

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April 12, 2022 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Board Conference Room 310, County Administration Building
300 Monroe NW – Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Council Members/Alternates

Present: Diana Sieger, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Scott Smith, Madelyn Hall, Savator Selden-Johnson, Chris Becker, George Meek, Judge McNabb, Adam London, Bill Ward, Shaunte Paul Oliver, Ron Koehler, Kendrick Heinlein

Council Members Absent: Jacob Maas, Jackie O'Connor, Misti DeVries, Tracey Fountain, Leadraine Roby, Eileen McNeil, Michelle VanDyke

Council Partners/Guests: Karen Lezan, Kristen Gietzen, Sonia Noorman, Emily Madsen, Kyle Johnson, Connie Bohatch

Kent County Staff: Paul Petr, Katie VanHevel

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Adam London called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2021 and January 11, 2022

George Meek made a motion to accept the November 2021 and January 2022 meeting minutes, support provided by Diana Sieger – Vote was unanimous.

3. Public Comment

There was none.

4. Operational Guidelines Review

Adam London reviewed the changes made to the operation guidelines including the removal of references to the Strong Families/Safe Children funds, setting term limits for officers, and the duties of executive committee members in the absence of both officers. In addition, the appendixes were updated to include the position definitions as well as the election of executive committee and officers process while the current standing committees were removed. The only additional change is to update the language under the Consumers Definition to list the Department of Human and Health Services.

Diana Sieger made a motion to accept the updated operational guidelines, support provided by George Meek – Vote was unanimous.

5. Vice Chair Recommendations

Adam London identified Candace Cowling as the nomination for the Vice Chair vacancy. Diana Sieger made a motion to move approval, support provided by Bill Ward– Vote was unanimous.

6. RFP for Consultant – Tentative Timeline to begin June

Paul Petr advised with the goal of using ARPA funding, an RFP for a consultant is underway. The consultant will assist with creating a strategic planning, identifying outcomes and achievement as well as SMART goals, and impacting policy regarding children and families in the community. Generating metrics to report to the board of commissioners is also a goal of working with the consultant.

7. Strategic Planning Discussion Questions:

-What lessons have we learned from COVID moving forward?

- A lack of community resources for juveniles during the pandemic lead to an increase in theft/larceny crime. It is important to focus on the entire family instead of just the kids when looking to address the issues. It was noted domestic violence calls also went up.
- A greater need for transparency
- Asking for help needs to be destigmatized.
- A lack of access to resources lead to reaffirmed systems mistrust and made families feel there was no one to advocate for their needs.
- Importance of play and socialization
- The ability to share accurate information widely in the community is critical.
- Housing issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic and many people with section 8 vouchers still cannot find a place to use it.
- Systemic racism is prevalent and there should be a focus on racial equity
- The human services field is lacking capacity

-Who do we want to be as KCFCCC?

- It was suggested someone from the hospital system should be on KCFCCC.
- The council's responsiveness as well as its ability to pivot/innovate should be a priority.
- A hybrid model to allow for virtual attendance as needed was suggested.
- Don't go back to normal, go forward to better.
- Increase information sharing and action, especially related to the county and the state to have a more impactful relationship. There is a need to redefine the Council's role with these governing bodies with a large focus on action.

-What assessment results or evaluation results do we want the consultant to review?

- Domestic Violence/Trauma
- Divorce Rates
- Economic data
- Workforce development representation
- Housing data, possibly from Housing Next or K-Connect
- Benchmark counties or regions which have what we want Kent County to become regarding children and families. These benchmarks will help to create targets/goals.

-With regards to our focus and who we want to become as a council what will the benefits be to the services for children, families, the coordinating council, and the organizations or constituencies we represent?

8. Miscellaneous-

- **Savator Selden-Johnson:** A Kent anti-racism transformation team is being developed to look at over-representation of children of color in the child welfare system. They are looking for community partners to apply.
- **Karen Lezan:** Kent ISD Bright Beginnings home visiting is seeing high engagement and family play groups are in every school district in the county. Families are growing more comfortable with the in-person play groups. [Playgroups | Bright Beginnings \(kentisd.org\)](#)
- **Shaunte Paul-Oliver:** April is Autism Awareness month. The Alona and Alonte Autistic Angels Contest ends April 15th with two family prize packages. Submissions should be sent to healthish@yahoo.com with why your autistic angel inspires you.
- **Candace Cowling:** Grand Valley is holding a training Thursday 9:00-4:00pm on best practices related to trauma and resilience. Also, Promise Neighborhood awarded Grand Rapids a grant of \$30 million to be used over 5 years.
- **Katie VanHevel:** If anyone is interested in having a designated alternate, a conflict of interest form needs to be signed by the individual. The KCFCCC website is currently being updated to have agendas and minutes posted.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 12pm.