

Kent County Family & Children's Coordinating Council

KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2019 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Kent County Administration Building
Room 311

Members/Alternates

Present:

Melanie Beelen, Ron Caniff, Lynne Ferrell, Tracey Fountain, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Judge Patti Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Lynn Heemstra, Maureen Kirkwood, Adam London, George Meek, Jackie O'Connor, Kasie Pickart, Julie Ridenour, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Scott Smith, Matthew VanZetten, Bill Ward.

Members Absent:

Chris Becker, Candace Cowling, Jacob Maas, Jim Paparella, Michelle VanDyke,

Guests:

Doug Booth, Heather Boswell, Anissa Eddie, Jenn Headrick, Kris Kline, Lori Latham, Carol Paine-McGovern, Ted Meekhof, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Pam Parriott, Wende Randall, Heather Ray, Sam Shore, Jim Talen, Annemarie Valdez.

1 Welcome & Call to Order

Adam London, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Judge Gardner made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting, second was provided by Lynne Ferrell, vote was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. TriWest Group – Adam London introduced TriWest group, Ted Meekhof, Sam Shore, Heather Ray and Kris Kline. He stated they are the consultant that was hired to assist with planning for improved Mental Health Crisis access. He said access to data and ideas will be helpful to them in this process. Adam asked the group to share their ideas, their view of the barriers and ideas of potential pathways forward.

At the consultant's request, Adam London and Diana Sieger shared the history of the KCFCCC.

Ted went on to share the background of TriWest.

He stated that our community is very well positioned to begin this work. He added that this needs to be thought about as a Mental Health Crisis System, or an essential community service, as opposed to a facility.

The group was asked their opinions on what the priorities are, where the significant gaps are and how we could be a partner in helping the community come to a consensus about a good idea, and to make it happen. For the new model to be a success, it will require coming up with a clinical model, looking at financing, governance and consensus building across political competition and other historical and current issues.

Members responded to the question, “what are the most important things you need to see accomplished by this effort?”

The answers included:

- This needs to include adults and children and other sectors in the community should be included in the conversations
- Would like to see hospital organizations/mental health facilities as well as law enforcement included
- Flexible money, control over rates and services and creativity. Getting the health plans along with Network180, the hospitals, Beacon and the State of Michigan at the table is essential. Housing in our community and helping the hospital system to understand it may benefit everyone to pay some fees into housing. Getting everyone on the same page and not looking at only their own areas of concern.

Another question posed to the group was: “How do you move from individual to systems performance?” and “Who and how is the system held accountable for reaching those measures in a helpful way?” and “Who would oversee that?”

- Youth should be included in the conversations, place-based and should be cognizant of the cultural and racial implications of the system as a whole. Also, what gets in the way of children and youth being served in a way that helps them through mental health crises.
- Direct line support for children and family in crisis. This is the greatest obstacle to the overall academic success of children in school.
- What are best practices in crisis? Looking for examples elsewhere.
- Would like to see a pro-active system vs. reactionary

Ted suggested the group take some time and create a work group among themselves to determine the key elements of what the behavioral health system should look like for kids. He said a couple of pages of bulleted items would work. Adam London should bring that to the Task Force to incorporate it into the recommendations for the Mental Health Crisis system.

A comment from a member was regarding mental health issues in the juvenile justice system; about one third of them enter with mental health issues. Since it’s not the right system to assist the families, the children end up in residential settings that are an over-placement for the child.

Adam asked the group to think about the things that Ken suggested:

- What elements does this design need to include?
- Who do they need to hear from?
- What data do you have, or do you know of in the community that they need to have?
- Do you find value in having a one on one conversation with the consultant, either now or a phone call or meeting in the near future?
- What does your organization have to offer as a solution?

Ted added to Adam's questions:

- How as a community can you create oversight and accountability for a system that performs across these boundaries?
- Do you have any success experiences in creating broad community collaboration for accountability and governance or at least some ideas on things to do or not do?

4. **WMPC Update** – Sandra began this update saying there is a funding challenge with WMPC that was caused by the governor cutting the administrative services funding. She said the legislature is continuing to have discussions. Hoping discussions will lead to restoration of funding for the program, but it is still in jeopardy. The concern is in the programs and the work WMPC has done. The children will remain where they are no matter the outcome, but concerns are in going backwards in this pilot program.

There has been a lot of support in our community that has been voiced to the governor and legislators.

Matthew added that the timeline is the most critical point right now. If the legislature goes on break before this issue is resolved, the Department of Health and Human Services will require the children transferred back to State care by December 31, 2019. WMPC must give a 30-day notice to contracted bodies, making notice required by December 1.

Sandra said an email will be sent if anything changes with this issue.

5. **Miscellaneous**

- Adam London –thanked the Kent ISD and the schools that were great partners during the EEE Crisis. Even though the risk was relatively small, we may have prevented a few cases by partnering.

6. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2020.