

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2012, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room A & B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Wayman Britt, Judge Patti Gardner, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Sylvia Hopson, Paul Ippel, Gary Lemke, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Maureen Noe, Cathy Raevsky, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Justin Swan, Sue Toman (for Candace Cowling), Patti Warmington

Members Absent: Candace Cowling (Sue Toman represented), Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Cynthia Gladyness, Ron Koehler, Kevin Konarska, Vicki Seidl, Bernard Taylor, Matthew VanZetten (Wayman Britt represented).

Guests Dona Abbott, Veneese Chandler, Rebekah Fennell, Jim Talen, Rachel Westmas, Jon Wilmot

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Paul Ippel 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 Sharon Loughridge – **UNANIMOUS**

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Nomination Committee Report

Paul Ippel spoke about the handout listing the nominees for the 2012 Executive Committee and the additional members. Terms begin in April 2012. He mentioned Lynne Ferrell has agreed to be chair of the KCFCCC. Paul then asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Judge Gardner made the motion, seconded by Nancy Marshall. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

4. Collective Impact Update

Paul mentioned Matthew has been doing a lot of work in this area. He said an RFP has been issued, responses were received and a committee met with one applicant. A decision was made to start over with a new RFP. The current plan is to hold interviews on Monday, March 12. He added Matthew is asking the Council to encourage their contacts to respond to the RFP. Paul added the RFP was sent to the education sector, RO Inspiration, Strive, McKenzie, FSG Collaboration Communications and PSC. Paul said if there are others who should have received it, please encourage them to submit a response to it.

When asking members of the interview team to speak to why the RFP was reissued, Diana Sieger said the group that was interviewed, she said they were accomplished, but didn't possess the depth of experience in what we are discussing.

When asked what groups from the West Michigan area have responded, none were, the closest being Chicago. Apparently there are others expected to respond.

Paul added that Steelcase has approved funding for this initiative and there are other foundations that have been asked for funding.

Matthew has been meeting with Head Start and Family Outreach Center to be sure they are involved in this process. He has also met with Great Start and Grand Rapids Public Schools. They are working to identify resources and locations for Early Childhood services. Great Start believes that will be done soon. Matthew is expected to work with United Way and CRI to map this effort out, hoping to avoid recreating work already completed. Matthew is coordinating all of it.

Paul asked that anyone who knows of things going on in the community, to alert Matthew so it can be included in this planning process to avoid duplication of issues.

Matthew is also working with Cathy Raevsky to be sure to be connected with efforts that have been going on with the Health Care Assessment.

Wayman added that he and Matthew met with LINC in regards to Collective Impact. They were asking about the effort and to understand how we would connect the dots. He said he received a note from Mayor Heartwell after his speech from an employee from a local organization in town who is interested in being a part of Collective Impact. Wayman said he and Matthew are getting email from various community entities interested in joining the discussion.

Diana Sieger said a question was posed on the new e-version of the Grand Rapids Press, asking what people felt about the call-to-action by the Mayor.

Lynn Heemstra said Mayor Heartwell was collecting responses. In discussion on how to be sure responses are collected, it was suggested they could respond via the Grand Rapids City website.

Lynn Heemstra agreed to discuss it with the Mayor.

Paul Ippel added it will be important to continue Community discussions.

5. KCFCCC Expansion Discussion

Wayman said Matthew met with the Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Board of Commissioners to determine the process of expanding the KCFCCC. The reason behind it, is the expanded interest in the KCFCCC due to Collective Impact. Wayman added that it will be important to have the right people/entities at the table as we move forward in this process.

After discussions on potential additions to the KCFCCC, they will be brought to the Executive Committee for approval and then to the full Council as well, if there will be any changes to the guidelines or by-laws.

6. Miscellaneous

- Cathy Raevsky was asked to give an update on the Community Health Needs Assessment. She brought a copy of the final version of the report and passed it around for the group to look through. She said this is the first step in the process. This was approved by the steering

committee. The report is available at www.kentcountychna.org. The groups have started to meet that will address the needs areas identified in the report. The report has been distributed to both Metro Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital's executive teams. Spectrum Health has received it as well. The next step will be the initial meeting to discuss what is happening, who is doing it, who else needs to be at the table and to look at best evidence-based practices, funding sources and supportive services that go along with it. Final results will be a health improvement plan for the community to work off of for the next two years.

Cathy added that the Health Improvement Plan will likely be completed by the end of the summer, so they can begin work on implementing it.

Cathy said the six groups being formed based on priority areas the community identified: 1) Access to Healthcare, i.e. more providers taking Medicaid patients; 2) Kids and risk-taking behaviors; 3) Obesity-nutrition, exercise; 4) Prenatal care.

Cathy added there were between 80 and 100 organizations that came together that formed the coalition. She said they are hoping these people will continue to be involved and bring others who may not have been included in the beginning.

Paul added this would be a good time to bring this to the KCFCCC Executive Committee to ensure proper representation on each of the groups. Wayman added the new consultant for the Collective Impact will be key in assisting in this area.

Maureen Noe suggested the KCFCCC might want to revisit the mission and purpose of this body.

- Paul Ippel gave an update on the Community Family Partnership. Along with DHS, they have hired a family parent group, who will be located in the old Hospice building off of Fuller. They have a new website: It is www.cfpsystemofcare.org. The SAMSA people are doing their site visit on this program March 14-16.

Paul also talked about the SAMSA Grants. He said one of the grants Arbor Circle has been operating for network180, has been reduced by 55% for next year.

- Nancy Marshall commented that Maura Corrigan made a visit to their office and spoke with the DHS staff.

Savator added they are working through staff issues with the Centralized Intake that will roll out state-wide March 5. Kent County received additional staff in preparation. They will likely get eight to ten additional staff.

Savator said they experienced a very high year of removals of children last year (476), compared to their highest year in 2007. DHS is cautious about support and training and making good decisions about risk levels.

Staff are expecting an iPhone rollout soon.

Cathy Raevsky asked what the increase in removals was attributed to. Savator added that they saw larger sibling groups this past year. A lot has been attributed to the economy, lack of support for families. She said there has been a decrease in young single moms, but there has been an increase in families with multi-system involvement, i.e. parents with a mental health disorder, substance abuse issues and children who have significant mental health issues themselves. DHS is addressing these needs and are trying to figure out how to engage the families as a system and make them feel that we are helpers and partners and are working together to keep them and their children together safely.

The committee continued discussions expressing frustration at the State level in dealing with local issues. The changing of Directors at State level tend to cause issues in understanding what goes on at the local level.

Wayman added the Children's Rights Settlement has added some impact on removals. Although we have a Prevention program in place, there are also many more eyes on this issue and better ratio of supervisors. There comes a request to see more cases before the judge and the judge is obligated to make recommendations. He feels this has had an impact in recent years.

Judge Gardner talked about the change in child welfare over the years, adding that Grand Rapids has shifted from a large small town to a major metropolitan area. When the State does pilots now, Kent County is called upon as a major metropolitan area to participate. Child welfare has moved from small town issues to major metropolitan issues. Although we live in a collaborative community, she doesn't think we have kept up with the changes in neglected and abused children. She added we have to be ahead of the curve in meeting the needs of the community.

- Justin Swan said he would like to be a part of diving into the child side of things, he will do whatever he can.
- Gary Lemke said MSU/Cooperative Extension has just completed their realignment, after two years. He said some services have been underutilized, but have completed their strategic plan and are acting upon it. Please email Gary about any questions you have.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 12:00pm – 1:30pm
 MSU Extension Room A & B