

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2001, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Wedgwood Christian Youth and Family Services Chapel
3300 36th Street, S.E.

ATTENDANCE

Members/alternates present: Reverend Ellen Brubaker, Paul Cartright (for Andrew Zylstra), Candace Cowling (for Patti Nussbaum), Richard Gritter (and Dave Van Rooy), Karl Hascall, Lynn Heemstra, Bonnie Huntley, Ph.D., Douglas Mack, M.D. (Barbara Terry), Jack Roedema (for Judge Nanaruth Carpenter), Diana Sieger (and Wendy Jackson), Mike Weiler (for George Woons)

Members absent (with no alternate present): Rosemary Allen, Sue Broman, Tom Czerwinski, Beverly Drake, William Forsyth, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Linda McDonald, Bernice Morehead, Miles Murphy, Maria O'Hare, Milt Rohwer

Others present: Bethanie Archbold, Mary Swanson (staff); Betty Blase, Kathy Humphrey-Vaughn

GENERAL BUSINESS

Richard Gritter called the meeting to order at 12:20p.m. As there was not a quorum, Mr. Gritter suggested that the present members conduct business and place their decisions for ratification at the next session of the full Council. The present members agreed to the proposed plan of action. All actions taken at the meeting shall be contingent upon ratification at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Gritter announced that two new members had been appointed to the Council. Mary Alice Williams was appointed as a private agency representative. She is the President/CEO of Arbor Circle, and has over 26 years experience working for Kent County residents. This is her first term of service on the Council. Patti Nussbaum was also appointed as a private agency representative. Ms. Nussbaum is the Director of Wellness and Prevention Services for Project Rehab. Having just completed a three-year term of service to the Council, she was re-appointed to a second term. Although Ms. Nussbaum was unable to attend, she was represented by her alternate, Candace Cowling.

Dr. Huntley requested that the agenda be amended to add a report on CMH's need for funding. Dr. Mack moved to approve the amended agenda. Diane Sieger supported. Motion carried.

Ms. Sieger moved to approve the January 9, 2001, Council meeting minutes. Dr. Mack supported. Motion carried.

Mr. Gritter called for any public comment. There were no comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports. Mr. Gritter stated that the Executive Committee would discuss committee structure and recruitment at the February 15, 2001, Executive Committee meeting. He stated that the Executive Committee hopes to have the committees in operation by April.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Executive Committee and Officers

Dave Van Rooy presented the Executive Committee's recommendation for the nomination of the officers and new Executive Committee. He stated that the Executive Committee's rationale for the creation of the slate was that the Council had undergone significant structural and staffing changes in the last year. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that current members of the Committee be retained, if interested, for the sake of continuity. Mr. Van Rooy presented the following slate to the Council in the form of a motion:

Chair: Dick Gritter
Vice Chair: Diana Sieger
Reverend Ellen Brubaker
John Cole
Karl Hascall
Lynn Heemstra
Debra Holmes-Garrison
Jack Roedema

Lynn Heemstra supported the motion. Motion carried.

Bylaws Revisions Committee & Discussion on Alternates

Mr. Van Rooy reported that an ad hoc committee had been appointed by the Chair to review the existing bylaws and propose changes. Members of the committee are Dave Van Rooy and Wendy Jackson. He stated that the committee members welcome any input from the other Council members. The committee plans to present their recommendations to the Executive Committee on February 15, 2001, and to the full Council in April.

Mr. Van Rooy asked for guidance from the Council on the issues of alternates. The current structure allows each member to designate an alternate to represent him or her in case of absence. Mr. Van Rooy stated that, in order to simplify the Council's voting structure and encourage consistent representation, the bylaws committee was considering allowing only mandated members to designate alternates. Several Council members spoke in support of maintaining the current structure. They stated concerns that private agencies and funding organizations would lose their vote if the primary member was unable to attend. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to continue to allow all members to designate alternates, but to codify in the bylaws their role with respect to voting. The Council also recommended that measures be taken to encourage the attendance of mandated members.

Ms. Cowling asked that the bylaws committee also consider the committee structure when creating the bylaws. She stated that it would be beneficial to create a committee structure that supports strong communication between the committees and the Council. She suggested that one way to do so would be to ensure a large representation of Council members on the committees.

Mr. Van Rooy stated that anyone with any additional input for the bylaws committee would be welcome to contact him before the February 14, 2001, meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Commissioners Actions on Council Recommendations

Mary Swanson stated that in addition to appointing two new members to the Council, the Board of Commissioners approved two additional resolutions recommended by the Council at its January 25, 2001, meeting. The Board approved the restructuring/phasing of the Council membership and the recommendation to delegate MPCB powers to the Council when the actions do not affect a County department or involve County funding. Ms. Swanson stated that the delegation of MPCB status should help streamline the MPCB approval process.

ASAP-PIE Update

Mike Weiler reported that Kent ISD's proposal for ASAP-PIE funding was not approved. He stated that the ISD and the ASAP-PIE Advisory Committee were disappointed, but were committed to moving forward to supply services to families with children ages 0-5. The Advisory Committee will meet February 12, 2001, to discuss their next steps.

The Council spent some time discussing their concerns over the lack of funding for the proposal. Mr. Weiler stated that Kent ISD had requested a copy of the readers' comments, and that he would share the comments with the Advisory Committee. Mr. Weiler stated that although he did not want to draw conclusions before reading the reader's comments, he was concerned that none of the urban counties had received funding. Ms. Jackson stated that the Wayne County MPCB had written a letter expressing their concern over the lack of funding for urban areas. She suggested that the Council consider writing a similar letter. Several Council members expressed their interest in advocating on behalf of Kent County's proposal for ASAP-PIE funds.

Dr. Mack moved that the Council write a letter expressing its concerns about the distribution of ASAP-PIE funds. Mary Alice Williams supported. After some discussion, the motion carried. Staff will draft the letter and take it before the Executive Committee for approval.

Safe Home Safe Kids Campaign

Ms. Heemstra gave an update on the Safe Home Safe Kids Campaign. The monthly information sheet for February was included in the meeting packet. She stated that anyone interested in receiving a monthly packet of safety information could call 391-SAFE.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report

Bethanie Archbold presented the Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report. She stated that the report was required to be submitted to the State FIA by February 16, 2001. She presented highlights of the report, including a financial report. Ms. Archbold reported that due to staff changes by the local FIA and the Council, \$14,281.99 was unexpended in FY2000, and was therefor retained by the State. Ms. Archbold reported that there was now a process in place to ensure that all the money will be spent or reallocated in the future.

Mr. Weiler moved that the Council approve the Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report. Ms. Sieger supported. Motion carried.

Council Web Site

Ms. Archbold presented a paper copy of the Council's new web site, www.kentcounty.org/kcfccc. She reported that the site went live last Friday; by the following Monday she had already received a response from a parent new to Kent County. The web site includes a brief description of the Council, a list of members, and related links. The site allows individuals to download meeting agendas and minutes, similar to the original Council web site provided by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Child and Family Resource Council Upcoming Events

Ms. Cowling distributed information about the Resource Bananza, sponsored by the Child and Family Resource Council (CFRC). The Resource Bananza is an opportunity for agencies to share resource materials with other direct service agencies. Items to be distributed include Parenting Awareness Month packets; RAVE resources on dating violence safety tips; Infant, toddler, & Preschool READY kits; and much more. The Resource Bananza will take place Friday, March 2, 2001, from 9:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. at the United Way, 118 Commerce SW. Ms. Cowling welcomed Council members' participation. For more information, call the CFRC at 454-HOPE (4673).

Ms. Cowling stated that other upcoming CFRC events include technical assistance for the Children's Trust Fund RFP and the Annual Service to Children Award. She asked that if Council members knew any agencies interested in either of these events, they could contact the Child and Family Resource Council.

Ms. Cowling stated that she had petitions for placing the Concealed Weapons law on the ballot. She asked anyone interested in signing to do so after the meeting. She stated that she also has extra petitions available.

Community Mental Health Funding

Dr. Huntley stated that CMH is facing a serious funding problem. She distributed a fact sheet on the issues. She stated that Kent CMH is looking at an estimated \$2,000,000 deficit. CMH is seeing a rise in Medicaid and indigent/working poor clients, resulting in funds being diverted

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from the indigent/working poor clients, even as their numbers rise. This results in further stress on the working poor.

Dr. Huntley stated that CMH is working with its providers to discuss ways to reduce expenditures. She said that she feared that the first items to be cut would be CMH's participation in collaborative partnerships that provide preventative services to children, such as Perspective 21! and Healthy Start. Dr. Huntley asked for the Council's support in advocating for greater funding.

Recognition of Dr. Douglas Mack

On behalf of the Council, Mr. Gritter expressed his appreciation to Dr. Mack for his years of service to the Council and the community. Dr. Mack will be retiring from his position of Medical Health Officer to "pursue the life outside of work." Dr. Mack was one of the founding members of the Council and has been a strong advocate for the Council. Dr. Mack has agreed to provide interim Medical Director support for the Health Department while the County considers its needs in this area. Mr. Gritter and the Council thanked Dr. Mack for his years of support and service.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:41p.m. **The next Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2001, from 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m. at the Wedgewood Christian Youth and Family Services Chapel, 3300 36th Street, SE.**