

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Committee Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2005, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Kent / MSU Extension Offices

775 Ball Avenue NE

Members/Alternates present: Christine Nelson (for Susan Broman), Jim Koetsier (for Judge Patrick Hillary); Candace Cowling; Lynne Ferrell; Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski); Laurie Gardner; Barb Terry; Debra Holmes-Garrison; Paul Ippel; Gary Ellens; Patti Nussbaum; Carol Paine-McGovern; Cathy Raevsky; Mike Weiler; Mary Alice Williams; Andy Zylstra.

Members absent (with no alternate present): Beverly Drake, William Forsyth, Diana Sieger.

Others present: Cathy Weirick (staff); Janay Brower; Jim Madole; Kathy Freberg; Dona Abbot.

I. Welcome and Call to Order 12:10 pm

Cathy Weirick called the meeting to order and facilitated the discussion as Diana Sieger was unable to attend. Introductions were made around the table. Mike Weiler moved the acceptance of January 4, 2005 KCFCCC minutes and today's agenda. Lynn Ferrell seconded. Minutes Accepted.

II. 2005 Slate of Officers for Executive Committee

A slate of individuals was distributed by Cathy Weirick which included the names of people interested in serving on the Executive Committee of the KCFCCC.

There was discussion about the number of individuals required to sit on the Executive Committee. Cathy Weirick shared that there was only a minimum number of people required, not a maximum number specified in the By-Laws. In the most recent history, a total of 8 individuals have made up the Executive Committee.

Also new for 2005, is Diana Sieger's desire to relinquish her role as chairperson of the KCFCCC. This was shared with the members of the KCFCCC prior to their votes being cast or a decision being made on the make-up of the Executive Committee. A different nominee had been put forth for KCFCCC Chairperson and that nominee was Carol Paine McGovern. Carol expressed an interest as serving as chairperson and had accepted the nomination. Due to this interest and acceptance, Diana Sieger requested that she not be considered for chairperson but still considered for a position on the Executive Committee.

The slate of nominees was distributed for discussion and vote. The only new nominee besides the above mentioned chairperson issue, was Gary Ellens of Wedgwood. With

Diana as a general member of the Ex. Committee and the addition of Gary Ellens to the slate, the total number of people interested in being on the Executive Committee was 9.

*Instead of individual votes being turned in and tallied, a motion was put forth by Andy Zylstra and seconded by Jim Koetsier to accept all nominees for the Executive Committee as put forth on the slate and including Carol Paine McGovern as the new chairperson. **The motion passed unanimously.***

III. By-Law Amendments.

The Executive Committee put forth the recommendation to accept and adopt the changes to the KCFCCC By-laws including changing the by-laws to Operational Guidelines and adding language in the body of the Operational Guidelines to reflect additional duties for the Executive Committee and the standing committees in an order to improve communication and action requests. *A motion was made by Mike Weiler to adopt the recommendations and it was seconded by Debra Holmes Garrison. During the discussion, it was suggested by Christine Nelson that language be added to the Executive Committee membership clarifying that membership would not exceed a maximum of 9 persons on the Executive Committee. (A minimum standard is already included). With the revision, the motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Standing Committee Name Changes/Membership rosters

Historical Overview

- Over the course of the past couple of months, both the Early Childhood Committee and the Elementary School Years committee have been contemplating and deciding on name changes for their work group or standing committee. The Early Childhood Committee, due to the implementation of its Early Childhood System Plan, have seen the need to alter the role of their committee to serve both as the early childhood workgroup for the KCFCCC and the up and coming Early Childhood Children's Commission. They've proposed changing their name to the **Children's Partner's Executive Council** and the Memorandum of Understanding that's been proposed defines the roles and responsibilities this committee plays for both.
- In addition, as the Elementary School Years Committee began discussing its goals & objectives for integrating health and human services in the school systems, members felt they may address a broader population of children than just Elementary children and proposed changing their name to reflect a broader focus. They've proposed the name, **School Age Services Committee.**
- With this proposal came the offer to include the Middle/High School Years into their work group but the Middle/High School Years members chose to stay a separate entity because they are specifically focusing on hard to reach, engage and serve youth. They liked the suggestion of the Elementary School Years Committee name change to **Youth Connections Committee.**
- The On-Going Family Support Committee was not proposing any name changes.

Members of the group posed the concern: Does changing the name, change the focus of the groups? Standing committees names reflected a life span focus – and the name changes may alter that focus. Another concern posed was if this change may lead to future changes of focus.

Discussion:

Jim Madole offered that their proposed name reflects their activity – focusing on youths both in and out of the school setting.

Mary Alice Williams felt that the name changes do create a new charge for committees and a suggestion was made to have committees review the Action Plan and the stated charge of each to ensure the committees are pursuing the stated goals.

It was also suggested that during this review, the committees begin thinking about future goals/objectives for a 2007 – 2009 Action plan. Changing names may reflect a natural growth process while committees should remain responsible to accomplishing their stated goals.

The name changes also reflect the pendulum of the growth of the KCFCCC from a Council working as a whole group to one having work groups each charged with goals – and now the accomplishments of those committees needs to be shared/reviewed with the whole group to insure the whole Council is looking at the big picture as a Community Collaborative body.

Laurie Gardner stated that she felt the name Children’s Partners was misleading – suggesting it portrays an image that the standing committee is looking at all children when in fact its focus is on children ages 0-5.

Paul Ippel moved to adopt the name changes. It was supported by Andy Zylstra. The motion passed with one abstention.

Committee Membership

Cathy Weirick presented the rosters for each standing committee requesting the KCFCCC accept the members presented. *Lynn Ferrell moved to support the memberships. This was seconded by Sandra Davis. The motion passed unanimously.*

V. Committee Updates

- **Early Childhood Committee – Children’s Partners Executive Council** . Presented by Barb Terry. Barb distributed the organizational bubble chart and the proposed Memorandum of Understanding as an overview of the proposed governance model for the Early Childhood Children’s Commission. She explains the role of the newly created Early Childhood Children’s Commission as an advocacy and legislative and resource body comprised of movers and shakers in the community who will advocate for an early childhood system of care for children 0-5. Questions were asked about the difference between the Children’s Commission and the KCFCCC. Barb explains that the Children’s Commission is not made up of service providers, but community leaders and it is narrowly focused on early childhood issues. Others pose the issue of potential conflict between the KCFCCC and the Children’s Commission and it was stated that the Executive Committee had some concerns about future issues but that this is an evolving entity and it would be monitored. Paul Ippel, a member of the Executive Committee, sees the role of the Children’s Commission as an entity looking for external resources while the KCFCCC is an entity that looks internally to service provision. Mike Weiler shares his perspective viewing the Children’s Commission as a bully pulpit for advocating for early childhood issues not micro-managing early childhood systems of care. *Candace Cowling presents a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding (with minor revisions). This was seconded by Gary Ellens. The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Elementary School Years – School Age Services Committee**. Committee members are struggling trying to determine what services are currently being offered in the schools and how

schools and human service agencies can work effectively together. National models are being reviewed by staff and members may be attending the National Coalition for Community Schools Conference.

- **Middle/High School Years – Youth Connections.** Jim Madole presented. This committee is reviewing the VISTA grant to insure the mentoring collaborative is meeting its stated goals. The committee is also reviewing committee goals & objectives and will be developing an MOU that defines the relationships and responsibilities of the Mentoring collaborative, the Youth Connections Committee, the VISTA grant fiduciary and the KCFCCC. .
- **On Going Family Support.** No representative present to discuss. Cathy shared that the committee is in the process of reviewing its charge.

VI. Other Updates

- Lynn Heemstra distributed flyer for educational opportunity regarding internet safety for children/parents. She also shared her interest in focusing on after school activities.
- Paul Ippel shared information about a Community Forum on Drug Use by Teens –A follow –up meeting is scheduled for March 22 at the KISD.

VII. The Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 pm.

The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2005, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Kent County MSU Extension Service Room B, 775 Ball Ave. NE.