

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room B**  
775 Ball Avenue, NE

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Judge Patti Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Paul Ippel, Ron Koehler, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Vicky Seidl, Diana Sieger, Bernard Taylor, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington.

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Kristen Gietzen, Lynn Heemstra, Ron Jimmerson, Kevin Konarska, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Savator Selden-Johnson.

**Guests:** Betsy Boggs, Sally Borghese, Denise Bruns, Judith Faye, Rebekah Fennell, Diane Gibbs, Deanna Klooster, Amy Turner-Thole, Mary Walters.

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Sue Broman opened the meeting with a welcome and had everyone introduce themselves.

The minutes were reviewed and Diana Sieger made a motion to accept the minutes, supported by Patti Warmington – **UNANIMOUS**

**2. network180 Vision Statement**

Paul Ippel began by providing handouts outlining the vision statement. He said it is meant to be a Community Vision Statement, not just for network180. He stated they worked as partners with the Children's System of Care developing the vision. They have also worked with Prevention Coalition, focusing on substance use disorders. They are developing a program called the recovery-oriented system of care, which involves mental illness and substance use disorders. They are currently involved in a program with people with developmental disabilities, called A Life of Engagement.

In looking at these different systems, some principals were identified as good principals for the community to adopt in terms of how services are provided in this community. The plan is to look for other partners in the community to adopt these principals if this group agrees to adopt it.

Paul continued, reviewing the principals as outlined in the handout. He mentioned the Children's System of Care vision has been talked about before, but the attempt now is to make this specific to different populations in the community.

Paul asked the group to share this vision statement, get reactions and determine if this could be a valuable tool for trying to set a framework out of which we, as a community, might make decisions for the future. This Vision Statement is a draft document and open to changes

Diana Sieger asked when the System of Care Grant was established, there were principals attached and agencies were given the opportunity to support it. Diana asked if this was more overarching over all of that. Paul agreed, saying it's crucial to figure out how to manage all of this in the future. He suggested possibly getting together a group of people to talk about how these principals fit together.

Paul asked the group if this vision provided a helpful way of thinking and how do we organize our community to more effectively coordinate system change.

Diana Sieger said she likes the idea this vision offers of braided or integrated funding. She said she thinks things have evolved over the course of the last few years due to the work of the Coordinating Council working in partnership together. The only way to effect real, positive change in our community is in working together and not in silos.

A citizen guest asked if Adult Foster Care workers received follow-up training. Paul Ippel said some is done, but it is an area that needs to be improved.

Jack Greenfield applauded the efforts of network180 in bringing this issue to light.

When asked what the next steps should be Paul was asked if he was looking for a subcommittee or task force to look at this.

Paul said his intention was to share the vision with as many groups as they come in contact with and at some point in time convene a meeting of interested parties. He said they have learned that system change occurs when individuals and groups identify principals of change that need to occur and then the change agents that get invested and there is a process for people to work together to develop strategies and sign on to agreements and move the system forward. He added if you get some people started, it will gain momentum, ownership and direction. He said the other part is that the funders who are putting resources into the community, how are those resources utilized if we are really saying these principles are required in order for the resources to be provided.

Diana Sieger agreed and commented it would be a good to present this to a variety of groups would be wise. Susan Broman asked if Paul would be moving this forward and he said they would be. He asked if there were any suggestions or if there were any specific groups they thought it should be presented to, input and ideas were appreciated. At some point down the road he expected to bring this back to the KCFCCC for endorsement.

### 3. **First Steps Update**

Rebekah Fennell provided an update for First Steps. She began by saying their newest program is Welcome Home Baby. The purpose is to provide families of newborns access to quality services in the community. The second is to be looking at integration and coordination of those services, give families access to the services and having these services accountable for checking back with referrals afterwards.

This program was implemented in St. Mary's in July and Metro Health in September. It is expected to be implemented in Spectrum by the end of the year. Through October 22, there have been 171 Welcome Home Baby nurse visits. There are two touch-points. One is a universal touch point for every first time parent and parents twenty-five and under, which takes place in the hospital. This is where they get consent to pursue schedule of home visit. During that visit there is a maternal child health assessment and some psycho-social assessments that are made by the nurse. Rebekah said there has been a 75% acceptance rate in the hospital so far. By the time the visit is scheduled by the nurse, about 10% are dropping off. There have been 307 referrals to community agencies. The top three are MIHP, Bright Beginnings and Healthy Start. She said about 49% of the target population are first-time parents and those 25 who under are Medicaid-eligible.

Rebekah also shared information regarding CHAP. As a reminder, CHAP is about improving

outcomes for children on Medicaid while trying to reduce costs and creating efficiencies in the system. She said they serve about 15,000 children that are in the Priority Health Program. Rebekah went on to state some of the results from the first year of this program. Based on these results, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation provided a grant to expand the initiative in the next year. First Steps also intends to convene a group to talk about dental services. Continuing with her update, Rebekah said they are working with three other communities: Shiawassee, Kalamazoo and Wayne County to replicate our CHAP program.

Conversations to expand CHAP continue with two other Medicaid Qualified Health Plans – Great Lakes Health Plan and Health Plan of Michigan – and are proceeding slowly.

Family Friend and Neighbor Care is an early learning demonstration project working with relative and aid providers in family homes, most of whom are unlicensed. The program provides in-home coaching of the provider while the children are present. They also help to provide literacy-based toys, games and activities for the children, as well as literacy-based playgroups for the provider and the children.

With this program they are targeting neighborhoods of need. DHS provided the information on where the largest concentration of providers receiving DHS Subsidy and the first year's work was in the 49507 zip code.

The results of the first year were 100% providers showed statistically significant improvement in the interactions with the children; 97% had increased literacy activities offered in their home/ pre and post tests of the children showed statistically significant gains in both language and literacy skills.

Communications work revolves around helping the community understand the importance of Early Childhood. An e-newsletter is now being distributed to an extensive list of people. Outreach has been expanded to faith and school communities. They are also working on advocacy strategies for newly-elected officials.

Rebekkah said they have been working with the Great Start Collaborative and CRI on the community indicators project to measure progress on community vision and to identify and prioritize needs in the community. CRI will establish the indicators by March of 2011. Kindergarten observation is now taking place with 800 children in Kent ISD.

The Great Start Parent Coalition involves 150 parents. Recently they sponsored a conference on healthy lifestyles, working with Healthier Communities. A legislative forum was held for state legislative candidates in Kent County. A diaper drive was held and 20,000 diapers were collected and distributed to local food pantries.

#### **4. Community Family Partnership Update**

Matthew VanZetten provided an update. He said some of the work has been delayed due to the death of Jackie Klinesteker and some staffing changes within network180. He continued there has been some progress on some things.

Two significant issues...one evaluation...working to complete the indicators in the theory of change for the first wave of changes, including moving DHS Early Impact Services with the Community School Initiative and moving medium mental health services from network180 to an open access for Children's Services so that children no longer need to go through the access center to receive mental health services. Matthew said there is now a partnership with GRPS, Wyoming, Godwin, Godfrey Lee, Cedar Springs and Kentwood. The CFP has been in these 18 schools since the beginning of the school year. Matthew said they are seeing referrals. There will be a report in January or February to talk about the status of the program.

The second issue is streamlining how DHS Referrals happen. For years the process has been for Child Protective Services to get involved with an investigation of a prevention service if necessary.

Due to state budget cuts, that doesn't look as though it will be a sustainable model over the next year. In working with DHS, the process now involves opting into the program by the parents. Paying for the program is still being worked out, hoping to get Medicaid resources or other community dollars involved.

Matthew continued they will be meeting soon with network180's core children's team on the indicators and how the data will be measured. The data to be collected will be the number of referrals that have come through DHS or Community Schools and network180, so we can start to measure year over year the changes of accessing services.

Matthew said they are still in the process of hiring a training coordinator to make sure we have a robust training schedule for some of the cultural competency and parent engagement strategies interested in moving forward. That position is still in the interview stages.

Paul Ippel mentioned that Matthew has been very helpful after the death of Jackie Klinesteker. She was key in making this happen. She wrote the grant application and was the culmination of her life's work. She played a pivotal role, connecting the different systems. He continued they have few people who work in children's services, only four. With a grant they have added four more. Paul said he is concerned about some of the holes that have been left with Jackie gone. He asked if anyone sees things not being addressed in a timely fashion to let Paul or Jane Konyndyk know. He added they have just posted Jackie's position, which will be working with Children's services and the Grant.

Sue Broman asked if there were any questions. A citizen guest asked Matthew if there was any tracking of children to DHS, or if there were many to go.

Matthew said we've had community programs in place for a long time with children referred to DHS. Some data from Prevention services shows that families that choose to engage in that process, the outcomes are fairly decent. The challenge is the engagement process itself. He said that is what we are looking at and part of the system change is how to engage with families so it is seen as a strength-based positive assistance as opposed to it being punitive. He said they know there are concerns about children being taken away from families, so are trying to address them.

The guest continued that she was personally concerned about that because she knows of a lot of that happening.

Another citizen guest asked if the referrals come from someone calling in reporting child abuse. Matthew answered that they are from anyone calling in to Child Protective Services from anywhere in the community. The process within CPS is they do some questioning of the caller and there is a screen-out process, or those that are referred to Prevention or those directly to Protective Services for investigation.

She continued asking if a family is called on numerous times and there is not substantiation, does DHS repeatedly offer services. Do they treat each call as if abuse has taken place, even though there are numerous calls never been substantiated? Matthew said he isn't sure of the exact policy, so he can't answer the question.

Candace Cowling said that after a certain number of calls are made, it is put into the SWISS system and does warrant a much closer look.

The citizen continued with her questioning of this being unconstitutional filing of false reports. Sue Broman said there was nobody in attendance from DHS to answer the policy questions.

## 5. **Establishment of a Nominating Committee**

Susan Broman asked for volunteers for the Executive Committee of the KCFCCC. Patti Warmington, Jack Greenfield and Cynthia Gladyness all volunteered. Matthew said they would set

up a meeting.

6. **KCFCCC 2011 Schedule**

Matthew said he would email the 2011 schedule out. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 4, 2011.

7. **Public Comment**

Betsy Boggs announced that Adoptive Family Support Network was awarded a state contract to provide a parent-to-parent program. It will be a pilot project for Kent County for three years, through the state of Michigan. It will allow us to hire six part-time adoptive parent consultants so they can offer more intense, one-on-one support for adoptive parents. She said they are partnering with Bethany, DA Blodgett-St. John's and Catholic Charities to get family referrals. She asked if anyone was working with an adoptive family, feel free to refer them. She added the service will be for families who have adopted from foster care, but for international adoptions as well.

8. **Miscellaneous**

None.

9. **Adjournment**

Candace Cowling made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Ron Koehler, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:** Tuesday, January 4, 2011 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room A & B