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To: Shawn Petri, Superintendent

From: Katie Keith, Director of Early Childhood

Date: June 2026

Subject: Early Childhood Update

COOR Community and Family Connection (formerly Great Start Collaborative)

COOR Community and Family Connection is working in collaboration with Crawford/Roscommon Child Protection Council who received a \$7000 grant from the Michigan Ace Initiative. MIACE works to disseminate knowledge about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma-informed approaches, develop and implement ACE prevention strategies tailored to the needs of Michigan communities, and support the development of a trauma-informed state.

Through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MIACE has facilitated the development of public education campaigns designed to increase community awareness of ACEs and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs).

Locally, COOR and Crawford Roscommon CPC are partnering with the COOR's 31n team to develop a community plan to support this work. At this time, Dr. Sloan has agreed to create short informational snippets about ACEs that will be shared through social media and other communication platforms.

RX KIDS -Roscommon Update: Currently we have \$199,000 cash prescribed to families, 85 families enrolled and 50 families born. At this time Crawford County is seeking financial opportunities to bring RX Kids to their county.

Great Start to Quality

We are currently waiting to receive our RFP in order to continue our work. We were told it should be here by mid to late June. While there may be some changes we don't know yet in the new RFP, we were told we will be using the Practice-Based Coaching model in our work moving forward. The practice-based coaching model focuses on a continuous cycle of the following components: Shared goals and action planning, Focused Observation, and Reflection and Feedback. It all happens with a trusted partnership between a Coach and Early Childhood programs that are participating in the process. We will receive professional development to help us coaches acclimate to provide better, more focused services to our child care providers.

The Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) oversees our work. They asked us to come up with a goal by the end of the fiscal year having to do with the number of programs that are participating with Great Start to Quality. In October, we had a 69% participation rate. Our goal is to reach out to the programs who have never participated and try to get 3 programs per license type to start to participate. (3 family home licensed programs, 3 Group home licensed programs, and 3 Center licensed programs), This would get our percentage to 74% of the 201 licensed programs in our NE region that will have worked with our coaches to attain a quality level and set goals for their programs. Our Resource Center has the highest % of providers with a quality level. We take pride in building and maintaining strong relationships with our child care providers.

The ITLC (Infant Toddler Learning Community) is planning an in-person event for August or September called the ITLC Sensory Super Saturday where we will be providing ideas and recipes to promote safe, sensory play for infants and toddlers. Often childcare providers don't have time to look up new ideas, are unsure about the outcomes, or not interested in the clean up of messy play. This program will provide the ideas and recipes for easy integration and implementation. It will support providers' understanding of the brain building and self-regulation benefits of this type of play for infant and toddler development. And this experience is also designed to allow the providers a hands-on experience to become more comfortable with the materials and overcome any barriers they have through peer discussion and support. Current and past ITLC members are invited to participate.

Our Family Child Care Network (FCCN)- This month we have an exciting event planned for all 25 licensed child care providers from the Alpena, Gaylord and Alcona area. We are coming together for an overnight retreat at the UAW Black Lake Conference Center. We plan to have three sessions throughout Saturday - Contracts and Handbooks workshop, a training on Setting Boundaries (with an art project) and a Q&A with Licensing. Should be informative and fun!

Great Start Readiness Program

Current Enrollment: 206 children enrolled with 162 spots open

End of Year child assessment data: [LAP End of year](#)

Overall growth in every domain. GSRP will continue to use the LAP B-K assessment tool. Staff provided feedback to support next steps for next year to improve data, systems and instruction.

Classroom Assessments: All classroom assessments have been completed for the year. There was growth in almost all classrooms. COOR GSRP staff are analyzing the data and making a professional development plan based on classroom needs.