

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Tony Campbell, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski) Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Jim Koetsier (for Judge Patrick Hillary), Lynn Heemstra, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Paul Ippel, Erin McGovern (for Kevin Kornaska), Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Sandy Walls (for Cathy Raevsky), Wendy Lewis Jackson (for Diana Sieger), Patti Warmington, Andy Zylstra

Members Absent: Susan Broman, Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Judge Patrick Hillary, Cathy Raevsky

Guests: Dona Abbott, Wayman Britt, Jan Fonger, Kathy Freberg, Randy Zylstra

1. Welcome & Call to Order – Carol Paine-McGovern

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A motion was made by Sharon Loughridge to accept the meeting agenda and the April 10, 2007 minutes. Andy Zylstra supported. **UNANIMOUS**

2. Strong Family Safe Children Funding

Carol Paine-McGovern provided an overview of the Strong Family Safe Children (SFSC) program status, especially concerning funding cuts and new rules and how those would affect programs supported collaboratively in Kent County.

Currently, there is uncertainty regarding funding for Early Impact, Healthy Start and Adoptive Family Support Network due to the 'rule' changes. It is unknown whether new contracts will or can be issued for these programs. Furthermore, there has been a 10% cut in funding for the remaining portion of the year and a proposed 20% cut for next year.

It has become clear that the administration is using SFSC funds to replace TANF dollars that have been overspent or used to support other programs within the administration. Talking points have been developed so that you may contact elected officials if you are inclined. Additionally, the Governor's new West Michigan liaison – Joan Bowman – will be meeting with the Executive Committee on Thursday and this issue will be discussed with her.

Council members urged that the KCFCCC lobby against the rule and funding cuts as they collectively limit collaboration and braided funding of programs. It was also suggested that we stake a strong position on this during the State budget crisis so that we are talking in unison and can limit the reductions as much as possible.

3. **Prevention Initiative**

Carol Paine-McGovern asked Matthew VanZetten to provide an update on the Prevention Initiative.

VanZetten reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing the data from the Prevention Initiative evaluation. In that discussion, the Executive Committee believes that a meeting with representatives from Constella should occur where KCFCCC Members and Alternates as well as Prevention Initiative Advisory Committee members are able to discuss in depth the data and share their reactions and desires as to further investigation. This will assist the Executive Committee as it moves forward in its discussions.

A tentative date for this discussion is Friday, July 20 in the morning. Please hold your calendars if you are able.

4. **Substance Abuse Prevention Plan Endorsement**

Carol Paine-McGovern noted that at the last KCFCCC meeting, Mark Witte and Denise Herbert presented the Substance Abuse Prevention plan for Kent County. The Council shared with them that they would review the plan and consider its endorsement this meeting.

A motion was made by Sandra Davis to endorse the Kent County Substance Abuse Leadership Coalition Strategic Plan. Candace Cowling supported. **UNANIMOUS**

5. **Committee Updates**

Children's Partners

Judy Freeman shared that the Children's Partners are now calling themselves the Great Start Collaborative of Kent County to remain consistent with other parts of the State.

She also shared that the communication committee has hired the Metropolitan Group to conduct focus groups regarding the messaging of early childhood. Their findings, with the reports regarding a medical home, home visiting, and early care and education will be presented to the Children's Commission on August 13.

Kent School Services Network

Wendy Lewis Jackson shared the latest regarding the KSSN. The school year is wrapping up and over the past year, the Community School Coordinators have worked and FIS workers have been assigned to the various buildings. Key to the success this year has been the technical assistance provided by the Children's Aid Society. That will continue into year two, but in a more site specific manner.

One of the next steps will be to engage in a sustainability plan. The Children's Aid Society will be leading a discussion later this summer to start this process.

Ongoing Family Support

Jack Greenfield noted that the Committee members have committed to issuing a RFP to determine whether there is a cost savings on purchasing items such as beds and cribs that are so

often needed for families. Likewise, they are close to adopting a plan for Early Impact workers to be trained in stages of change and motivational interviewing.

6. **Public Comment**

There was none.

7. **Miscellaneous**

There was none.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B