

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 3, 2012, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room A & B**  
**775 Ball Avenue, NE**

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Sharon Briggs, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Kirsten Gietzen, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Joann Hoganson, Paul Ippel, Ron Koehler, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Maureen Noe, Diana Sieger, Christopher Smith, Justin Swan, Matthew VanZetten.

**Members Absent:** William Forsyth, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Kevin Konarska, Cathy Raevsky (Joann Hoganson represented), Savator Selden-Johnson, Vicki Seidl, Bernard Taylor, Patti Warmington (Sharon Briggs represented).

**Guests** Dona Abbott, Venece Chandler, Kathy Freberg, Judy Freeman, Carol Paine-McGovern, Jim Talen, Jon Wilmot

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Sue Broman opened the meeting with a welcome and had everyone introduce themselves.

The minutes were reviewed and Lynne Ferrell made a motion to accept the minutes, supported by Diana Sieger – **UNANIMOUS**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

Matthew VanZetten congratulated Susan Broman on her new job in Lansing with the State of Michigan. He expressed the Council's appreciation for all she has done while serving as Chair of the KCFCCC.

**3. Family Futures Connections Program**

Candace Cowling provided a handout to the group. She began by giving some history of the Family Futures' Connections program. Research was done to find a tool to survey participants to determine the effectiveness of the program. They determined the Ages and Stages Questionnaire that was already in place was the best tool to use.

The three goals of the Connections Program are:

- Help families learn how to play, interact and grow the attachment between them and their children.
- Help families recognize and support age-appropriate milestones for their children
- Get families connected to additional and more focused resources when a developmental delay is indicated.

Families are enrolled either by parents utilizing information provided in the hospital parent packs and names provided to Family Futures by the Birth Certificate Registry. Soon web-site sign up will be available as well.

The program is staffed by many, many volunteers and paid staff.

Candace went on to provide the number of children served and the quality of the services provided, as well as the impact of those services.

In an annual satisfaction survey done, 97% out of 900 respondents felt the program helped them become more confident in their interactions with their child.

Family Futures plans to expand this program. They would like to work with other community screeners and utilize the ASQ to align and enhance efforts.

The biggest challenge going forward will be to develop long-term funding for Connections. They are currently heavily dependent on private funding.

At the conclusion of Candace's presentation, she answered questions from the group.

Discussion took place on how this program will be funded going forward.

#### **4. KCFCCC Chair Transition**

Matthew VanZetten gave an update on the process that will take place to replace the KCFCCC Chair. He said the guidelines provide for the Vice-Chair to assume the duties. In this case, Vice-Chair Paul Ippel will take over the remainder of this term, which expires in March. During this time the typical nominating process will take place.

The Nominating Committee will take place at this meeting today and the names will be sent out for ratification at the February meeting. In April those individuals will start.

Susan's position will not be filled on the KCFCCC Executive Committee at this time. In April the new Chair will join the Executive Committee.

#### **5. Nomination Committee Establishment**

Susan Broman asked for volunteers to join the Nominating Committee. Cynthia Gladyness, Maureen Noe, Jack Greenfield all volunteered.

#### **6. Collective Impact Update**

Matthew began, saying Susan Broman presented Collective Impact to the Board of Commissioners the previous month. The Board asked a lot of questions and it was very positive. There was an article in the Grand Rapids Press the Sunday prior to the presentation to the Board and in an additional article following.

The County has issued an RFP for the Technical Assistance and Project Coordinator. An interview team will meet with the Communication Collaborative Group from Washington DC. There was not a broad response to the RFP, so it may be re-posted.

Matthew said they are in the process of applying for the grants to the foundations to fund the work.

They have also been having meetings with stakeholder groups at their request.

Since Susan is leaving, Wayman and Matthew have been doing a lot of work with Collective Impact.

The Executive Committee is also working to establish a public-private leadership group in addition to the Executive Committee.

Matthew added they had hoped to have a consultant selected by February and have them in place. He doesn't know if that will be possible. The timeline may need to be adjusted.

7. **Miscellaneous.**

There was none.

8. **Adjournment**

Lynn Heemstra made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:**      Tuesday, February 7, 2012 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room A & B