

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



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DRAFT KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2003, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE

Members/alternates present: Nanaruth Carpenter, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell, Paul Ippel, Mark Lemoine, Marvin McKenzie, Patti Nussbaum (and Sharon Loughridge), Christine Nelson (for Susan Broman), Mary O'Hare, Carol Paine-McGovern, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger, Mary Alice Williams, Andrew Zylstra

Members absent (with no alternate present): Beverly Drake, William Forsyth, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Mike Weiler

Others present: Bethanie Archbold, Mary Swanson (staff); Barb Hawkins Palmer, Maria Pruis

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Diana Sieger opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She extended special welcomes to newly appointed Council members Mary O'Hare, Mark Lemoine, Carol Paine-McGovern, and Paul Cartwright. Judge Carpenter moved to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting. Cathy Raevsky supported. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Executive Committee/Officer Election

Ms. Sieger presented the slate of electors for the Executive Committee and officers, brought as a recommendation from the Executive Committee:

Required representation per Bylaws:	Recommended:
Private Funding Organizations (2)	Diana Sieger – Chair Nominee Debra Holmes-Garrison – Vice-Chair Nominee
Public Service Providers (2)	John Cole Paul Ippel
Private Service Provider (1)	Patti Nussbaum
Consumer Advocates (2)	Candace Cowling TBD

Lynne Ferrel moved to appoint the slate of electors to the Executive Committee. Ms. Raevsky supported. Motion carried.

IV. FY 2002 Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report

Bethanie Archbold presented the 2002 Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report. She reported that all the contractors were on track with their performance measures. She also noted that the Family and Community Compact program showed low numbers for permanency due to significantly decreased referrals from mid-2000 through 2001. During the summer of 2000, Family Outreach Center (FOC) did not accept referrals in order to allow the other community provider, Bethany Christian Services, to increase its caseload. At the same time, the program as a whole experienced an overall decrease in cases referred. FY 2002 outcomes reflect an increase in referrals, due in part to FOC resuming acceptance of referrals and in part to the collaborative efforts of FOC, Bethany Christian Services, FIA, and the referees from Family Court. Sandra Davis moved to approve the submission of the FY 2002 Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report. Patti Nussbaum support. Motion carried.

V. 2002 KCFCCC Annual Report

Ms. Sieger presented the draft KCFCCC Annual Report for Council review and discussion. Copies of the attendance records for 2002 were distributed to Council members and alternates. Ms. Ferrel recommended that the information regarding potential cost savings of the Kinship program be included. The Council approved the report for submission to the Board of Commissioners and the community.

VI. Council/Committee Member Feedback Survey Results

Ms. Sieger reviewed the results of the survey. She noted that the Council and its committees were rated a 4 (Good) or 5 (Great) by the majority of respondents on the majority of areas. She noted that two areas that were identified as needing improvement were advocacy and community input. She opened these two areas for discussion.

Ms. Nussbaum noted that the community involvement question may have been understood to deal purely with consumer membership, but did not necessarily reflect the efforts of the committees to gather consumer input through focus groups, interviews, outreach efforts, etc. Mr. Madole added that ideally, as the majority of the work of the Council was done at the committee level, consumer involvement should be recruited at that level.

Mary Alice Williams noted that many of the Council members represented agencies that have their own consumer/advocates advisory groups. She stated that it was the duty of the members to bring the needs of their advisory groups to the table.

Mr. Zylstra noted that having open communication between consumers and agencies at the local level provides the opportunity to work out issues at the local level before approaching the State.

Ms. Davis volunteered to lead a task force to look at the issue and bring back recommendations to the Council. Ms. Sieger asked that the task force look at the current efforts of the Council and its committees to access grassroots input both formally and informally, and identify what is appropriate in terms of gathering that input at different levels. She asked the group look at how information flows from the community to agencies to the Council.

In terms of advocacy, Chris Nelson asked what are the criteria that the Council uses to determine when to advocate. She noted that the Council has been active and successful in some areas, such as the Perspective 21! Early Impact crisis last year, but that the Council's advocacy has been

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very narrow. For example, the Council has not advocated on behalf of all Strong Families/ Safe Children programs.

Ms. Williams noted that the implementation of the Early Childhood Committee's Connections for Children grant would result in the identification of common priorities for early childhood that may require advocacy. She questioned how such requests for advocacy move from the committee level to the Executive Committee.

Ms. Cowling stated that the Council should look at the advocacy flow in the community. For example, if a client has a problem, where does that person go to resolve it? Are there methods for appeal or alternative strategies if the problem can't be resolved by an agency?

Ms. Swanson asked if advocacy issues could be tracked by 211. Ms. Cowling noted that navigating systems barriers is something different from service provision, and that the 211 has demonstrated the need for the community to look at the issue.

Ms. Sieger delegated the task of drafting advocacy criteria to the Strategic Planning task force, with the addition of two executive committee representatives to that group. The issue of exploring whether the Council should address the "advocacy system" was tabled for future consideration.

Ms. Sieger stated that it would be important to communicate with the governor regarding the importance of the MPCB structure. Ms. Archbold reported that she was meeting with the statewide network of staff to the MPCBs, and would raise the issue on the agenda.

VII. Committee Updates

There were no updates.

VIII. Updates & Administrative Items

A. Executive Committee Action re: letter of support for Perspective 21! Early Impact and Kinship Care programs

Ms. Sieger reported that the Executive Committee approved the creation of a letter of support on behalf of the Council for the Perspective 21! and Family and Community Compact (Kinship) Programs.

Mr. Zylstra noted that it was important for the community to stay active in these issues, as there was not yet a plan for continuation funding for Perspective 21! assessments.

IX. Other Community Information & Updates

A. Perspective 21! Early Impact Update

Mr. Zylstra reported that Kent FIA has received confirmation of the promised funding in writing from the State. He noted again that a plan for future funding was not yet established.

X. 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 April 1, 2003, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at the Kent County Health Department, 700 Fuller, N.E.**