



June 9, 2020

Consortium Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jim Baxter, John Pinter, Ben Thomas, Kent Lauderman, H. R. Jung, Asata McIntosh, Maggie Gibney, Beth Temple, Regina Williams-Preston, Chris Nowak, Humberto Delgado, Sarah Bailey, Kathy Walker, Emily Robinson, Tawana Brown, Margaret Jessop, Sara Maloney, Sharon Burden, Tanisha Mudzimurema, Ashley Williams, Sarah Mak, Joshua Diehl, Donna Pangburn, Love Osunnuga, Allie Sobieski, Kimberly Green Reeves, Terri Zornig, Kim Sims, Courtney Marek, Dalila Huerta, Latonia Newhouse, Melissa Gard, Denise Peters, Christine Pochert Ringle, Velshonna Luckey, Jana Humphreys, Michalen Maternowski, Georges Prosper, Nicole Staton, Brian Mounts, Isaias Solis, Angela Fitch, Maribel Sida, Derrick Patty, Sharon Szymanski, Joshua Long, Brenda Matuszkiewicz, Elisabeth Jackson, Ike Shipman, Colleen Spano, Robin Vida, Stephanie Steward Bridges, Bunmi Okanlami

Welcome: SJC Cares Coordinator Becky Zakowski welcomed attendees and opened the meeting by sharing her thoughts about the recent death of George Floyd, increased awareness of bias and racism in the systems of which we are a part of, and the need to address legitimate concerns driving local and national unrest. SJC Cares will be working toward positive change toward a more just and equitable St. Joseph County community, and member/ attendee input on this topic is welcome.

#MaskupMichiana: Velshonna Luckey led a presentation about #MaskupMichiana. The mission of #MuM is commitment to providing access to quality information and resources to keep Michiana safe, connected, and protected. Community partners include United Way of St. Joseph County, St. Joseph County Health Department, Beacon Community Impact, Real Services, SJC Health Alliance, and SJC Cares. In recognition of the fact that the use of masks by all reduces the spread of Covid-19, mask wearing is encouraged to protect the vulnerable and our loved ones. SJC Cares members, as well as others in our community, are encouraged to be involved through buying masks and hosting a distribution event by June 26, attending or contributing money toward community events (dates coming soon), sharing information about the initiative on social media, sharing recommendations and health department guidelines with others, and sharing the #MuM presentation with others. MaskupMichiana can be followed on Instagram and Facebook.

YMCA of Michiana: Denise Peters spoke about the recent announcement that the YMCA building on Northside Boulevard will not be re-opening. The YMCA is not leaving St. Joseph County and our community, they are intent on forwarding the mission of the Y in new and innovative ways. The YMCA is seeking partners and interested in learning more about how they can help other organizations meet their goals through collaboration; there is an interest in stepping in where there are unmet needs. Potential areas of partnership include stress management, relaxation strategies, corporate wellness, youth development programs in STEM, STEAM, games, family engagement, nutrition education, and camp-type activities. Also, group exercise, fitness, cancer survivor LIVESTRONG fitness class and usage of the Camp Eberhart facility. Please contact Denise if you have ideas or would like to discuss this more: dpeters@ymcagm.org.

Census 2020 Update: The Census is actively hiring employees in St. Joseph County at an hourly rate of \$18.50 and mileage reimbursement at 0.58/ mile. Hours are flexible. Apply online: 2020census.gov/jobs. Census data gathering will continue through October of 2020.

Health Department Update: Robin Vida provided an update regarding Covid-19 and corresponding ways to stay safe. St. Joseph County still requires masks be worn in public places. The state is moving into Phase Four this weekend, with more people returning to work. Very important to maintain social distancing and hygiene guidelines as the virus is still present. Collaborating with #MaskupMichiana to get timely and accurate information in the hands of the public.

SJC Cares Update: Becky Zakowski shared the following: The Outreach Committee is continuing to meet and working on plans for physician outreach, based on input from the parent survey of the youth mental health needs assessment; Planning on a virtual parent café on Monday, June 22 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.; please let Becky know if interested in participating as a Table Host and please help publicize. Have also just purchased Be Strong Families 'More Perfect Union' cards which are organized around parent protective factors and delve into social justice issues. We hope to launch some cafes using these cards soon; let Becky know if you are interested. And SJC Cares Parent Advisory Committee is forming. Two co-leaders have been named and are attending today's meeting; they are Tawana Brown and Nicole Staton. Additional members are being recruited, qualification is to currently being raising youth ages 0-21, grandparents raising children are included. This group will likely meet monthly, and can address issues requested by SJC Cares members and friends; their input will be share with our SOC.

SJC Cares Member Input: The Digital Divide

Attendees joined small group breakout room and were asked to discuss/share examples of where they were seeing people impacted by lack of technology access, ongoing concerns about problems related to lack of tech access, and ideas about non-digital ways to stay connected as social distancing continues as a way of life. The following highlights from the discussions were shared:

- Lack of privacy while in the home can prohibit full participation
- Assessments over the computer can be difficult when people don't do well with technology
- Some people and families are choosing not to participate
- On a positive note, some are sharing more through texting and over a computer screen than they would in a face to face meeting.
- Parental frustration with e-learning; this has even led to reports of abuse stemming from e-learning frustrations
- Many college students are losing out on hands-on experiences
- Free wifi sharing by companies and organizations has been positive
- How to stay connected? Return to 'snail mail' (written cards and letters via the postal system)
- Reported issues with telehealth.
- In addition to lack of access issues, there are also some issues due to digital literacy
- SJCPL has responded by making curbside laptop use available during the shutdown and is planning to open the week of June 15 to allow computer use / provide computer help.
- Many people who became unemployed at the beginning of the pandemic had to eliminate internet, cable services.
- Issues with having multiple family members using wi-fi at the same time due to work and school requirements
- Possible ways to stay connected: in-person activities and group exercising that observe social distancing guidelines

Member Updates

Members shared updates; items that were shared over chat include:

1. Richard Lavnature, CEO of Lavanture Products, has large quantities of masks available for purchase at less-than-retail cost. Email Richard@lavanature.com (shared by PAC co-leader Nicole Staton)
2. Margaret Jessop, PhD is offering a free monthly parenting class via zoom- this month is Tuesday, June 16 at 4:00 p.m. The title is Minimizing Power Struggles and content will be based on attachment theory. Register in advance: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApd-yorD8pHNGalofwNma9WsfqVZt6rSU2>
3. Infancy Onward, a program of Mental Health America of Indiana, is having a virtual infant and early childhood mental health conference August 6 and 7; see attachments for more information. Infancy Onward also provides an Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement. For more information email Sarah Bailey, sbailey@mhai.net
4. Connecting Kids to Coverage has an entirely virtual platform for health insurance enrollment assistance for Hoosier Healthwise (children & pregnant women) and Healthy Indiana (adults) plan. Can also assist with SNAP (food assistance) applications. Contact Kathy Walker: kwalker@indianarha.org
5. Colleen Spano is providing workshops and one on one parenting support for families who have children with disabilities. Several intervention modalities are used, including Triple P Stepping Stones. If you know families who could use support, please share contact info: colleen@sunshinebehavior.com
6. The LGBTQ Center has programs for parents of LGBTQ youth and regular youth programming. Parent programs are offered the 1st and 3rd Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and on the 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m. Youth programming info can be found at www.thelgbtqcenter.org/youthhr@thelgbtqcenter.org
7. Beacon Health System is continuing to offer mobile Covid testing at various locations in the community; check website for updated info. ACE Interface programs are also being offered; contact Georges Prosper, georges.prosper@beaconhealthsystem.org 256-755-1582
8. Donna Pangburn, Parent Specialist, offers parent support and can be reached at donna@pathtoparent.com
9. There is a new group convening dedicated to creating a school/community compact with SBCSC. For more information contact Dalia Huerta: hurta.dalila@gmail.com
10. Mosaic offers a Transgender Resource and Support Group meeting Saturdays from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and Nonbinary/Gender Diverse Community Connection and Peer Support Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Both groups meeting virtually.
11. Asata McIntosh is a senior psychology and art student with Holy Cross and is looking for internship / internship-type experiences working with children and families. If you have opportunities this summer, she can be reached at astamcintosh@gmail.com

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 8:30 a.m. over Zoom