

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Committee Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2004, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Kent / MSU Extension Offices

775 Ball Avenue NE

Members/Alternates present: Nanaruth Carpenter; Candace Cowling; Lynne Ferrell; Laura Clifton (for William Forsyth); Sandra Davis for Tom Czerwinski; Laurie Gardner; Debra Holmes-Garrison and Barb Terry; Paul Ippel; Dona Abbott for Marvin Mckenzie; Jim Madole; Patti Nussbaum; Carol Paine-McGovern; Cathy Raevsky; Diana Sieger and Wendy Jackson; Mike Weiler; Jack Greenfield for Mary Alice Williams' Andy Zylstra

Members absent (with no alternate present): Susan Broman; Nadine Klein; Beverly Drake.

Others present: Cathy W. Farnsworth (staff); Janelle Burden; Tony Campbell; Gary Ellens; Janay Jorgensen Brower; Sharon Longhridge; Paul Hamp; Jim Madole; Teresa Neal; Katherine Humphrey; Lynn Heemstra; Susan Ledy; Elizabeth Mills.

I. Welcome and Call to Order 12:10 pm

Diana Sieger called the meeting to order and welcomed the participants. Sandra Davis moved acceptance of the Sept 14, 2004 KCFCCC minutes as presented. Lynn Ferrell seconded. Minutes Accepted. There were modifications to the agenda regarding the wording of Item III – Bylaw Amendment to Bylaw Review.

Diana Sieger welcomed all the guests to the meeting.

II. KCFCCC Appointment Process

Ms. Sieger and Cathy Farnsworth reviewed the process by which interested individuals may become members of the Council. Annually, the KCFCCC has member openings due to the staggered terms of the various positions on the Council. This year there was a private agency opening; a business person opening; and two private funding organization membership openings. Applications were accepted by interested parties through September 30, 2004. The applications received were reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Council; however, the Board of Commissioners is solely responsible for handling the process of appointments. The Commissioners may or may not choose to employ an interview process for the new applicants. Appointments will be made by January 1, 2005. Membership on the KCFCCC is a three (3) year term. After the membership is seated in January, the Executive Committee is chosen from a slate put forward to the Council. This should be completed by February 2005. The KCFCCC By-laws indicate that the Exec. Committee shall be comprised of the KCFCCC Chair and Vice-Chair and (at a minimum), a

public service provider; a private service provider; an individual representing consumer advocates, and; a private funding organization.

III. KCFCCC – Bylaw Review – Diana Sieger

Annually, the Executive Committee must review the KCFCCC By-laws to insure their suitability for present day activities, accomplishments and future goals. This year, the Exec. Committee was looking at the By-laws to see if they provided for methods of communication, and/or action as the Standing Committees grow and succeed in meeting their objectives. Both the Early Childhood Committee and the Middle/High School's Mentoring Collaborative are good examples of committees moving forward. The Executive Committee is looking at ways to improve the methods of communication between the standing committees and the Exec/KCFCCC. Suggestions have been made to encourage Committee Chairpersons attend the Executive Committee meetings. Other processes are being reviewed and a recommendation to the KCFCCC will be made in January 2005.

IV. ELOA II Grant Update – Barb Terry

Barb Terry announced the award of the ELOA II grant from the federal government in the amount of \$943,072 written for the KCFCCC. KCFCCC was one of 40 Community Collaborative's to be awarded funding. Goals of the grant include: a) enhance early childhood literacy; b) develop integration/accreditation for child care centers w/mental health services; c) develop a cultural competency framework for early childhood systems; d) implement early childhood governance & evaluation systems. Barb shared that Rob Riebling of the KISD made a presentation to the Early Childhood Committee telling the group about their Data Warehouse system. Questions were asked regarding how the Data Warehouse system may connect with the Community Research Institute. Barb answered the Data Warehouse was not a publication but a data repository only. Mike Weiler wants to connect Rob Riebling with Donna VanIwaarden of Community Research Institute. Jim Madole echoed support for having community-wide, accessible data and encouraging conversations by and between standing committees on a more regular basis. Diana wondered if the cultural competency piece developed by the ELOA initiative was one that could be shared in the community. Barb thinks the training materials

V. Committee Updates

- Early Childhood Committee- Candace shared information from the State of Michigan's Great Parents/Great Start initiative. They are working on similar things as the KCFCCC Early Childhood Committee and are hoping to have presentation materials ready for the Children's Cabinet and the Governor's State of the State address. Candace states that the idea is to have an Early Childhood governance structure in place in all of Michigan counties to support the activities of helping children become ready for school and for life. It may become a "phased-in" process with 5-7 counties (including Kent) chosen to lead the way. (NOT a pilot process). Candace was asked to explain the membership difference between the Children's Cabinet and the Children's Action Network. She states that the Children's Cabinet is made up a State Department Directors, while the Children's Action Network has a broader representation of human service agency representatives. In addition,

Candace shared that the State is encouraging MPCB's to adopt the new name, Community Collaborative.

- Elementary School Years. Presented by Wendy Jackson. Wendy shared that the Elementary School Years committee is merging or joining forces with the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative to tackle the human services/school integration project. The two committees see a benefit of working together, especially during the data collection & analysis phase. Wendy welcomed Teresa Neal and Lynn Heemstra, stating she is pleased to have the Grand Rapids Public Schools, school principals and law enforcement (others involved with Safe Schools/Healthy Students) at the table working together on this issue. Wendy posed the question of whether or not the addition of committee members to the ESY committee needed to be taken to the Executive Committee. (*Not at this time – committee participation is open to all who have an interest and is managed by each committee*). Wendy shared that a work plan for the committee has been developed and that a facilitated Visioning meeting for the group is scheduled for November 16th to be held at the KISD from 11-2 pm. The committee is in the beginning stages of working with the Community Research Institute in the development of the GIS mapping tool for this project. This is a pictorial or visual tool to see service patterns in the community on where & how children & families presently obtain services. Wendy states that the Elementary School Years name for the committee may be a misnomer, as the committee is concerned beyond the elementary school years with how children access health & human services. Some thought to a name change was encouraged by Diana. In addition, Diana suggested that it may be helpful for the committee to hear from Donna VanIwaarden, from the Community Research Institute directly on what CRI may do for this group and the evaluation process.
- Middle/High School Years. Jim Madole presented. Jim noted the overlaps between the committees and stressed the need for on-going communication between the committees. He also states there is a need for research on the impact of the mentoring programs. He introduced Janelle Burden, to talk about the Mentoring Collaborative.

Janelle shared that she and VISTA worker were able to attend a national mentoring workshop sponsored by the LEARNS Institute with the benefit of funding coming from the Michigan Community Service Commission. Janelle also shared her recent attendance to the Mentor Michigan Summit where the First Gentleman, Dan Mulhurn was the speaker. Highlighted was the development of a statewide directory for mentoring services. Janelle explains that January is National Mentoring Month – look for community activities. She says the Mentor card is going well with some 22 businesses on board. She shared that MSU Extension is looking at getting an Americorp Worker and they will find ways to work collaboratively together. Janelle also highlighted their new cookbook “Mentoring Masterpieces” for sale – a mini fund raiser for the Mentoring Collaborative. She made a presentation of the book in honor of Diana Sieger. Diana inquired about

their knowledge of the Youth Development Network and encouraged Janelle via Fritz from United Way to touch base with the group.

- On Going Family Support presented by Sandra Davis. Sandra shared that the group was winding down as their goals and objectives have been accomplished. Sandra states that she would no longer have the time to chair the committee as the Senior Millage was up for renewal in 2006 and she needed to dedicate her time to that project. The group will meet in December to discuss new strategies for the committee to tackle. Diana thanked her for her great job. Laurie Gardner posed the question to the group, following the talk of a senior millage renewal, of whether the group ever sees support for a children's millage – as children do not have a voice of their own, like adults. Sandra states it's always a question to pose to people, while Andy Zylstra suggests looking for support elsewhere.

VI. Other Updates

- Lynn Heemstra – shared information from a meeting she attended in Washington DC regarding helping families access and utilize services and tax advantages already in place to help people out of poverty – services & such that are presently underutilized. She felt this topic lends itself well to group collaboration and it was suggested to bring the idea to the On-Going Family Support committee. Diana also suggested looking at Delta Strategies for this committee. Lynn also shares some info on the “Youth Net” a web based site made available for people to find out more about after school programming by neighborhood, by name of program, by type of program, etc...Jim Madole is hoping to create a link to the Youth Net – Lynn says this is possible. The website address is www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us.
- Andy Zylstra announced the News Conference celebrating the opening of the Burton Elementary School/FIA collaboration whereby an FIA caseworker will be working from that school like its being done at Harrison Park Elementary. The News Conference is scheduled for November 12th starting at 10 am at the school. Andy's inviting all members to attend.
- Candace Cowling announced that the 2005 Family Resource Guide is scheduled to be available in December 04. They are also working to develop an on-line web based Resource Guide and will be hosting focus groups to research this process.

VII. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm. **The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2004, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Kent County MSU Extension Service Room B, 775 Ball Ave. NE.**

b. C0608-04 - minutes