

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2014 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – **Room A & B**
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates

Present:

Sharon Briggs (for Patti Warmington), Candace Cowling, Judge Patti Gardner, Scott Gilman, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Adam London, Nancy Marshall, Gary Lemke, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Maureen Noe, Julie Ridenour, Diana Sieger, Donna Teft (for Sharon Loughridge),

Members Absent:

Nadia Brigham, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth (Judge Gardner Represented) , Cynthia Gladyness, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Kevin Konarska, Sharon Loughridge, Savator Selden-Johnson, Christopher Smith, Patti Warmington.

Guests:

Wayman Britt, Veneese Chandler, Kathy Freberg, Rich Liberatore, Pam Parriott, George Tyndall, Matthew VanZetten

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Maureen Noe opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions were done. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Judge Patti Gardner made a motion to accept the minutes from the September meeting as submitted, supported by Gary Lemke. **UNANIMOUS.**

2. Public Comment

Jacob Maas briefly updated the group with changes occurring at Michigan Works. He said they are changing from contracted services to direct delivery of services, and will be hiring 75 positions.

Michigan Works will also be hosting a community conversation on February 26. They are looking for low-income participants to voice their concerns regarding Michigan education, economy, prosperity, quality of life and public money. The survey results will be shared with gubernatorial candidates.

3. **Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF)**

Rich Liberatore shared information about changes happening within the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF). As background, he noted that originally the Department of Human Services (DHS) was the 'administrative home' for ENTF, but in 2001 it was transitioned to the Heart of West Michigan United Way. He also remarked the ENTF name was originally, the *Emergency* Needs Task Force, but has transitioned to 'Essential'.

Over the past two years, ENTF has reviewed its organizational structure, and a Governance Committee was established that included representatives from the Cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming; Kent County; Kent DHS; ACSET; Salvation Army – Booth Family Services; and United Way. ENTF Subcommittees continue to operate on a regular basis, and include the Coordinating Committee, Coalition to End Homelessness, Food & Nutrition Coalition, Transportation Subcommittee, Energy Efficiency Subcommittee and the Economic & Workforce Development Subcommittee.

With the retirement of ENTF's long-time coordinator, a position review was conducted and ENTF is currently seeking a Director. The Director will work with the subcommittees and supervise the CTEH staff. Currently, the position is posted at United Way and interested parties should send resumes to Matthew VanZetten or directly to the United Way.

4. **Section 515/100% Purchase of Service Planning Update**

Matthew VanZetten provided an update, noting that he and Savator Selden-Johnson intended to present this update together, but she was called away to a meeting with State DHS.

As a reminder, the State Legislature created a section within the FY2013 DHS budget that requires a plan to move toward a child welfare 100% private agency, Purchase of Service model in Kent County. A consultant was engaged to facilitate conversations related to this, and a plan was presented to the Legislature in September 2013.

The FY2014 DHS budget required the State to create a Performance Based Contract (PBC) model. In January 2014, the State and its consultant team utilized the Kent County report as the base model to develop its recommendations to DHS. It looks as though there will be a few differences between the two plans. The most significant being a case rate for all cases in the PBC model, while the Kent model still utilized the current funding system.

In the next several months, the final PBC plan will be released and the two reports will need to be reconciled. This will allow the Kent County child welfare system to transition into a more nimble system that is designed to improve outcomes for children.

5. **KCFCCC Nominating Committee Report**

Maureen Noe mentioned that a group of the KCFCCC Council met to discuss the Executive Committee. Teresa Weatherall-Neal, Savator Selden-Johnson and Sharon Loughridge will not be returning to that committee. Candace Cowling, Julie Ridenour and Scott Gilman are being suggested to fill the slots. Maureen called for a motion to move this forward. Gary Lemke made the motion, support by Judge Gardner – Vote: **UNANIMOUS**.

6. **KConnect Update**

Matthew shared that KConnect is moving forward in its development and currently interviewing for project management staff. A full update will be provided in April by its director – Pam Parriott.

7. **Miscellaneous**

- Matthew VanZetten shared that he will be sending out a Doodle Poll to discuss where the KCFCCC should go next, with the launch of KConnect. He asked the group to respond to the poll to determine what direction the Council should go.
- Scott Gilman shared that network180 received a grant to train citizens on mental health first aid. Staff training is available (not for clinical staff). Two programs are available. One is for Adult Mental Health issues and a different one for children's mental Health issues. Sign up for this training is available on their website.
- Adam London shared that they are kicking off their second round of Community Health Needs assessments. It will be broken down regionally this time. Please check out their web site at www.KentcountyCHMA.org for meeting times and locations. Feedback is appreciated.
- Wayman Britt asked the group to welcome the newest member of the KCFCCC Committee, George Meek.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Next Council meeting: April 1, 2014 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room A & B