**CGIC Education Team Meeting**

**May 4th,2021@9am**

**Go to Meeting**

Attendance: Angelia Dorsey, Bonanza Partnership Inc; Austin Rojas, United Way; Chiquetta Thompson, Mediation Center; Elsie Smalls, YMCA Healthy Group; Gena Taylor, Greenbrier Children Center; John Ruehl, UNI Mission; Kalessa Edgerson, Greenbrier Children’s Center; Karolina Klinker, Reach out and Read Ga; Kati Cosby, Dept of Early Care and Learning; Kimberly Stoy, Dept of Early Care and Learning; Kristin Boylston, Georgia Southern; Lizann Roberts, CGIC; Rachale LaVoie, Community Outreach Coordinator; Rachel McConathy, CGIC; Rhona Barlow, School Nutrition Coordinator

**Review of Meeting Notes:** No needed changes.

**Early Learning and Quality Related Activities Update:**

**Rachale LaVoie** gave the early learning and quality related activities update. We are actively still working with our programs that are on K. There's about 75, to 79 on caseload and all are going through the process of either QR or BP, which is the one where they are using the video to record themselves, which is very interesting. Some of our providers are trying to figure out the best way that’s going to work for them or they're using the portfolio-based option. At this point, we're still not allowed to go into the programs and give physical TA’s. We are hoping that at some point we'll get an update saying TA’s will be allowed back in sooner rather than later. That may change some of the pieces of how we get TA virtually. We're just plugging away with the programs that we've got on caseload. We're doing well, all things considered, COVID related. Our programs are just plugging along with that piece. We are actively looking for ways to insulate our teacher pipeline. I'm working with great promise partnerships to help, which is a statewide partnership that puts at risk students in high school, to work in industries. This is not necessarily at risk for grades, but perhaps their home situations, like free or reduced lunch, or something along those lines. They can work in industries, while still getting their high school diploma. It’s kind of an extra incentive to provide mentor services. I recently had a meeting with them, to help them with our high schools, but also with our technical college students. I went to talk to with Bill Tompkins about their early childhood education program, and it was exciting.

There were 13 out of 22 students who were interested in coming to work in early childhood programs, which is huge for our AC pipeline, because we struggle to maintain and keep teachers in there. We had an honest conversation about why they're not entering the field, and money seemed to be an issue. We are going to see how we can put together some different ways for our community to help support our programs, and hopefully help bolster the pay. We know pay is an issue one girl, and I quote, “you know, I love this work, I currently work in a program, it's so rewarding, but it's frustrating when I see my friend work at Chick-Fil-A, do a lot less work and make a lot more money”. We want to hear them talk about that, because we want to insulate that pipeline, because early childhood education is our foundation for all of our employees to go back to. That's really kind of what we're working on. I welcome anyone who has ideas or efforts, if you want to share in those, we would love to hear all of that.

**Education Blueprint Update:**

**Lizann Roberts** gave an education blueprint update. The update started with a discussion on the wording for strategy 2.7.

**Gena Taylor** gave an update on Project Safe Place. Many of you have probably seen these diamond shaped signs on buildings throughout the community. That's a project that is a national program and what we do is work with various organizations, school systems, recreation centers, restaurants, Chatham Area Transit, Fire Department, and the police department. We partner with them to provide training to their staff. If a child comes to that site, who might be in some type of danger or at risk of being harmed, can go to one of these sites and the staff at those sites have been trained to conduct an initial assessment. They contact Greenbrier and then we get the child connected to the appropriate resources in the community.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to goal three. The wording of Goal 3 was discussed, the word incentivize was analyzed and it was determined that incentivize would be taken out and promote would be used in its place.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to strategy 3.1. Involvement was taken out and the agreed upon wording for 3.1 was Increased understanding of and diversification of parental engagement, to include assessment of family needs and resources.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to strategy 3.2.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to strategy 3.3. It was determined that parents/guardians would be used

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to strategy 3.4. Expand and maintain cultural diversity, equity and inclusion training and practices was agreed upon.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to strategy 3.5. It was determined that no changes were needed.

**Lizann Roberts** moved the focus to social emotional learning piece. A discussion was had concerning the social emotional piece and whether it was better suited for goal one or goal three. The meeting was brought to a close.

**Partner Highlights**

**Elsie Smalls** gave a highlight: We were recently awarded a CDC grant to work on in COVID-19 and flu to address awareness, access, and vaccine acceptance in our priority population that we currently serve by the reach lamp that we've been serving for several years. The primary focus under this supplemental grant, as I said, was to address awareness access, and vaccine acceptance. In Chatham County, the understanding is that we have a good supply of vaccine, but of course, we are still struggling with certain populations accepting the vaccine. The intent of the grant is not to force people to take the vaccine but to create awareness and education and address those issues so that they can make an informed decision that may benefit us all. One of the main components of the grant will be developing, which we're in the process of doing that now, a group of community voices to help us with outreach. These are trusted voices in the community that are already connected in the priority communities that we're serving. They will work with us and partner with us to promote and increase awareness and education. Some of you we may be reaching out to for nominees or referrals of community voices that you think might be helpful in helping us build that trusted voices program.

**Chiquetta Thompson** gave a highlight. On May 15th, we will be having our parent team conflict class for parents and teens to learn skills and resolve issues.

**Kimberly Stoy** gave a highlight. We have a new update where visitors are allowed. So that is very exciting for our facilities, of course, it is up to them. Staple three of grants went out and providers got more than anticipated because of the money that was there, so that is exciting. The power pay, which I think is about the applications that's going to start soon, which is the bonuses for the employees, which is also very exciting for them.

**Gena Taylor** gave a highlight. We are very excited about having been invited to apply for the community transformation grant. We've already had meetings with some of our partners like Rachel from Childcare Resource and Referral as well as Parent University. We've met with Timika with Parent University. I want to say that I believe this coalition and its partners and stakeholders, added strength to our letter of intent. So, we're very excited about the possibility that we will receive the grant for this community.

**Angelia Dorsey** gave a highlight. I'm excited to announce that Summer Bonanza is celebrating 30 years of interrupted programming. So, we have an anniversary this year. The program was started in 1991 by, Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas who is a now retired Chatham County Commissioner, and we have a lot planned for the kids this summer. I'll put the information in the chat, but please help us get the word out. We will be programming again this year virtually and all that information will be on our website. We start June 5. Thank you.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday July 9th @ 9a.m.