

**Kent County**  
**Family & Children's**  
**Coordinating Council**



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**DRAFT KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**

February 3, 2004, 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Offices, 775 Ball Avenue, NE

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**Members/alternates present:** Nanaruth Carpenter (and Jim Koetsier), Laura Clifton (for William Forsyth), Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell, Nadine Klein, Marvin McKenzie, Patti Nussbaum (and Sharon Loughridge), Christine Nelson (for Susan Broman), Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger (and Wendy Jackson), Mike Weiler, Jack Greenfield (for Mary Alice Williams), Andrew Zylstra (and Savator Selden-Johnson)

**Members absent (with no alternate present):** Paul Cartwright, Candace Cowling, Beverly Drake, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Paul Ippel, Cathy Raevsky

**Others present:** Bethanie Archbold, Laura Hutzel and Mary Swanson (staff); Betty Blase, Lynn Heemstra, Janay Jorgensen, Jim Madole

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Diana Sieger opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She welcomed Nadien Klein, who was appointed by the Board of Commissioners to fill the business representative position formerly held by Mark Lemoine. She also thanked Betty Blase for allowing the Council to use the new Kent/MSU Extension Offices for meetings. Lynne Ferrell moved to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Carol Paine McGovern supported. Motion carried. There were no changes to the agenda.

**II. 2004 Council Member Appointments**

Ms. Sieger reported that the Board of Commissioners had reappointed Mary Alice Williams and Patti Nussbaum to the two private agency positions that were up for reappointment in 2004, and appointed Nadine Klein to fill the vacant business representative position and Lindsay Wilkinson to fill the vacant consumer advocate position.

**III. Officers and Executive Committee Elections.**

Ms. Sieger presented the slate of electors provided by the Executive Committee for Council action. She reported that the Executive Committee had spent some time discussing the need for rotation of leadership. She stated that the Council's momentum has continued to grow over the last few years, and that the new responsibilities it has been entrusted with, such as participating in the Kent County Prevention Initiative, are indicative of the Council's progress. She stated that it would be very important for the Council to plan for leadership succession for 2005, including a new chair. She invited all Council members to consider potential leaders for the Executive Committee and officer positions for the next year.

Mike Weiler moved that the following slate of electors be appointed to fill the Executive Committee and officer positions: Diana Sieger, Chair; Savator Selden-Johnson, Vice-Chair; Candace Cowling, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Paul Ippel, Patti Nussbaum, Carol Paine McGovern, Mike Weiler. Ms. Paine McGovern supported. Motion carried.

#### **IV. Committee Chair and Membership Appointments**

Ms. Sieger presented the list of her appointments for committee chair and membership for 2004 for Council action. Nanaruth Carpenter moved to approve the committee chair and membership appointments. Lynne Ferrell supported. Motion carried.

Ms. Ferrell asked that a roster be developed of all Council appointed members, alternates, and committee members.

#### **V. Strong Families Safe Children Annual Report**

Ms. Archbold presented the 2003 SF/SC Annual Report, and a summary document that outlines three year trends in numbers served and outcome data. She stated that all services are currently on track and continue to provide good outcomes. Christine Nelson moved to approve the report. Patti Nussbaum supported. Motion carried.

#### **VI. Kent County Prevention Initiative**

##### *A. Recommendations for Substance Abuse Services Expansion*

Ms. Archbold distributed the recommendations from the Prevention Initiative Review Committee for funding CMHSA's proposal for substance abuse services. Per the proposal, CMHSA will provide comprehensive family-focused substance abuse services, including assessment, treatment, family therapy, case management, and follow-up, to 104 families (312 individuals) in which the mother has been identified as the primary substance user.

Judge Carpenter asked what the process would be for families that are involved in the foster care system, as there are already court-appointed case managers for those families. She asked whether the new service would be duplicative. Marvin McKenzie and Nadine Klein seconded the questions about what the process would be for incorporating these new services, and what interaction the proposed Family Engagement Team (FET) workers would have with the foster care workers and the court.

Savator Selden-Johnson reported that it was her understanding that the families would be identified and referred to the FET from multiple avenues, such as schools, Perspective 21! Early Impact, community agencies, etc. The FET would work closely with the existing caseworkers to engage the family, and would go to the community or the client's home if necessary to conduct the assessment and develop a treatment plan.

Jim Madole asked what the criteria would be for families to access the service. There were no CMHSA representatives available to answer the question.

Judge Carpenter asked how long the service would be provided? Ms. Archbold responded that the proposed contract was for three-years, and could be renewed at that time.

Andrew Zylstra stated that FIA had similar concerns about how the case management function would be coordinated for families involved with CPS, or any existing system. He

asked whether real life examples could be provided for how a client would access this service. He expressed concern that CMHSA was not present to answer questions about the proposal.

Mike Weiler asked whether there was a deadline for approval. Ms. Archbold responded that in order to bring the proposal before the Board of Commissioners for a March 1 start date, the proposal would need to be approved by the Council at the current meeting.

Sandra Davis moved to approve the review committee's recommendation, pending information from CMHSA detailing how the coordination of case management would occur for those families already receiving case management services (particularly for families involved in the child welfare system), and outlining specific case examples. Lynne Ferrell support. Motion carried.

Mr. Zylstra stated that County staff should feel empowered to stop the process at any time should these issues not be addressed to their satisfaction.

Sandra Davis suggested that the original review committee be asked to regularly review the services funded by the Prevention Initiative to ensure that their recommendation are being implemented. Mary Swanson suggested that the review function might be better handled by the Council as a whole, because it includes a broader representation. Ms. Sieger stated that while the Council would continue to stay involved, she would also like a smaller review committee to look at the services more in depth. Staff will survey review committee members to assess their interest in serving on an ongoing review committee.

*B. Healthy Start/Bright Beginnings Coordination Plan*

Ms. Archbold asked whether there were any questions or comments about the Healthy Start/Bright Beginnings Plan for Enhanced Cooperation, which was distributed in the agenda packet. The plan was developed at the request of the Council as a requirement for Prevention Initiative funding, and includes outcomes measure for coordination.

Mike Weiler requested some additional information as noted on the summary page – an outline of the two programs' differences and commonalities in such areas as goals, service capacity, staff needs, consumer needs, population served, menu of services available, eligibility requirements, and goals. Staff will follow up on that document.

**VII. Committee Items**

*A. Early Childhood*

The Early Childhood Committee continues to work with the Connections for Children project to develop a plan for early childhood services coordination. The report from the first governance forum is being developed, and the second governance forum is being scheduled for spring.

*B. Elementary School Years*

There were no items to report

*C. Middle & High School Years*

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Jim Madole reported that the committee is working with community mentoring organizations to develop a coordinated response to the Mentor Michigan VISTA RFP. The Mentor Michigan VISTA program will provide a team of 3-5 VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) for each funded community to work on recruiting mentors for children, increasing collaboration, and raising community awareness of mentorship. United Way will likely serve as the fiduciary and central office location for the VISTA.

### *D. Ongoing Family Support*

Sandra Davis provided an overview of the committee's continued efforts with Perspective 21! Early Impact providers to develop a Best Practices process for assessing families for substance abuse and engaging them in seeking treatment. The committee is also looking at adjusting and expanding the training to include training for substance abuse workers in child abuse and neglect issues. The committee is also surveying local colleges about course work requirements on the topic of substance abuse.

## **VIII. Council Updates and Information**

Ms. Archbold reported that the three year plan is under construction, and a draft will be presented to the Council at its next meeting.

## **IX. Other Community Information and Updates**

Lynn Heemstra distributed a document published by her office. The document provides a snapshot of risk factors affecting children in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, and highlights the deterioration of several school buildings. She stated that City Commissioners were debating budget cuts that may impact children and family services, and she invited individuals to contact their commissioners.

Mike Weiler reported that Kent ISD has received some negative press about the organization's budget surplus as the date approaches for the special education millage election. He stated that the articles are misleading, because those funds are mostly restricted to specific uses, and can not be used for special education. He stated that Kent ISD levels 3.8 mills, 60 percent of which goes to the local districts, and the rest is mostly restricted (e.g., for career and technical education). He reported that about 16,600 children in Kent County receive some level of special education, about 15 percent of the population. Per state law, the public schools are required to provide special education services to individuals with special needs from birth through age 24. He stated that special education is underfunded by \$44 million across the County. Grand Rapids Public Schools is the most affected district, as they have a larger population and run all of the center-based special education programs for children from the whole County.

## **X. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35pm. **The next Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council meeting will be April 6, 2003, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at Kent/MSU Cooperative Extension, 775 Ball Avenue, NE.**