

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – **Room B**
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski) Jack Greenfield, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patrick Hillary, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Jackie Klinestecker (for Paul Ippel), Kevin Kornaska, David Murkowski, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Wendy Lewis Jackson, (for Diana Sieger), Patti Warmington, Savator Selden-Johnson, Andy Zylstra

Members Absent: Tony Campbell, Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, Lynn Heemstra, William Forsyth, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Paul Ippel, Cathy Raevsky

Guests: Brian Hartl, Matthew VanZetten

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A motion was made by Lynn Heemstra to accept the meeting agenda and the June 5, 2007 minutes. Sandra Davis supported. **UNANIMOUS**

2. Prevention Initiative/Neglect Update

Paine-McGovern welcomed Brian Hartl, Epidemiologist from the Kent County Health Department. Hartl provided an overview of the refuser data for Early Impact program. Based on his review, one key theme emerged –

Families that are referred to Early Impact, but refuse service, are likely to have either had a Category I, II, or III finding previous to refusing service or will have a Category I, II, or III finding after they refuse services.

A thorough discussion occurred regarding the methodology of connecting the data as well as understanding it further. Members and alternates were reminded that Early Impact participants had a relatively low occurrence of substantiated abuse and neglect after receiving services.

It was noted that the initial touch point with a referred client is critical to engaging them. Moreover, some believed that ‘selling’ the program is important. Others noted that cultural competency of staff is critical as well as staff feeling well equipped through necessary training. It was shared that the Executive Committee is seeking funding to conduct focus groups to explore the issues surrounding cultural competency and training. Further, it was hoped that the groups could explore if there are some qualitative differences between families that engage and those that do not.

Suggested improvements to labeling the charts were noted. And, it was suggested that a review of other services where refuser data exists should occur to see if the trend continues.

3. **System of Care Grant Update**

Matthew VanZetten and Jackie Klinestecker provided an overview of a 'system of care' (SOC). Key points include the fact that an SOC is not a program, but rather a philosophy of service. Points of emphasis within a system of care are cultural competency, family and youth decision making, braided funding, and consumer friendly service. Key desired outcomes are more effective mental health services, reduced out-of-home placement, a more streamlined case management system, an integrated system of care across juvenile justice, mental health, child welfare and education systems.

To that point, the Kent County SOC grant will work to expand the Kent School Services Network. The KISD is in the process of setting up meetings with Godwin Heights, Cedar Springs, Wyoming, Kent City and Sparta School districts to determine their interests in participating.

We expect the RFP to be released sometime in December 2007.

4. **Strong Family Safe Children Funding Update**

VanZetten shared that SFSC funds were only committed for one month (October 2007) rather than a full year which is typical. At this time it is unclear what funding will be committed to SFSC programs beyond October. An update will be provided in January.

5. **Nomination Committee for 2008 Executive Committee**

Paine-McGovern reviewed the process for electing the 2008 Executive Committee (April 2008 – March 2009). It includes establishing a nominating committee in November, receiving a recommended slate in January, and voting on the slate in February.

Debra Holmes-Garrison, Lynne Ferrell and Judge Murkowski agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. A motion was made by Andy Zylstra to accept this slate. Susan Broman supported.
UNANIMOUS

6. **2008 KCFCCC Schedule**

Paine McGovern distributed the 2008 KCFCCC Schedule.

7. **Public Comment**

There was none.

8. **Miscellaneous – All**

9. **Adjournment**

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2008, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B