

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



---

**KCFCCC Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 7, 2005, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Kent / MSU Extension Offices

775 Ball Avenue NE

---

Chairperson: Carol Paine McGovern  
Present

Staff: Wayman Britt  
Present

**Members/Alternates present:** Susan Broman, Tony Campbell; Candace Cowling; Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski); Jim Koetsier (for Judge Pat Hillary); Debra Holmes-Garrison; Paul Ippel; Patti Nussbaum; Cathy Raevsky; Wendy Lewis Jackson (for Diana Sieger); Sue Toman (for Andy Zylstra).

**Members absent** (with no alternate present): Gary Ellens; Lynn Ferrell; William Forsyth; Beverly Drake; Laurie Gardner; Mike Weiler; Mary Alice Williams.

**Others present:** Janay Brower; Jack Greenfield; Jim Madole; Barb Terry; Ben Emdon; Cheryl Clements.

**I. Welcome and Call to Order.** Cathy Raevsky made a motion to accept the meeting agenda and last month's minutes. It was seconded by Wendy Jackson. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Council Updates & Information**

- a. Youth Connections Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Jim Madole distributed copies of the final draft version of the MOU to those present. He related that all signatories have reviewed the final version and are agreeable. The VISTA grant is a major component of the MOU. United Way is the fiduciary for the grant and Arbor Circle is the primary agency. Debra Holmes-Garrison made a motion to approve the Youth Connections Memorandum of Understanding and it was seconded by Patti Nussbaum. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. *Communiqués* from Lansing. The document discusses linking the Community Collaborative and the Homeless/Housing Continuum of Care. Carol Paine McGovern asked members to review the document with the expectation that it will be discussed at future meetings. Wayman Britt will be attending a meeting at the end of the month to learn more about what Lansing is looking for. Efforts need to be made to bring more funding to the community for this issue. Duplication of service needs to be avoided.
- c. Calendar Distribution – Cathy Weirick was asked to pull together the calendar before leaving for her new position. The calendar will help Council members know what is

happening month-to-month and be aware of timeframes and deadlines. Jim Madole made a comment about the reports the committees need to submit to the Council. Wendy Lewis Jackson asked if there would be staff support available to assist with the reports. Carol and Wayman both confirmed that there would be staff support. The Council will want to review a draft version of each committee's report before submittal of the final document. Carol noted that the report will help keep communication open between the Council and the committees.

- d. Coordinator Position Update – Wayman Britt reviewed the process that is being followed to fill the vacant Coordinator position. Carol Paine-McGovern added that the Executive Committee provided input concerning the vacancy and she would welcome input from Council members. Questions were raised about the new coordinator's responsibilities and if there would be any support staff for the coordinator. Wayman answered that the employee would spend 60-70 percent of their time focusing on the Coordinating Council and that there are no plans to change the support of the position. He reviewed the support that is available to the Coordinator adding that timely responses to requests would be very helpful.

### **III. Committee Updates**

- a. Children's Partner's Executive Committee: Key Indicators – Candace Cowling presented; copies of the report were distributed. Questions keep coming up about how the community is doing in preparing young people (0-5) to succeed in school and in life. The questions are hard to answer and it is hoped that this report provides information, gives perspective and creates even more questions regarding early childhood issues. Barbara Terry and Susan Morales-Barias have done an amazing job pulling together all of the information. Candace added that feedback concerning the report is encouraged. Barbara Terry stated that the report can be used as a reference. Basic needs are also blended into the report because it is difficult to discuss some issues if those needs aren't being met. At the least, the core indices will be updated every year. Susan Broman commented that this is a good document to start discussing early childhood issues and also about collecting relevant data. Candace noted that the efforts that went into issuing this report have already started changing the way data is collected.
- b. School Age Services Committee – Wendy Lewis Jackson stated that the committee is continuing to analyze information, identifying gaps and starting to review data. CRI is collecting data from various County departments. The committee is determined to stick to the time table of making a presentation to the Council in the fall.
- c. Youth Connections – Jim Madole reported that mentoring activities continue and are going very well.
- d. On-Going Family Support. Jack Greenfield presented. There have been a number of successful training opportunities over the last couple of months; the response has been good. We are struggling with what the committee's focus is and what it should be. The committee wants to focus on its priorities but also doesn't want to go off in a different direction than the other committees. He would be willing to attend committee meetings to learn what they are focusing on if that would be agreeable.

**IV. Public Comment.** Cathy Raevsky shared some information on a \$65,000 award the Health Department received from the State to develop a community plan to address the African American infant mortality rate. As more information is received concerning the grant, it will be shared with the Coordinating Council and with the Healthy Kent 2010 Infant Mortality Implementation Team.

Wendy Jackson asked KCFCCC members to save the date for a November 21 meeting sponsored by the Economic Club of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Education Reform Initiative, and Van Andel Institute. The meeting will focus on creating the schools needed for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. The keynote speaker will be Juan Enriquez, author of “As the Future Catches You.” More details will follow as the date nears.

**V. Miscellaneous.** None

**VI. The Meeting Adjourned** at 1:00 pm.

**The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2005, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Kent County MSU Extension Service Room A, 775 Ball Ave. NE.**