

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



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KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2002, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.
Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE

Members/alternates present: Susan Broman (and Christine Nelson), Nanaruth Carpenter (and Jack Roedema), Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell (for Milton Rohwer), Debra Holmes Garrison (and Barbara Terry), Paul Ippel (and Mary Dengerink), Marvin McKenzie, Patti Nussbaum, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger (and Wendy Jackson), Mary Alice Williams, and Andrew Zylstra.

Members absent (with no alternate present): Candace Cowling, Beverly Drake, William Forsyth, Linda McDonald, Miles Murphy, and Mike Weiler

Others present: Bethanie Archbold, Mary Swanson (staff); Richard Gritter, Kathy Humphrey-Vaughn, Nick Koster, Richard Libertore, Richard Ney, Mary O'Hare, and Mark Olthoff

I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Diana Sieger opened the meeting and asked the members to introduce themselves. The agenda was amended to provide the Perspective 21! Early Impact update earlier in the agenda. The agenda was also amended to include updates on the Child Care Expulsion Prevention project and 211 under Other Community Updates & Information. Ms. Sieger announced that two members, Ruth Buntin and Karl Hascall, have resigned from the Council, citing busy schedules. The Board of Commissioners will fill these positions when it makes its 2003 appointments in January.

II. Approval of Minutes

Paul Ippel moved to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting. Susan Broman supported. Motion carried.

III. Council/Committee Members Feedback Survey

Ms. Sieger directed members' attention to the survey forms included in their meeting packets, and asked that they be sure to fill out a survey and return it to staff.

IV. Special Presentation: Kent County Prevention Initiative

Mary Swanson presented the Kent County Prevention Initiative Proposal for Evaluation and Service Expansion, adopted by the Kent County Board of Commissioners on October 24, 2002. Ms. Swanson reported that the proposal was the final step in institutionalizing the recommendations of the Prevention Subcommittee, which were adopted by the Board in September 2001.

The five recommendations of the Subcommittee were:

- Adoption of a vision statement for prevention programming
- Emphasizing evaluation of all prevention activities, including both short- and long-term outcomes, and increasing utilization of the Human Service Committee and the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council
- Establishing three specific areas as priorities for service expansion: primary prevention family support services; early intervention for children at risk of abuse/neglect (Perspective 21! Early Impact), and substance abuse services
- Being more pro-active with respect to grant and State funding for prevention
- Directing the County Administrator/Controller to develop a plan to fund the recommendations

The Initiative sets aside funding for the development of a data infrastructure to be used to provide long-term evaluation of prevention programming and for service expansion in the three priority areas. Funding for service expansion for primary prevention family support services and Perspective 21! Early Impact will be available in 2003, with funding for substance abuse services to be phased in for 2004. Ms. Swanson reported that the expertise of the Council will be utilized in determining services to be funded, and evaluation data from the funded programs will be provided to both the Council and the Human Services Committee for review. Ms. Swanson stated that staff is currently working out the details for how the funds will be administered.

V. Perspective 21! Early Impact

Ms. Sieger reviewed the history of the Perspective 21! Early Impact staffing crisis. She stated that earlier this year, it was reported that the staffing allocation from the State FIA did not provide sufficient staff for Kent County FIA to conduct assessments for families referred for Perspective 21! Early Impact. After Kent County FIA's appeal to replace the staff was denied, several Council members had contacted FIA staff and legislators expressing their concern. Ms. Sieger stated that the legislators were very receptive to community concerns. She asked Andrew Zylstra to give an update of the most recent news on the issue.

Mr. Zylstra reported that Jim Nye of the State FIA office has verbally committed to providing funding to cover the cost of contracting for the assessments. He stated that Kent County FIA was working to put together a funding proposal, and hoped to have a written commitment shortly.

Ms. Sieger asked how secure the funding would be for the following year. Mr. Zylstra stated that with the State's ongoing budget concerns, securing ongoing funding would continue to be a challenge. He stated that the community must continue its efforts to educate legislators about the importance of prevention and the need for ongoing funding. He stated that the community should encourage legislators to ensure Kent County's program is sustained, and begin to replicate it in other counties.

Mary Alice Williams stated that there was a need to educate incoming legislators to help them understand the importance of the program, and also educate them on the role of the Council.

Ms. Sieger thanked Mr. Zylstra and asked him to keep the Council informed.

VI. Connections for Children

Ms. Broman announced that the Early Childhood (ages 0-5) committee was awarded an Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) grant in the amount of \$878,820 to fund the Connections for Children project. She stated that the grant was an example of the committee being proactive in seeking funding for prevention, one of the needs identified in the Prevention Subcommittee recommendations. She stated that due to several months of committee discussion about early childhood services, the committee was able to gather together and apply for the grant within one month. Kent County was one of only 31 communities nationwide to receive an ELOA grant.

She stated that as the grant provided one-time funding over a 17-month period, Connections for Children focuses on capacity building, rather than expanding services that would later need to be sustained. One of the purposes of the grant is to develop a community plan identifying existing early childhood services and the gaps in providing these services universally, i.e., to all families. A summary of the projects goals and activities was distributed.

Ms. Broman reported that as the Council was not a 501(c)3, the committee requested that United Way serve as fiduciary. A small implementation committee made up of Early Childhood committee members was working closely with United Way to implement the grant, with the Early Childhood committee providing oversight. The Early Childhood committee in turn would report back to the Council as a whole at every regular meeting.

Ms. Sieger thanked Ms. Broman for the report, and congratulated her and the rest of the Early Childhood Committee members for their success.

VII. Committee Updates

A. Early Childhood Committee

Ms. Sieger noted that there was a motion from the Early Childhood committee for membership changes. The committee moved that Toni Turner, Lauren Kennedy, and Linda McDonald be removed as committee members, and that Margaret Biersack, Barbara Corbin, JoAnn Kelty, Mike Stearns, and Deb VanderMolen be added. Judge Nanaruth Carpenter supported. Motion carried.

B. Elementary School Years Committee

Wendy Jackson reported that the committee was taking a new approach to its efforts to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer. She stated that in light of the evaluation numbers, which showed summer meal participation down despite the committee's extensive outreach efforts, the committee was refocusing its efforts on how the program could be improved. She stated that USDA had shown some interest in hearing the ideas for improvement.

Mr. Zylstra stated that the community must learn how to better access these services. He stated that the USDA Summer Food Service Program was an example of existing funded programs available in the community to help working families. He encouraged the committee to continue its efforts.

C. Middle and High School Years Committee

There was no update.

D. Ongoing Family Support Committee

Sandra Davis presented some results from the Council sponsored training of Perspective 21! Early Impact caseworkers. She noted that of the approximately 50 caseworkers who attended the training and completed evaluation surveys, 92% indicated that the training enhanced their ability as therapists, and 87% indicated that the workshop increased their awareness of the subject (11% were neutral). She stated that the caseworkers' satisfaction was due to the fact that they got what they asked for – the committee tailored the training based on the requests of the caseworkers. Ms. Davis also presented the committee's working action plan for its next steps, and invited participation from any individuals who wished to participate.

VIII. Annual Bylaws Review Proposed Revisions

Ms. Archbold presented the following proposed Bylaws revisions, brought to the Council as a recommendation from the Executive Committee:

Page 4: Article IV: Committees, Section 4.1 Executive Committee

- Add procedure for filling mid-year Executive Committee vacancy, i.e., that sitting Executive Committee appoint the replacement
- Change (c) to eliminate duplicative requirement that Council ratify actions taken by Executive Committee when there is insufficient time for the Council to meet (Council delegates authority to Executive Committee to act when there is not sufficient time for the Council to meet), and instead require that the Council be informed

Page 5: Article V: Meetings, Section 5.1 Compliance with Open Meetings Act

- Change to remove reference to Human/Community Services Coordinator (unnecessary; does not reflect current County structure)

Appendix B: Current Standing Committees

Change to eliminate reference to Advocacy Committee to reflect current standing committees; also to reflect Council's Leadership and Advocacy Guidelines, which identify Executive Committee as responsible committee to address

Ms. Davis moved that the four recommended revisions be adopted. Ms. Holmes-Garrison supported. Motion carried.

IX. Updates & Administrative Items

A. Executive Committee Action re: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants

Ms. Sieger reported that the Executive Committee provided a letter of recommendation on behalf of the Council for Grand Rapids Public School's application for a Michigan 21st Center Learning Center Grant in the amount of \$875,000. The purpose of the application is to provide after school activities targeting five middle schools – Burton, Iroquois, Northeast, Riverside, and Westwood.

Patti Nussbaum reported that grant awards would be made in December.

X. Other Community Information & Updates

A. Child Care Expulsion Prevention Projects

Mary Alice Williams presented information on the Arbor Circle Child Care Consultation Program, a Child Care Expulsion Prevention (CCEP) project funded by the Department of Community Health (DCH). She reported that approximately 2.5% of children below the age of five are expelled from child care due to various issues. Of these, reasons for expulsion include:

- 46% due to developmental problems (e.g., child is withdrawn, overly impulsive, or out-of-control)
- 40% due to highly aggressive behavior
- 6% because they are unable to adapt to a structured environment
- 4% highly abnormal behaviors, such as self-mutilation
- Some due to physical needs (e.g., one boy was expelled for bumping roughly into other children; it was discovered that he was unable to see and needed glasses)

Arbor Circle's program provides counseling for children, parents, and child care providers to help resolve the issues. The program only becomes involved if both the parents and child care provider agree to the intervention. Ms. Williams stated that Arbor Circle was approached by DCH to pilot the program. She stated that the demand has exceeded expectations (they expected 20 centers to participate, and have so far been contacted by 65), but so far they have been able to successfully meet the demand. A local advisory committee made up of child care providers and other early childhood professionals provide oversight and guidance.

Ms. Williams reported that MPCBs have been invited to send teams to attend a two-day meeting on how to start, expand, and/or sustain local CCEP projects. She reported that members of the project's advisory committee and Council staff will attend on behalf of Kent County. She invited participation from other Council or community members who may be interested in attending. If interested, please contact Ms. Williams or Ms. Archbold for more information.

B. 211

Ms. Holmes-Garrison reported that the new community information and referral number for Kent County, 2-1-1, would go live on November 12. The service is an expansion of Heart of West Michigan United Way's long-standing First Call for Help service which allows residents to dial one number to access information and referrals for hundreds of community programs and services. With the implementation of 2-1-1, residents can now access help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, simply by dialing the three digits. The call can be made from land-based telephones and Ameritech payphones; cell phones do not work for the connection. The Kent County 2-1-1 system is one of the first such systems in the state, second only to Calhoun County.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. **The next Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council meeting will be December 3, 2002, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at the Kent County Health Department, 700 Fuller, N.E.**