Survey
- XIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date April 3, 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



Montcalm County

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Minutes

12/6/23

I. Call to order:

Sue Kearney called the meeting to order at 11:38 am

II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Stephanie Barone, Abbey Blondin, Janel Boulis, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Emily Dowd, Jessica Higley, Liz Ingraham, Sue Kearney, Dena Kent, Flora Ma, Karen Marsman, Anita McIntyre, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Jennifer Peterman, Nancy Secor, Roger Thelen, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Joanna Urban, Alison Stout, Rebecca Kozlow

III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

IV. December Agenda Approval:

Change to the agenda, under new business speaker Shelley Roossien is not able to attend this meeting, due to a sick child and will be present at the February meeting. A motion was made by Nancy Secor and supported by Janel Boulis to approve the agenda of the December 6 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

V. October Meeting Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Abbey Blondin and supported by Roger Thelen to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.

VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

2022-2023 Preschool applications are being processed and widely distributed! We have openings in Carson City Crystal and Tri County! Enrolling over income and income eligible! **First 10 Grant through the State of MI:** 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. We attended the parent teacher conferences to promote our Montcalm Top 10 book list initiative. More to come on this as we are distributing the top ten books, and bookmarks to all preschool classrooms, kindergarten classrooms, and libraries Central Montcalm School District. We also attempted to get families sign up for the Montcalm Basics. This is a free service available to 0-3 families. Similar to Text 4 Babies which IS operating so we will not be expanding this as we are trying to avoid duplication of efforts.

PREK for All Task Force: Final recommendations for the PREK for ALL Roadmap were completed at the end of November. Inclusion Collective Action plan initiatives, removing income eligibility barriers, bringing back funding for the facilities grant work to increase licensable space, and providing a more streamlined system to support teacher entry into the field are just some of the key elements of the Road Map! Plan release target date is January 15th !

MI LEAP: Michelle Richards has been named director of MiLEAP. We are being told that nothing will change at this point as far as the way of doing business. More to come for sure but our plan has been submitted along with the budget and we are awaiting approval.

On October 2nd Dr Jill Griffen from MDE Office of Special Populations, visited the MAISD to also lift up needs in rural communities. This helped to support in the Road map

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the flexibility needed to address rural and urban barriers to preschool for families. 5 day option is not going away! We are still waiting for the Math Essentials RFP.

Montcalm Human Service Coalition: Community survey to help to drive the MHSC strategic plan, to help this group move to action. The plan will also help leadership throughout the county to collaborate together around priorities to drive change for families. Digital copy and paper copy are available to help to get as much participation as possible. Once we have the information we will be sharing and are asking for you all to participate AND share far and wide!

Communication Plan: Please review if you have not and send us any suggestions & Commentary

35i (Literacy Hub regional): This year our project with the Literacy Hub was centered around supporting Early On and the professional learning and implementation of the 0-3 Literacy Essentials with their families. Intentional support was provided with grant monies to Early On staff. We purchased 5 different books and provided them to Early On staff to be utilized with their Literacy Essentials work with families. Early On staff were trained as trainers in 0-3 Literacy Essentials and have been doing professional learning with their team. New monies from the state of MI have been allocated and this intuitive in being fully reworked. Not sure if it will include mini grant projects through the GSCs but lots of advocacy to keep aspects to support GSC literacy work is occurring. Merging Literacy Hub monies and Family engagement Hub monies together by region but after staffing requirements are met there is very little Family engagement money to actually do any activities or initiatives.

Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank you!

- Central Montcalm administration, kindergarten teachers, and preschool teachers for their partnership in First 10 grant!
- Family Liaisons for their continued commitment to the plan of work and in keeping MCGSC values, vision, and mission at the forefront of our county work. Teamwork is appreciated.

VII. New Business:

A. Highlight Presentation: Special Education Mediation: Rebecca Kozlow

PowerPoint attached.

B. [PREK for All Update](#)

Preschool For All is providing high quality, accessible early childhood education throughout Multnomah County. For more than 700 families, that means freedom and flexibility. By 2030, the program is expected to provide universal preschool for anyone who's interested.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train

Currently 1,460 children are enrolled.

EightCAP provided a sponsorship to enroll all their registered 3 year olds.

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

Updated attached.

[Early On Promotional Video](#)

C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper

Creating the PLR's for the Top 10 books and having them out in the community and available to GSRP teachers.

IX. Committee Reports:

A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney

Reviewed 32P and 32P6 budget allocations, and First 10 work

B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train

Working on getting the Frist 10 books out in the community and gearing up for winter Storytime event at the Flat River Community Library on February 2nd.

C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman

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Getting things set for the tooth fairy event that is February 10th at Sheridan Community Center.

D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper

Family Coalition is December 11th at the MACC, with special guest Santa Claus, will be doing pictures, crafts, games and dinner provide for the whole family.

X. Roundtable Updates

- Karen Marsman shared that Alpha Family Services is having Cocoa with Santa on Tuesday, December 12th December 19th and kids can write letters to Santa.
- Dena Kent- MMDHD is now offering sensory friendly vaccine appointments.
- Emily Dowd- Corewell health has Narcan kids available free of charge.
 - Did an employee engagement event in November and employees donated over 1,00 craft items to be donated to RAVE.
- 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
- Lillie McNeil- Western Regional Resource Center is providing support to license programs that want to become licensed
- Janel Boulis- Early Head Start has slots available
- Anita McIntyre- Request for more playgroups in the area.
- Abbey Blondin- RAVE emergency shelter is full, there is currently a waitlist
- Sue Kearney- We Care for Kids Protect yourself classes at elementary schools in Montcalm for 1st graders start in January
 - Strengthening families through child abuse prevention month is in April
 - Family Fun Day is May 18th

XI. Principals of Collaboration Survey

- Feedback and/or comments on Special Education Mediation
 - Great information and presentation
 - Great resources, will be sharing with my networks
 - Very professional and helpful presentation
 - Great community resource
- Has your agency connected with 211 to update your information? If not please provide a contact so that someone can reach out to support
 - RAVE
 - Early ON
- Highlight presentation ideas
 - Trauma informed care/information on what the county is working on
 - ISD's approach to school safety for kids
 - IM SAFE
 - Talking is Teaching so community partners can see the benefit and how it is used
- Other comments
 - Thank you
 - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 1:05 pm was made by Drew Train and supported by Monique Cooper

XIII. Next Meeting Date

- February 7, 2024 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location 621 New St Stanton MI 48888

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MAISD Early On LICC Report: February 7, 2024

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	21
December	8	17	21	18	14	20	18
January	15	22	35	30	32	26	31*
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 January 30, 2024

As of January 30, 2024 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 30 Children in Referral
- 135 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 34 of 135 (25.9%) students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

Michigan Department of Education (MDE) audit:

The audit is completed and we received one corrective action plan in mid December. The action is around clerical changes related to our paperwork system. We have submitted the plan to make a small system change and the plan has been accepted. Overall, we received a great review.

Early On Mandated Reporter Training

Early On staff will receive a refresher Mandated Reporter Training in February.

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

The video is being shown in the lobby of DHHS and Montcalm Care network.

Playgroups:

We had a slow January with all the snow days. Each group met at least once. Hoping for a better February! See schedule attached below.



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

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





~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 style="text-align: center;">September - Down on the Farm October - Very Busy Spider November - I Hear a Pickle December -Belly Breathe</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">January -Snowmen at Night February – Grumpy Pants March - Good Night Gorilla April – The Caring Me I want to Be May – Freight Train</p>	
<p style="text-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, 23th February – 6th, 13th, 20th March – 5th, 12th, 19th April – 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th May – 7th, 14th</p>		<p style="text-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 style="text-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 style="text-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, 22th 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>	



2023-2024

- FREE DINNER AND BOOKS**
- FREE LICENSED CHILDCARE**
- GAS CARD PER FAMILY**

MEET OTHER PARENTS & LEARN ABOUT TOPICS YOU CHOOSE!

FAMILY COALITION MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, January 8th Developmental Milestones with Children; Fostering Growth

Monday, February 12th Sibling Rivalry

Monday, March 11th Parenting Awareness Special Event

Monday, April 8th Establishing Rules and Boundaries for your Home

Monday, May 13th Dinner Ideas

Monday, June 10th Carson City Park/Splash Pad

Please Come Join Us!

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

**Place: Montcalm Area Career Center
1550 W Sidney Road, Sidney, MI 48885**

RSVP or Questions: mcooper@maisd.com or 616-225-6178



Please join us for our annual FREE event

Tooth Fairy Event

FREE donuts, books, crafts, games, story time, face painting, and dental supplies for children.

When: Saturday, February 10

Time: 1pm - 3pm

Where: Sheridan Community Center

205 St Clair Street

Sheridan MI 48884



SAVE THE DATE

Montcalm County Community Baby Shower

Who is Invited

If you are pregnant, have a newborn under 6 months old, and live in Montcalm County, this event is for you!

What

Receive a gift bag of items perfect for mom and baby. Books, a sleep sack, a bib, a blanket, a bath towel, diapers, wipes, parenting resources, pack-n-play, and more! Limited Supply!

When: Saturday, May 18th, 2024

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Where: The MACC, 1550 W Sidney Rd, Sidney, 48885

Registration Information Coming Soon!



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

COMMUNITY SURVEY

<https://bit.ly/MHSCyourvoicematters>

or



Take the survey (est. 3-4 minutes)

MONTCALM HUMAN SERVICE COALITION

'A community where everyone thrives'



2024-2025 COLLABORATIVE PRESCHOOL APPLICATION (GRATIOT, IONIA, ISABELLA & MONTCALM COUNTIES)



Child Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex: Male Female
 Parent/Guardian 1 _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____
 Parent/Guardian 2 _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____
 County: _____ School District in which you live: _____ E-Mail Address: _____
 Address: _____

(Street) (P.O. Box) (City) (Zip)

Phone 1 _____ Cell Home Mess Phone 2 _____ Cell Home Mess TEXT Messages Yes No

Please identify the closest crossroads near your home: _____

Day Care Address (if different): _____

Has your child attended any Early Childhood Programs?: Yes No if yes, where _____

Does your child have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan)?: Yes No

My signature below authorizes any Intermediate School District and/or local education agency to share my child's educational records with the Collaborative Recruitment Committee. Yes No

Was your child ever involved with *Early On*?: Yes No

Does your child have an up to date well child exam?: Yes No

Are your child's immunizations up to date? Yes No

Is this child in a foster care placement?: Yes No

Are you homeless (lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence)? Yes No

Additional information we should know about your child (parental/behavioral/developmental concerns or health issues, etc.): _____

Family Income Information: Eligibility is based on child's age, family income, child's need, and available openings.

	Total Gross Income	Time Period of Total Income		Source of Income (check all that apply)		
Parent 1	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support	<input type="checkbox"/> DHHS Financial
		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> SSI	<input type="checkbox"/> SSD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Parent 2	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Bi-weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Working	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Support	<input type="checkbox"/> DHHS Financial
		<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> SSI	<input type="checkbox"/> SSD	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Child lives with? Mother Father Other _____

Does your family receive any of the following? SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) WIC

Any income changes in the last 6-12 months (i.e. unemployment, wage increase/decrease, recently started working)? _____

This is an application **only** and **does not** guarantee your child will be enrolled into a program. The application will be reviewed to determine which program(s) for which your child appears most eligible. **Documentation required. Not all program options are available in all areas.** Should you be interested in a particular program, please indicate that program on the following line so parent preference may be considered: _____. Local protocol will be followed regarding specific program placement.

I authorize the release of this information and educational records to be shared between the EightCAP, Inc. Collaborative Recruitment Committee, the Great Start Readiness Preschool Program, local school districts, local Intermediate School District and the Head Start Program in the county in which I reside. My signature verifies that the above information is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to: Preschool Registration, 5827 Orleans Rd Orleans, MI 48865
 Fax: **616-754-9310** E-mail: **deniseb@8cap.org** Apply online: **www.8cap.org** or your local school district

For more information, call 1-866-754-9315, option 2 or Michigan Relay Center: 1-800-649-3777 (Voice & TDD)
 Gratiot and Isabella County apply online at: **www.michiganpreschool.org**

How did you hear about your local preschool program: Advertisement Community Organization Event
 Friend/Family Member Older Children Attended School EightCAP, Inc. Website/Staff Other: _____

State & Federally funded programs will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.
 These materials were funded in whole or in part under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____ Inc : _____ Age (as of 9-1) _____

CHILD'S NAME _____ COUNTY _____

PARENT'S NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Are you: single married divorced widowed separated
2. How much schooling have you completed?
 6th 7th - 8th grade 9th - 10th grade 11th grade 12th grade GED College
3. Were you under 20 years old when your first child was born?: yes no
4. Have you lived in more than 2 homes in the past three (3) years?: yes no
5. Has anyone in your home ever been a victim of physical/domestic/sexual abuse or neglect?: yes no
6. Do you reside in a high-risk neighborhood (high poverty, crime or limited access to critical resources)?: yes no
7. Have your children suffered a parental loss due to death, divorce, incarceration, military service or absence?: yes no
8. Has your child ever been expelled from a child care center?: yes no
9. Has your child ever been exposed to a toxic substance?: yes no If yes, what substance _____
10. In the past 2 years have you or members of your household:
Experienced difficulty in obtaining medical services? yes no
Used the emergency room? yes no
Received a shut-off notice from a utility company? yes no
Been homeless? yes no
Ever been without heat? yes no
Used a food bank or pantry? yes no
11. How many people are living in your home? (including yourself and the child you are applying for): _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship to applicant child: _____
12. Primary Language spoken in your home?: English Spanish Other _____
13. What is the Primary Language spoken by your child(ren)?: English Spanish Other _____

The information gathered is used to help develop a Community Needs Assessment and will assist in determining the eligibility of your child in a preschool program. No personal information will ever be shared outside of the Joint Recruitment and Enrollment process.

Head Start, Great Start Readiness Program, and other Preschool Opportunities

Serving Montcalm, Ionia, Gratiot & Isabella Counties

FREE TO FAMILIES THAT QUALIFY!

Pre-Reading & Pre-Math Activities

Art Opportunities

Music & Rhyming Activities

Exercise & Outdoor Play

Tooth brushing/Health Instruction

Nutritious Meals & Snacks

Special Education Services

Parent Engagement &

Volunteering Opportunities

Transportation (in most areas)