

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**

June 5, 2001, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Wedgwood Christian Youth and Family Services Chapel  
3300 36<sup>th</sup> Street, S.E.

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Members/alternates present:** Ruth Buntin, Judge Nanaruth Carpenter (and Jack Roedema), John Cole (for Andrew Zylstra), Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Beverly Drake, Lynn Ferrell (for Milton Rohwer), Richard Gritter (and David Van Rooy), Karl Hascall, Debra Holmes Garrison, Bonnie Huntley, Ph.D., Linda McDonald, Patti Nussbaum, Barbara Terry, and Mike Weiler (for George Woons)

**Members absent (with no alternate present):** Susan Broman, Reverend Ellen Brubaker, Candace Cowling, William Forsyth, Lynn Heemstra, Miles Murphy, María O'Hare, Diana Sieger, and Mary Alice Williams

**Others present:** Bethanie Archbold, Mary Swanson (staff); Nadia Brigham, Barb Byers, Janet Dietsch, Gary Ellens, Kate Luckert, Laura Mitchell, Bob McKown, Marcia Rapp, Klaus Rollin, Janet Shangle, and Kathy Humphrey Vaughn

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Richard Gritter called the meeting to order at 12:15pm and welcomed the Committee members, staff, and guests. Mr. Gritter announced that the Board of Commissioners had appointed two new Council members to fill vacant Consumer/Advocate positions created by resignations. Ruth Buntin has a history of advocacy on justice issues, such as welfare-to-work, anti-racism, and diversity. She currently serves as the Service Learning Coordinator for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. Candace Cowling has served on the Council in the past, and has a strong history of advocacy through her position as Director of the Child and Family Resource Council. Mr. Gritter welcomed both new Council members.

Mr. Gritter also welcomed Klaus Rollin, who was attending the Council meeting as a special guest of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Mr. Rollin was visiting the United States from Germany to learn about the work of community foundations.

Mr. Gritter introduced Gary Ellens, the new Director of Wedgwood.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Debra Holmes-Garrison moved to approve the minutes of the April Council. Karl Hascall supported. Motion carried.

### III. Strong Families/Safe Children

Ms. Archbold stated that plan updates for FY2001 and FY2002 were due to the State FIA no later than June 30, 2001. She stated that most of the necessary changes to the plan involve updating the narrative to reflect administrative and organizational changes in the Council over the past year. The one substantial change would be the reallocation of funds. For this reason, staff requested that the Council determine the reallocation of funds for each fiscal year and approve the plan updates pending review by the Executive Committee at their June 21, 2001, meeting.

#### A. FY 2001 Reallocations

Ms. Archbold presented the proposals received for reallocation of the unexpended FY2001 SF/SC funds. She stated that after reviewing the proposals, the Executive Committee recommended that the funds be allocated in the following way:

- \$3,000 to Catholic Social Services (Healthy Start) to respond to immediate and urgent needs of families when no other community resources are available
- \$3,903.12 to Family Outreach Center (Family & Community Compact) for one-time costs for clothing, housing, beds, bedding, and dressers, when no other community resources are available

Mike Weiler moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation for the allocation of unexpended FY2001 SF/SC funds. Ms. Holmes-Garrison supported. Motion carried.

#### B. FY 2002 Reallocations

Ms. Archbold stated that the current plan allocates \$26,000 for administrative costs; however, this cost has historically been covered by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, and is now covered by the County. The Executive Committee recommends that \$10,000 be held in discretionary funds to cover any unanticipated program or administrative costs that may arise during the year, and that the remaining money be allocated to the three services for which the contracts expire this year:

- \$5,950.50 for Adoptive Family Support Services
- \$5,950.50 for Family and Community Compact
- \$4,999.00 for Healthy Start

She stated that the Executive Committee further recommends that the local FIA seek to renew these contracts for one year to make the terms consistent with the Council's three-year plan. All allocations are subject to FIA contracting procedures.

Karl Hascall moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendations and authorize Kent County FIA to begin the contracting process. Sandra Davis supported. Motion carried.

#### IV. Committee Membership Update & Proposed Committee Chairs

Mr. Gritter presented the following list of proposed committee chairs for Council approval:

- **Barbara Terry**, Prenatal Care & First Year of Life (ages 0 to 1)
- **Susan Broman**, Early Childhood Education & Care (ages 1 to 5)
- **Wendy Jackson**, Elementary School Years (ages 5 to 10)
- **David Van Rooy**, Middle & High School Years (ages 10 to 18)
- **Sandra Davis**, Ongoing Family Support (ages 18+)

Judge Carpenter moved that the Council approve the appointment of the above individuals as committee chairs. Ms. Holmes-Garrison supported. Motion carried.

Ms. Archbold distributed a preliminary list of potential committee members. She stated that she would be contacting the chairs of the committees to set the first meetings. The first meetings should take place in July.

#### V. 211 Information & Referral Number

Ms. Holmes-Garrison introduced Robert McKown of United Way's First Call for Help. Mr. McKown presented information about the 211 project. He stated that the main issue First Call For Help faces is the requirement that the information and referral number be staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Currently the First Call For Help hotline is staffed weekdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm, with an answering and emergency page service for the remaining hours. In addition, based on the experience of other communities who have a similar information and referral program, First Call for Help expects the call volume to increase by 30-40 percent.

Mr. McKown stated that First Call for Help was putting together a stakeholders group to develop Kent County's plan for 211 implementation. First Call for Help is seeking the Council's input and participation during the planning stage to ensure that the final plan is acceptable to the MPCB.

Dr. Huntley asked whether First Call for Help had met with other local agencies to cover the additional hours. Mr. McKown responded that the ideal solution would be to partner with other agencies to cover these hours, and that he had had preliminary conversations with some of the agencies. He stated that Atlanta's program only requires one person to staff the number from 11:00pm to 7:00am.

Ms. Drake suggested that Cornerstone would be ideal partner to provide nighttime staffing of the number, considering that they already have a 24-hour line.

Dr. Huntley asked whether the stakeholders group would also consider infrastructure of the system; i.e., ability to transfer calls between agencies. Mr. McKown stated that the stakeholders group would have to take all of these issues into consideration when crafting its plan.

Mr. McKown stated that any Council members who would like to serve on the stakeholder group, or have suggestions, are welcome to contact Mr. McKown, Ms. Holmes Garrison, or Ms. Archbold.

## VI. Updates

### A. Summer Food Program

Ms. Archbold stated that FIA had approached the Council regarding the possibility of the Council working to expand Kent County's involvement in the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). The program provides reimbursement for communities to provide free meals to children from low-income families over the summer months. According to USDA statistics, only 7.84% of Kent County's eligible children currently participate in the program. Ms. Archbold stated that Wendy Jackson has agreed to bring the program before the Elementary School Years Committee for consideration as part of their action plan, with the tentative goal of serving additional children by the summer of 2002.

### B. Violence Prevention Assessment

Ms. Archbold reported that there was no new information. She stated that she was awaiting direction from the Kent County Violence Prevention Coalition, which was heading up the initiative.

## VII. Administrative Items

### A. FY2001 Strong Families/Safe Children (SF/SC) & Child Protection/Community Partners (CP/CP) Expenditures

Ms. Archbold distributed the FY2001 SF/SC and CP/CP expenditures reports. She stated that all contractors are currently on track with their expenditures.

Laura Mitchell of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan offered a correction to the report. She stated that the report should read "Lutheran Child & Family Services," instead of "Lutheran Social Services." Lutheran Social Services does not receive any SF/SC funds.

### B. Letter of Support for 2001 Homeless Prevention Challenge Grant

Ms. Archbold presented the Continuum of Care/Grand Rapids Community Foundation proposal for the homeless prevention challenge grant. She stated that the grant required a letter of support by the Council. As there was not sufficient time to present the proposal to the full Council before its deadline, staff and the Chair reviewed the proposal, and copies were distributed to the Executive Committee. Ms. Archbold indicated that a copy of the proposal and the letter of support were included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Gritter stated that the Council could either ratify or revoke the letter of support. Sandra Davis moved to ratify the letter of support for the Continuum of Care/Grand Rapids Community Foundation proposal for the 2001 Homeless Prevention Challenge Grant. Ms. Nussbaum supported. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05pm. **The next Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 4, 2001, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at the Wedgwood Christian Youth and Family Services Chapel, 3300 36<sup>th</sup> Street, SE.**