

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2012, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room A & B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Wayman Britt, Lynne Ferrell, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Kirsten Gietzen, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Sylvia Hopson, Paul Ippel, Gary Lemke, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Justin Swan, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington.

Members Absent: Candace Cowling, William Forsyth, Judge Patti Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Ron Koehler, Kevin Konarska, Sharon Loughridge, Maureen Noe, Vicki Seidl, Christopher Smith.

Guests: Dona Abbott, Veneese Chandler, Rebekah Fennell, Mary Hockwalt, Jacob Maas, Tom High, Jim Talen, Nancy Teat, Holly Tiret.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Lynne Ferrell opened the meeting with a welcome. The agenda was reviewed and a topic was added to brief the KCFCCC on a recent funders meeting held with the State Department of Human Services (DHS).

Diana Sieger made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting as submitted, supported by Patti Warmington – UNANIMOUS

2. Public Comment

None.

3. State DHS Meeting Briefing

Diana Sieger shared that Duane Berger, Chief Deputy of Michigan DHS, requested a meeting with local foundations regarding DHS' efforts in the Detroit area toward replication of KSSN and the availability of funding regarding blight elimination. Diana said she sensed that DHS wants to partner with our community in new ways, and that DHS officials gave an impression that the KCFCCC is a hub of positive activities related to children and families in Kent County. It is known that this meeting opened doors because since the meeting, Carol Paine-McGovern has conducted a follow-up discussion with the State DHS related to various KSSN issues.

Matthew VanZetten noted that one of the most significant outcomes from that meeting was discussion with State DHS to reduce or eliminate certain fees assessed for DHS workers associated with KSSN. He added that he felt this meeting opened a communication line about policy related to mental health and child welfare services and their interaction. In addition, with regard to the discussion of blight

funding, Grand Rapids Public Schools may be able to utilize these funds in their consolidation planning.

This meeting was organized through the Office of Foundation Liason at the State. Lynne Ferrell said it is a great example of how philanthropy is working with our partner agencies.

Matthew added that he mentioned in his thank you to Duane Berger that he would be following up through their child welfare staff, Steve Yager and Scott Parrott.

4. **Collective Impact Update**

Community Forum -- Lynne introduced the topic by saying we are five months into a six-month schedule. We are on schedule, but moving fast. She added the committee held a community forum to share an overview of the process and get feedback on the Common Agenda and the Vision. Based on the feedback, a few adjustments were made.

Lynne also noted that the Steering Committee members are very engaged in this work, and that Steering Committee attendance has been very high at every meeting.

One challenging element of the process to date, is getting organized around the idea of a backbone organization, what it should look like, and what the process for selection should be.

Matthew gave a brief update of the current activities of Collective Impact. He provided a power point presentation outlining those activities. He talked about the survey done as a result of the Community Forum and mentioned the response rate was about 48%, which is pretty good for this type of survey. He went on to review the responses, adding that three focus groups were added based on feedback from the community forum.

During the breakout sessions at the community forum, several themes were identified. They included:

- ⤴ Why the Collective Impact effort is important;
- ⤴ Shared responsibility requires all of us work together;
- ⤴ We have disparities that continue to grow;
- ⤴ What we are doing now is not working;
- ⤴ We need to prepare our workforce for an economic future;
- ⤴ We need to look at how to align programs to have efficient use of resources.

Matthew added that if we are to develop credibility around this effort, no matter who the backbone is, the work has to continue. It cannot become a fad or study.

Finally, attendees of the Community Forum were asked how they wanted to be involved going forward. The answers included aligning with the cause and help with community engagement. Also, advice to the committee included being inclusive and to look at this as an equity issue. Matthew said we also need to be sure to engage the people who attended the Community Forum to help move these efforts forward.

Cathy Raevsky commented on the Forum and one of the themes that came out of her discussion group was how to hear from the recipients of the services, not just the agencies providing them.

The consultants have indicated the theme of home and family security is a new idea to the collective impact work they have done.

Jack Greenfield asked if there would be further discussions on economic and equity justice issues. After discussion, Lynne Ferrell said they are aware of the issues and it is definitely something that will continue in discussions and to be addressed.

Indicator Development -- The areas explored were Kindergarten readiness, 3rd Grade reading proficiency, timely graduation rates, adults with post-secondary education, home and family stability.

Matthew said a Subcommittee has been convened and have had one meeting already, during which feedback that included a draft set of indicators CRI and FSG have been working on was reviewed. The next steps will be to finalize the top-level goals, agree on the methodology to set targets, set the baseline data in the targets and identify the supporting indicators.

A list was provided within the power point presentation of the goals as they are currently being reviewed. Matthew led the discussion of those indicators. The goal is to have something to the steering committee by December 6.

When asked what the process would be to discuss these because the indicators seem to be missing context, Matthew said these will not be fully set when they are presented to the steering committee. Future workgroups will look at the baseline data indicators soon after the initial collective impact initiative planning is completed and will include discussion of context at that time. The focus right now is the timeline.

Backbone Discussion – Matthew talked about the definition of the backbone organization as described by FSG. The backbone has credibility within the community, serves as a neutral convener, has a dedicated staff, builds key relationships, focuses people's attention, creates a sense of urgency, frames issues to present opportunities and difficulties, uses evaluation as tool for learning and progress, ensure coordination and accountability and stays behind-the-scenes to establish collective ownership of the effort by all the parties. Matthew added that it doesn't set the agenda for group, drive solutions, receive the funding or self-appoint. The backbone organization will be designed to lead from behind, staying out of the forefront.

One important point Matthew made, referring to discussions that took place at the last Steering Committee meeting was that the leader selected for the backbone is just as important as the backbone itself. The leader will set the tone for how the work is done.

The process for selecting the backbone was reviewed. FSG will talk with entities who are interested in becoming the backbone, interviewing them. FSG will develop pros and cons as to who the entity should be.

In continued discussion, Matthew covered what the structure and function of the workgroups is expected to be.

5. **Human Services Committee Information/State Funding**

Matthew thanked the group for their prior comments on the memo regarding budget cuts. He said the reason it was put together and sent to the Board of Commissioners was because there was a question raised by the Finance Committee of the Board about what the state's investment in Prevention was. He had hoped to show what the efforts in the community are and that the funding is beginning to be a challenge to maintain the level of services we have. He added there was to be another work session on the budget and Wayman and Matthew would be prepared to discuss at the meeting if necessary.

6. **KCFCCC Nominating Committee**

Lynne asked for two or three people to volunteer for the Nominating Committee. Matthew said they

would meet after Thanksgiving. Patti Warmington, Cathy Raevsky and Gary Lemke volunteered.

7. **2013 KCFCCC Schedule**

The meeting schedule for the KCFCCC Council and Executive Committee was provided in the packet. Lynne asked members to place those on their calendars.

8. **Miscellaneous**

Jack Greenfield mentioned that Arbor Circle and Hope Network would be hosting a reception for newly-appointed MDCH Director Jim Haveman at Hope Network (36th and Eastern) from 4-6:00 PM on November 13.

Arbor Circle is also hosting an open house for the shelter program, the Bridge at 5:30 PM on November 14.

Cathy Raevsky mentioned that the Association for Local Public Health had a meeting with Jim Haveman and was he was very thoughtful on health and integration. Two things he mentioned doing the meeting was trying to set up a health innovation fund for 2013.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room A & B