

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2012, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room A & B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Wayman Britt, Candace Cowling, Judge Patti Gardner, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Ron Koehler, Gary Lemke, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Maureen Noe, Diana Sieger, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington.

Members Absent: Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Cynthia Gladyness, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Sylvia Hopson (Jacob Maas represented), Kevin Konarska, Cathy Raevsky, Vicki Seidl, Savator Selden-Johnson, Christopher Smith, Justin Swan

Guests: Veneese Chandler, Renata Horvath, Jerry Johnson, Jacob Maas, Carol Paine-McGovern, Andy Thalhammer, Holly Tiret, Deb VanderMolen.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Paul Ippel opened the meeting with a welcome.

Ron Koehler made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting as submitted, supported by Judge Gardner – UNANIMOUS

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Afterschool Program Update/Wallace Grant

Lynn Heemstra gave an update on the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network (ELO) and the Wallace Foundation Grant. She said the goal of the ELO Network is to ensure quality afterschool programs for all children. They are looking to align what is being done for children and coordinate the efforts of all non-profits. There are about 33 non-profits providing some type of afterschool program. Roughly 75% of the funding comes from the federal government through 21st Century Grants.

She said they are gaining national attention for the work being done by the ELO Network in Grand Rapids and in Kent County.

Lynn went on to describe the outcomes the program has defined: Improving academic achievement for children, Ensuring children are behaving in socially appropriate ways, reduction of juvenile crime, improved attendance in school and other social behaviors, i.e. teen pregnancy, substance abuse, etc.

Lynn said they are serving young people where there is the greatest need. She continued, explaining the funding source for this program have been cut and that funding is always an issue with these programs. The ELO Network is advocating with legislators to ensure they know the importance of these programs. Challenges faced by the Network include alignment, sustainability and staff development.

The Wallace Foundation awarded a grant to Grand Rapids along with eight other cities, Baltimore, Denver, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, Louisville, Nashville, Philadelphia and St. Paul to improve quality and data systems. The \$765,000 grant is to be part of this coalition, and become part of the Wallace Foundation's next generation of out of school time system development.

Lynn outlined all of the things that will be looked at as part of this grant. She asked for the KCFCCC to support this work. She asked that referrals of interested parties be made to them.

4. **0-18 Prevention Funding**

Matthew referred to a memo distributed with the Agenda regarding the 0-18 Prevention Funding pilot. Earlier he met Steve Yager to look at restoring funding/services for our community. This is not going to happen because there is no funding appropriated beginning October 1.

Matthew shared with Mr. Yager the frustration of trying to put these systems in place with inconsistent, unreliable funding. Mr. Yager realized our frustration, and shared that there are efforts underway to put a structure in place to make the funding more consistent. He is trying to put money in the budget for next year for Prevention. There are two options. One is Strong Family, Safe Children dollars, where the state usually lapses funding because when the allocations are made, the counties don't spend their entire allocations. Mr. Yager talked about taking money off the top for a state-wide RFP and provide less to counties that historically lapse their funding.

The second option is for states to apply for a Title IV-E Waiver. These are the Federal funds that support child welfare services like foster care, residential services, etc. Children need to hit certain targets to be eligible. It's important to know this would be a block grant from the federal government based on historical usage patterns of Title IV-E funds allowing the state to use the money for prevention services. The state would not be able to exceed their block grant amount. The State has applied for the waiver and is waiting to hear back from the federal government.

Matthew shared that the Executive Committee of the KCFCCC feels it would be best to establish a dollar amount needed for our Prevention program, as well as why that amount is necessary. Matthew said they will go back and look at some historical numbers and usage patterns to come up with a dollar amount. A short-term committee will be set up to do that. Candace Cowling will help organize it. A first meeting will take place in mid-late September.

We will be receiving a \$800,000 budget cut. A significant portion currently goes to Healthy Start, which is part of the County's Prevention program. We are organizing a meeting as a community to talk about looking at the structure and to keep it to a right size.

We have to figure out how to stay proactive on this and keep our interests in front of the funders in Lansing on it.

Savator Selden-Johnson said she heard unofficially that Kent County was not one of the counties that would be included in the pilot of the Title IV-E waiver.

As an aside, Matthew added that Savator, Matthew and a few others will be going to Lansing on the 28th to talk about access to CPS data for the Prevention Initiative. They will meet with Mr. Yager's team to talk about why we have not been receiving it as intended. Matthew has shared the Prevention Evaluation report from 2010.

5. **Collective Impact Update**

Matthew said the next step in developing our Collective Impact strategy is hosting a Community Forum on October 9. It will be a luncheon and will include breakout groups for feedback. Each of the KCFCCC members will receive an invite, but we need help in identifying people in our Community to be included. Matthew will send out a spreadsheet for populating with names to invite to the Forum. Hope

6. **KCFCCC Operating Guidelines Proposed Amendments**

There are three proposed changes to the operating guidelines to the Council. They are:

- Increase the number of private funding agencies to six.
- Add the Superintendent of the Grand Rapids Public Schools to our organization as a member by position.
- Add Superintendent of a local school district to our group.

Gary Lemke made a motion to support the proposed changes, Support by Savator Selden-Johnson, motion was approved.

7. **Miscellaneous**

Lynn Heemstra said the Mayor's Youth Council is seeking applications from young people living in the city of Grand Rapids in ninth through twelfth grade. It is on the website www.grchildren.us .

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room A & B