

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 1, 2005; 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Kent MSU Extension Offices
775 Ball Avenue NE

Chairperson: Carol Paine-McGovern
Staff: Matthew VanZetten

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Judge Patrick Hillary, Tony Campbell, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell, Laurie Gardner, Paul Ippel, Patti Nussbaum, Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger, Mike Weiler, Jack Greenfield (for Mary Alice Williams), Andy Zylstra

Members Absent: Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Cathy Raevsky

Others Present: Sharon Loughridge, Randy Zylstra, Dona Abbot, Barbara Corcoran, Kathy Freberg, Wayman Britt, Matthew VanZetten, Lynn Heemstra

I. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made. It was noted that Gary Ellens had resigned from the Council due to his leaving Wedgwood. Also, James Madole has resigned as the chair of the Youth Connections Committee due to increased responsibility at St. Johns Home. A motion was made to accept the meeting agenda and the minutes of September 13, 2005 minutes. Judge Hillary supported. **UNANIMOUS**

II. Council Updates & Information

A. Prevention Contracts – Carol Paine-McGovern explained that the Department of Human Services and Child & Family Resource Council Prevention Initiative contracts expire at the end of 2005. Previously, the KCFCCC had forwarded the Action Requests to the Kent County Board of Commissioners to offer these contracts. Because the Council is not meeting again prior to the expiration of the contracts, it was requested that the Council approve the Executive Committee's recommendation for the renewal of these contracts.

A motion was made by Laurie Gardner to have the Executive Committee review the status of the contracts and forward its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for renewal of these contracts. Diana Sieger supported. **UNANIMOUS**

B. Nomination Committee for Executive Committee – Carol Paine-McGovern explained that historically at the November KCFCCC meeting, the Council appointed a Nominating

Committee to create a slate of candidates for the next year's Executive Committee. It was requested that such a Nominating Committee be established for the 2006 Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Susan Broman for Sandra Davis and Judge Hillary to serve as the Nominating Committee. Patti Nussbaum supported. **UNANIMOUS**

- C. Strong Family Safe Children** – Carol Paine-McGovern provided an overview of the Strong Family Safe Children (SFSC) history as it related to the KCFCCC. She explained that earlier this summer DHS-Lansing had established a policy whereby local and zone directors could 'veto' local Community Collaboratives decisions regarding SFSC funding recommendations.

The Executive Committee sent a letter to the State regarding its concern regarding this change. Additionally, representatives of the Executive Committee have met with Andy Zylstra and Sue Toman from Kent DHS to discuss these changes and how they may impact Kent County.

It has been decided locally to continue working together as we previously have, with the understanding that Kent DHS has undergone major funding cuts and is challenged to continue funding programs as it had previously. Further, it has been agreed that an evaluation of current SFSC funded programs needs to occur. The Executive Committee and SFSC Committee are determining how this evaluation will proceed.

Paine-McGovern also explained that the SFSC Adoption Program review has occurred and the Executive Committee will be receiving a report sometime in November.

- D. Safe Haven Grant** – Matthew VanZetten reported that since the last Council meeting, he and Candace Cowling had met with Judge Zemaitis to discuss the Council's involvement in preparing the Safe Haven Grant. Candace has offered to assist in writing the grant and ensuring that an appropriate partner is selected. The County Administrator's Office has agreed to forward the grant request authorization to the Board of Commissioners.
- E. Vision to End Homelessness** – Carol Paine-McGovern reported that the Vision to End Homelessness document is open to public comment at the present time. Further, public forums have been scheduled to receive input. After the public comment period is closed, the document will be revised and then adopted by the Housing Continuum of Care.
- F. KCFCCC Applications** – Carol Paine-McGovern notified the Council that there were a significant number of applications received for Council membership. The Board of Commissioners is reviewing those applications and will appoint new members to begin serving in January.

III. Committee Items

- A. Children's Partners Executive Council** – Susan Broman reported that the State through the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) has issued its Great Start Collaborative Request for Proposal. It is expected that 10 communities will be selected; seven for a full grant of \$150,000 and three for a planning grant of \$50,000. Kent County will be applying for one of the seven \$150,000 grants.

The Kent ISD will be the applicant as required by the ECIC RFP with the funding forwarded to the United Way. Barb Corcoran of the United Way is writing the grant to meet the requirements of the RFP, but utilizing the work that has occurred in the past few years. The

Children's Partners will be meeting next week and technical assistance committee will be established to assist Barb in creating the proposal.

It is desired that the funding will be able to assist in a gaps analysis piece as well as fund a position that was recently vacated due to Barb Terry's resignation for a position in Ohio.

B. School Age Services Committee – Matthew VanZetten reported that the Committee continues to work toward creating common ground regarding how human services could support student achievement.

C. Youth Connections – No report.

D. Ongoing Family Support Committee – Jack Greenfield reported that the Committee has finalized its plan for next year. The Committee recently completed another round of substance abuse training sessions with 60 people attending the two training sessions. Additionally, the Committee is attempting to establish a dialogue with the Court system to discuss whether it may be beneficial to create uniform language regarding 'stages of change' in cases regarding child abuse and neglect.

IV. Public Comment

Carol Paine-McGovern asked if there was public comment. There was none.

V. Miscellaneous

Carol Paine-McGovern noted that the Council will be sending a letter to Barb Terry thanking her for her early childhood work over the past few years and wishing her good luck with her new position.

Carol also noted the passing of Laureen Kennedy, former director of 4C. Her contributions to the community were great and she will be dearly missed.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 10, 2006, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**, at MSU Extension Room B.