



## Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

### Agenda

4/3/24

11:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting in Person at MAISD 621 New St Stanton

- I. Call to order:
- II. Welcome & Introductions:
- III. Public Comment:
- IV. April Agenda Approval:
- V. February Meeting Minutes Approval:
- VI. Director Report: Cari O'Connor
- VII. New Business:
  - A. Highlight Presentation: Resources:
    - Helping Hands Dula Resource: Taylor Davis
    - Samaritan Health Care
- 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

**Next Meeting Date June 5th, 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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)



## Montcalm County

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative

### Minutes

2/7/24

#### I. Call to order:

Sue Kearney called the meeting to order at 11:36 am

#### II. Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Stephanie Barone, Abbey Blondin, Janel Boulis, Elizabeth Buskirk, Monique Cooper, Cindy DeYoung, Samantha Ford, Jessica Higley, Sue Kearney, Wendy King, Karen Marsman, Lillie McNeil, Cari O'Connor, Alison Stout, Drew Train, Mindy Train, Joanna Urban, Michelle York, Michelle Roossien

#### III. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

#### IV. February Agenda Approval:

*A motion was made by Karen Marsman and supported by Michelle York to approve the agenda of the February 7, 2024, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.*

#### V. December Meeting Minutes Approval:

*A motion was made by Janel Boulis and supported by Lillie McNeil to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2023, meeting as presented, Motion was carried.*

#### VI. Maria Montessori: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3-4XUo5r8>

“Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning.” -Maria Montessori

#### VII. Director Report: Cari O'Connor

**2022-2023 Preschool applications** are being processed as openings occur. We will be starting the enrollment process for 2024-2025 on or near March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The Joint recruitment application has gone live and is also available in hard copy! We appreciate your continued support toward getting as many of our little ones into preschool programming!

**First 10 Grant** through the State of MI has wrapped up however we will continue to have Montcalm Basics available to support families and have proved the top 10 books materials to all of our interested preschools, childcare providers in Central Montcalm as well as all of the local libraries in Montcalm County! Budget amendment to move money from The Basics line item to accommodate more library and Head Start Top 10 book project.

**PREK for All Task Force:** Final recommendations and for the PREK for ALL Roadmap document as well as the detailed brief were completed. 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! Ste of State announcement: not three years away, Governor would like to start process in 2024-2025. Priority enrollment process (our Joint Recruitment process) will ensure that most at risk have priority enrollment, but ALL have the opportunity regardless of income. **See PREK for All SLIDESHOW Data and Introduction**

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

**MCGSC Parent Board members are needed. Please contact Cari Directly if you have families that you work with that would be interested.**

*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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)

**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. See table tents. Please let us know asap if you have other needs to support this survey. **WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO US specifically?** We have a MCGSC Strategic Plan update coming up and if we can get a significant number of birth to five families participating in THIS survey we can use this data to build our updated plan! See the table tent to take survey if you have not done so yet! **PLEASE and THANK YOU!**

**Kindergarten Enrollment 5 year data:** See Report

**Two opportunities** to be looking for in the MCGSC umbrella :

- Early Childhood Apprenticeship grant RFP submission in partnership with Wayne RESA & Marquette RESA
- Co training with Early Childhood Partners: 0-3 focus

**Celebrations, Shout Outs, & Thank you!**

- Central Montcalm preschool teachers for their partnership and leadership in First 10 grant! Also, the CM Bucket Fillers have been great partners in the First 10 work as well!

## **VIII. New Business:**

### **A. MAISD Bond Proposal Information: Penny Dora**

- What is Montcalm Area ISD asking for in the 2024 bond proposal?
  - Montcalm Area ISD is asking voters to authorize \$36.8 million to fund improvements to four of the district's buildings, including:
    - A significant addition and renovation to the Seiter Education Center. This building provides services for students with moderate or severe disabilities.
    - Renovations and improvements to the Montcalm Area Career Center – infrastructure improvements that support career and technical education for 12 CTE programs offered for high school students attending Montcalm County schools.
    - Basic improvements in roofing, heating, and electrical systems at Montcalm Transition Center (MTC) and Hamler Administration Building
- Bond Amount - This request is for \$36.8 million.
- Millage Increase - This will be an increase of 0.65 mills for a 20-year term.
- Eligible Voters - This bond proposal will be presented to all registered voters residing in the service area of Montcalm Area ISD. Our service area includes the school districts of Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, Tri County, and Vestaburg. All seven of our school districts encompass parts of bordering counties in their school boundaries.

### **B. KDL Programs for the Blind & Hearing Impaired: Shelley Roossien**

See attached PowerPoint

### **C. Inclusive Child Care Resource: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV-JCXJ63wM&ab\\_channel=InnovativeProjects](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV-JCXJ63wM&ab_channel=InnovativeProjects)**

## **IX. Old Business:**

### **A. Dolly Parton Imagination Library update: Mindy Train**

1,600 children enrolled

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

See attached report

### **C. Talking is Teaching Update: Monique Cooper**

Continuing to do posters when requested and creating posters and activity calendars for the books that we pass out throughout the community

## **X. Committee Reports:**

### **A. Executive & Communication: Sue Kearney**

Did not meeting in January, no report to share

### **B. Early Care & Education: Mindy Train**

Hosted a Snowy Day library event at the Flat River Community Library, provided a craft, books and resources, 22 children were present and 12 families.

### **C. Family Wellness: Karen Marsman**

Gearing up for the Tooth Fairy Event on February 10<sup>th</sup> and Community Baby Shower on May 18<sup>th</sup>

*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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)

#### **D. Family Leadership: Monique Cooper**

Family Coalition meeting is February 12<sup>th</sup>, topic will be Sibling Rivalry

#### **XI. Roundtable Updates**

- Abbey Blondin - RAVE emergency shelter is full, there is currently a waitlist
  - Teen dating violence awareness month is February
  - Domestic violence needs, call the hotline 24/7
- Lillie McNeil - Western Regional Resource Center is providing support to license programs that want to become licensed
- Jessica Higley – DHHS has positions available
- Wendy King – Sarmatian Health provides services in substance abuse, behavioral health, and pain health services
- Allison Stout – MMDHD is now offering sensory friendly vaccine appointments.
- Samantha Ford – UW provided a poverty stimulation at the Belding High School, crash course on what it is like being an ALICE family.
  - Period Project Gala - raising awareness about the challenges faced by young ladies and women, who cannot afford period products and may miss school or work. February 22nd from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, help pack period bags.
- Karen Marsman – Easter Basket Starter Kit Drive thru on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Kit will include grass, eggs, dye
- Sue Kearney- We Care for Kids Protect yourself classes at elementary schools in Montcalm for 1<sup>st</sup> graders started in January
  - Strengthening families through child abuse prevention month is in April
  - Family Fun Day is May 18<sup>th</sup>

#### **XII. Principals of Collaboration Survey**

- Any questions for MAISD leadership about the bond proposal
  - Very informative
  - Hoping for positive results
- Feendback on KDL programs for the Blind and Hearing Impaired
  - Very interesting, nice to know that it covers multiple counties
  - Great resource
  - Great information/eye opening
- Lunch ideas
  - Pasta or salad
  - Sandwich bar

#### **XIII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 pm

Minutes recorded by Mindy Train

**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](http://www.GreatStartMontcalm.org)



## MAISD Early On LICC Report: April 3, 2024

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

**Go to: [www.1800Earlyon.org](http://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	33
February	29	35	34	23	28	23	32
March	26	26	25	25	38	29	22*
April	31	34	14	31	26	28	
May	17	32	10	22	24	27	
June	24	25	16	24	33	23	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>302</b>	

\*As of March 25, 2024

As of March 25, 2024 Montcalm Area ISD Early On has:

- 21 Children in Referral
- 136 Children enrolled and receiving Early On Services.
- 30 of 136 (22%) students receiving Early On are ALSO receiving special education services (Michigan Mandated Special Education MMSE).

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

We will be doing a push to reach out to agencies and physician offices when the new Early On logo and promotional materials come out in the fall of 2024.

**Professional Development:**

- We are finishing up our book study about Infant/Toddler feeding and MAISA's Early Literacy Essentials. In March we completed training on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) educational eligibility determination using START training.
- Our focus on data to monitor progress continues with our first data dive scheduled for May.
- Our team completed Mandated Reporter Training with DHHS staff and have handed out lock boxes/bags to families who have requested them.

**Playgroups:**

We had consistent programming with good attendance in February and March! We have our end of the year celebration planned and are planning for our summer groups. The summer schedule will be out soon!

**GooseChase:**

We have partnered with the GSC family Liaison to support a literacy based Goose Chase for Early On families. We have had good interest so far.



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](mailto:ebuskirk@maisd.com)
- Interested in having an Early On staff member come speak to your organization? Email Cindy DeYoung at [cdeyoung@maisd.com](mailto: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.

<b>Book of the Month</b>			
<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><b>Tri County Middle School</b>            21350 Kendaville Rd Howard City, MI 49329  <b>Tuesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am</b></p>		<p><b>Montabella Elementary</b>            1456 North County Line Rd Blanchard, MI 49310  <b>Wednesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am</b></p>	
<p>September - 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>            October - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>            November - 7<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>            December - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>            January - 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>            February - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>            March - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>            April - 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>            May - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup></p>		<p>September - 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>            October - 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>            November - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>            December - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>            January - 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>            February - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>            March - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>            April - 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>            May - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup></p>	
<p><b>Montcalm Area Career Center</b>            1550 W Sidney Rd Sidney, MI 48885  <b>Wednesday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am</b></p>		<p><b>Mt Calvary Church</b>            908 W Oak St Greenville, MI 48838  <b>Thursday Morning 9:30am – 11:00am</b></p>	
<p>September - 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>            October - 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>            November - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>            December - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>            January - 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>            February - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>            March - 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>            April - 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>            May - 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup></p>		<p>September - 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>            October - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>            November - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>            December - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>            January - 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>            February - 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>            March - 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>            April - 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>            May - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup></p>	
<p><b>Evening Playgroup at Mt. Calvary Church</b>            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>	