

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



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DRAFT KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2002, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.
Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE

Members/alternates present: Susan Broman (and Christine Nelson), Nanaruth Carpenter, John Cole (for Andrew Zylstra), Candace Cowling, Mary Dengerink (for Paul Ippel), Lynne Ferrell (for Milton Rohwer), Sharon Loughridge (for Patti Nussbaum), Diana Sieger, Barbara Terry (for Debra Holmes Garrison)

Members absent (with no alternate present): Tom Czerwinski, Beverly Drake, William Forsyth, Linda McDonald, Marvin McKenzie, Miles Murphy, Patti Nussbaum, Cathy Raevsky, Mike Weiler, Mary Alice Williams

Others present: Bethanie Archbold, Mary Swanson (staff); Teresa Branson, Barb Hawkins Palmer, Lynn Heemstra, Richard Libertore, Jo Murphy, Mary O'Hare, Kate Scheid

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Diana Sieger opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Lynn Ferrel moved moved to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting. Candace Cowling supported. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Special Presentation: Community Research Institute

Ms. Sieger introduced Donna VanIwaarden, director of Grand Valley State University's Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy, to present on the Center's Community Research Institute. The Community Research Institute serves as a resource for original and secondary research on community needs, including local social, demographic, and economic data. The Institute also provides program evaluation, data acquisition and database development, and GIS mapping services.

Dr. VanIwaarden presented an overview of the program and demonstrated the practical application of the Institute's websites. Copies of the PowerPoint presentation are available on request.

Jo Murphy asked how the Institute divided seniors when reporting community data. Dr. VanIwaarden responded that the division depends on the data set – for some areas, data is subdivided by age, for others the data is grouped together for all seniors aged 60 or up.

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Sharon Loughridge asked what neighborhoods were represented in regards to community data. Dr. VanIwaarden responded that currently the Institute is compiling data on all organized Grand Rapids neighborhoods, with the future goal of expanding beyond the city.

Ms. Cowling asked what primary data the Institute collected. Dr. VanIwaarden responded that the Institute administers a yearly community survey. She stated that the first year, the Institute distributed 10,000 surveys via mail with an approximately 15% return rate. The second year, the Institute conducted the survey via phone for 600 individuals. The results were then weighted according to the composition of the population in the community. The Institute also conducts primary data collection as requested by community organizations.

Lynn Heemstra stated that the Community Research Institute has been working with the Expanded Learning Opportunities collaborative on surveying existing youth programs. She stated that the Institute has integrated the data collected through the surveys with existing neighborhood data. The initiative is now looking at gaps in service by neighborhood.

IV. Executive Committee/Officer Nominations

Ms. Sieger asked for volunteers or nominations for members to serve on the Council's 2003 Executive Committee and officers. She stated that the Executive Committee would be meeting on December 19 to review nominations and would present a slate of electors for the Council's vote in January.

V. Committee Updates

A written update for each of the committees was included in the agenda packet. Copies of the Connections for Children brochure were distributed.

Candace Cowling moved that David Schroeder be appointed as temporary Chair of the Elementary School Years Committee during Wendy Jackson's leave of absence. Judge Nanaruth Carpenter supported. Motion carried.

VI. Council/Committee Member Feedback Results

Ms. Sieger reported that staff had compiled results from the returned surveys. She stated that the overall feedback on committee effectiveness and overall collaboration were very good. She stated that member feedback on community input was not so high. She stated that the Council continued to face a dichotomy between having a small, appointed membership, yet wanting to encourage grassroots community participation through its committees. She stated that another area highlighted was confusion over how advocacy issues moved from committees to the Executive Committee. The final results will be distributed at the next Council meeting.

VII. Updates & Administrative Items

A. Executive Committee Action re: letter of support for Housing Continuum of Care

Ms. Sieger reported that the Executive Committee provided a letter of recommendation for the Housing Continuum of Care's application for a 2002 Homeless Prevention Challenge Grant. Copies of the proposal summary and letter were distributed.

B. Updated Bylaws

The updated bylaws, as approved by the Council at its November meeting, were distributed.

VIII. Other Community Information & Updates

A. Perspective 21! Early Impact Update

John Cole reported that Kent FIA had not yet received confirmation of the promised funding in writing from the State. He stated that the agencies were already providing the assessments, and Kent FIA would continue to work to ensure that the agencies received reimbursement.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. **The next Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council meeting will be January 7, 2003, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at the Kent County Health Department, 700 Fuller, N.E.**