

**Kent County**  
**Family & Children's**  
**Coordinating Council**



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2008, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room B**  
775 Ball Avenue, NE

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Bev Drake, Kristen Gietzen, (for Jack Greenfield), Judge Patrick Hillary, Paul Ippel, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger, Sandy Walls (for Cathy Raevsky), Patti Warmington, Andy Zylstra, Ron Jimmerson (Cascade Engineering)

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, William Forsyth, Cathy Raevsky, Bob Haight, Lynn Heemstra, Lynne Ferrell, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Kevin Kornaska.

**Guests:** Ron Apol, Wayman Britt, Kathy Zuiderveen, Gayle Orange

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Carol also thanked the Committee for re-electing her as chair of the KCFCCC for another year.

**2. Adoptive Family Support Network Update**

Paine-McGovern welcomed Ron Apol and Kathy Zuiderveen from Adoptive Family Support Network to provide an update to the Council. Ron and Kathy distributed a folder to each member, which contained materials outlining the Adoptive Family Support Network 2008-2009 Initiatives and current events scheduled.

Ron started by saying they lost their executive Director last fall, Jan Fonger, who went to the Kent District Libraries as their Systems Development Coordinator. They re-involved Larry Grinwiss, who had developed their Strategic Plan, to take a look at where the AFSN is and where they are going. Ron went on to talk about the 2008-2009 initiatives as outlined in the handout.

- a. Provide a support network to all adoptive families
  - o By way of Electronic newsletters, seminars. Their website contains all of the information.
  - o By providing special needs adoption training in collaboration with key adoption agencies, each adoptive family is expected to attend sessions where they are provided general information regarding post-adoption and support groups. Families can continue on with the support group beyond the required sessions. Ron said there has been an increase in the number of families attending these groups.
  
- b. Promote access to community post-adoption resources

- The following support groups were offered: “Adoption support Group for Teens”; “Trans-racial Adoption Support Group”; and “Support Group for Parents of Adoptees with Behavioral Challenges”.
- c. Raise awareness within the community about families formed by adoption
  - Jan Fonger is in process of developing the *Adoption Weekly* on their web site.
  - Creating awareness in the community by presence at events such as the Women’s Expo.
- d. Remain fiscally responsible to support the adoptive families we serve
  - February held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Michigan Heart Gallery fund raiser and raised \$21,000. Last year they raised \$17,000. The goal is \$25,000.

### 3. **Strong Family Safe Children Funding Update**

Andy Zylstra provided an update for Strong Family/Safe Children. He said the State cut \$2 Million from the Strong Families/Safe Children Budget. He found the reduction was part of the 5% General Fund reduction. He said he contacted Senator Hardiman and it didn’t help. Andy said in the past this was an untouchable fund, so it came as a big surprise the State would cut money from it.

Discussion continued within the group on how to get the State to add the money back into the budget and it was suggested that everyone write letters to Senators Jansen and Hardiman.

Andy said he has done what he can internally and he can’t get the support of the Governor, so it will take community response. It’s in the hands of the Legislators.

Carol said she would ask Savator Selden-Johnson to put together some talking points and get it out to the group to aid in writing letters.

Andy also mentioned there was to be a big meeting at Cobo Hall in Detroit on November 13 to discuss the elimination of poverty. He said the ENTF is aware of it and Dave Schroeder will be sending out some information on it.

### 4. **Executive Committee and Neglect Update**

Carol Paine-McGovern thanked Sharon Loughridge and Bob Haight who were on the Executive Committee last year. She said this year Bev Drake and Jack Greenfield would be replacing them. She commented the committee would continue to discuss the Neglect issue. She said Debra Holmes-Garrison is finishing up with the focus groups and will present to the Executive Committee in May and to the full KCFCCC in June.

The Executive Committee will also continue work looking at opportunities for grants.

### 5. **Partner Updates**

Sandra Davis – Ongoing Family Support, close to conclusion on Needs RAP.

Sandy Walls – Michigan Department of Community Health is holding an Infant Mortality Summit on May 5. Sandy said it’s been 5 years since last one.

Wayman Britt – Mentioned Cathy Raevsky is president of the MALPH Committee about mandated cost-sharing. They put in a proposal to get some of the money restored and did get some back \$1 Million, although they had hoped for \$4-5 Million.

Candace Cowling said the 0-3 Healthy Start group received an increase in their funding and they hope to expand the Health Start program to include parents 25 and under. Their goal is to encourage the family foundation by serving teen parents.

Candace thanked Wayman Britt, Matthew VanZetten and Carol Paine-McGovern for all of their hard work.

Wayman gave a brief update on Matthew VanZetten's condition after his surgery. He said he is doing better and anxious to get home. He's doing well.

Wayman went on to talk about the Grant wrote by the KSSN assisted by Constella. He said Constella could be utilized in the future by the Kellogg Foundation for 2 grants, one is the Children's Great Start. Kellogg Foundation was asked to move forward with a broader request. He said the last United Way meeting they talked about the Systems of Care grant in front of the Kellogg Foundation.

Carol Paine-McGovern said she talked with Jackie who said the State didn't have any revisions to the grant, so it would be submitted to the feds in June.

Andy Zylstra said Pat Babcock was asked to participate in the Child Welfare law suit by the State DHS Director.

He continued saying there is some administrative restructuring by the State. He said they are using Wayne County as a prototype, who now has a separate Child Welfare Department that reports directly to Lansing.

6. **Public Comment**

None

7. **Miscellaneous**

None

8. **Adjournment**

Carol adjourned the meeting at 1:08 PM, mentioning the next meeting would take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Next Council meeting:** Tuesday, June 3, 2008, 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room B