

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Committee Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2005, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Kent / MSU Extension Offices

775 Ball Avenue NE

Chairperson: Carol Paine McGovern
Present

Staff: Cathy Weirick
Present

Members/Alternates present: Susan Broman, Beverly Drake; Tony Campbell; Elisabeth Mills (for Candace Cowling); Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski); Laurie Gardner; Judge Pat Hillary; Debra Holmes-Garrison; Paul Ippel; Patti Nussbaum; Cathy Raevsky; Diana Sieger; Mike Weiler; Mary Alice Williams; Andy Zylstra.

Members absent (with no alternate present): Gary Ellens; Lynn Ferrell; William Forsyth.

Others present: Janay Brower; Janelle Burden; Wayman Britt; Jack Greenfield; Lynn Heemstra; Wendy Lewis Jackson; Jim Madole; Barb Terry; Kathy Freberg; Paul Melty(?).

I. Welcome and Call to Order. Sandra Davis made a motion to accept the meeting agenda and last month's minutes. It was seconded by Mike Weiler. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Council Updates & Information

- a. The Kent County Board of Commissioners appointed both Mr. Tony Campbell of United Way and Debra Holmes Garrison to hold positions on the KCFCCC. Debra Holmes Garrison moved out of her Private Funding Representative position and replaced Ms. Lindsay Wilkinson who was participating as a consumer advocate on the KCFCCC. Mr. Tony Campbell replaced Debra, as a private funding agency representative. Diana Sieger made a motion to accept these appointments and it was seconded by Patti Nussbaum. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. KCFCCC Historical Overview. Cathy Weirick, staff, presented a historical overview of the KCFCCC, including a brief summary of the activities of each of the standing committees. (attachment.)
- c. The Strong Families/Safe Children Plan was presented to the Council for adoption. As of the April meeting, the funding determination from the State of Michigan had yet to be shared. The SF/SC ad hoc committee was working off of the premise that our funding would remain the same as last year (\$354,227). The SF/SC Ad hoc committee recommended maintaining the same distribution of funding/contracts as FY04/05 with the following breakdown:

Family Support Services	\$222,400	63%
Family Preservation (placement prevention)	\$ 75,865	20%
Family Preservation (reunification services)	\$ 5,085	1%
Adoption Promotion	\$ 45,777	13%
Administration	\$ 10,000	3%
Total	\$354,227	100%

Mary Alice Williams made a motion to adopt the SF/SC FY05/06 Plan as presented. It was seconded by Mike Weiler. The motion passed unanimously.

The SF/SC Ad hoc committee also presented the spending proposal of the SF/SC administration funds, giving \$2,000 to each of the standing committees and the Executive Committee

Finally, the SF/SC ad hoc committee has proposed to conduct a mini-needs assessment pertaining to the adoption promotion & support issue by contracting with an outside firm to host focus group discussions with vested parties prior to re-contracting with for adoption promotion services. In addition, a similar process will be employed for the other topic areas over the course of the next two years. Because the SF/SC Plan is due to the State by the end of June, the mini-assessment process must take place quickly to accommodate an RFP and the contracting process that would follow the assessment. However because both this proposal and the administration funding recommendation has yet to be reviewed and ratified by the Executive Committee, the Chair is asking the Council to grant the decision making powers on these proposals to the Executive Committee who will be meeting the Thursday following today's meeting. Paul Ippel moved to support this recommendation and it was seconded by Mary Alice Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Committee Updates

- a. Children's Partner's Executive Committee – Susan Broman presented. The Early Childhood Children's Commission has been seated. The group has met and began working together on issues. The Children's Commission members did not want any publicity about the group prior to their accomplishing something. In addition, Susan shared an update about the progress of the ELOA grant. The Children's Partner's Committee broke up further to form additional working committees who are working on components of the Plan. One of these subgroups will be sharing a data indicator work book on childhood well being in the next couple of weeks.
- b. School Age Services Committee – Wendy Lewis Jackson presented. Wendy shared her feelings that the committee was/is at a critical crossroad of development – it is the time to decide what agency's are willing to commit to, to help improve the delivery of services for school children & their families. Wendy will share a design template at their next committee meeting with two menus of services to build upon. She shares that there are external issues also pushing the envelope for action. Other community activist and interested parties are trying to build the communities in schools system. In response to all the flurry about this concept around the community, Diana Sieger will be hosting a meeting to bring these parties all to the table to discuss the best model/solution for Kent County. Diana went on to share her experiences from her visit to New York City. A group of foundation leaders along with State department directors traveled to New York City to look at their community school's models – the Harlem Model and the Children's Aid Society model. The Harlem model was spear-headed by one man and is based on a business model. The Children's Aid's Society Community School model was developed

in conjunction with the New York Public School System. Susan Broman, of Steelcase, also went on the trip. She shared that neither of these “models” may be imposed upon our community. Susan felt that the Governor of Michigan may choose a “model” based on what best suits the needs of the Detroit area and not necessarily the rest of the State. Both Susan and Diana feel this is not a way to tackle the community school concept but to build what’s best for our own community based on our knowledge of the area, funding and needs. It’s important to keep in mind the Governor’s motivation – the economic future of the State of Michigan based on the strength of the State’s workforce but to also remember the strengths of Kent County – our ability to work together/collaborate – which may possibly lead to adopted an “adapted” model...

- c. Youth Connections. Jim Madole presented. Jim discussed the development of the Kent County Mentoring Collaborative (KCMC) – a collaborative that resulted from action taken by the Youth Connections committee when researching the needs of at risk youth. The KCMC is an active committee, now focusing on developing a governance structure. In response to that, the Youth Connections committee thought it be wise & useful to implement a Memorandum of Understanding (using the template built by the Children’s Partner’s) between the active parties involved with the KCMC. The active parties include the Youth Connections Committee/KCFCCC, Arbor Circle, United Way and the KCMC itself. A draft of this MOU will go to the Executive Committee this week for review & approval then for full approval by the KCFCCC in June.
- d. On-Going Family Support. Jack Greenfield presented. Jack distributed the latest training flyer for the Phase I & Phase II and also a Phase III course addressing substance abuse identification & intervention & treatment issues. The training is a service developed out of the actions of the committee members – CMHSA provides the trainers; P21 Early Impact workers attend the workshops; other committee members help with the coordination of the project (food service, training facilities, etc.) Phase III was added to the coursework due to the demands from the participants. The committee is also interested in exploring or expanding the circle of communication so that the courts/CPS and service providers may find some common language/understanding of each other’s system constraints/issues/timeframes. The committee remains committed to ensuring that local Universities understand the need for their graduating social work students to have a basic understanding of substance abuse issues.

IV. Public Comment. Lynn Heemstra shared some information on the status of the Early Learning Opportunities activities. The Steering Committee is reviewing data, sustainability and best practices and is inviting input and opening membership up to interested parties. She states, she would be happy to make a presentation to this group about their process/accomplishments/challenges.

V. Miscellaneous. None

VI. The Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 pm.

The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2005, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Kent County MSU Extension Service Room A, 775 Ball Ave. NE.

