

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



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DRAFT KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2003, 12:00p.m. – 1:30p.m.

Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Avenue, NE

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

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

Others present: Bethanie Archbold and Mary Swanson (staff); James Madole and David Schroeder (committee chairs), Betsy Boggs, Janice Fonger, Janay Jorgensen

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Diana Sieger opened the meeting and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Lynne Ferrell moved to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Sandra Davis supported. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Committee Updates

A. Early Childhood Committee

Betsy Boggs provided an update on the Connections for Children project. She noted that although the start-up of the project was delayed by 3 months by the ELOA program office, all components of the grant have been started and are on track.

B. Elementary School Years Committee

David Schroeder reviewed the one page description of the Families Food for Thought demonstration project. He noted that the committee has already begun to pursue funding for the demonstration project, and has begun advocacy efforts for a legislative change that would allow sustainability under the USDA Summer Food Service Program.

C. Middle & High School Years Committee

Jim Madole reported that the Middle & High School Years Committee was facing the challenge of the "forgotten group," teenagers. He reported that the committee began its work by listening to youth about what their needs were, then moved on to interview probation officers. Both groups reported that the primary need for youth in these age

groups is positive adult interaction. The group is now doing an assessment of the existence and capacity of mentorship programs in the community.

D. Ongoing Family Support Committee

Sandra Davis reported that the committee is working to expand their cross-training efforts in substance abuse to additional child welfare workers. She stated that the training is being expanded due to the positive responses of last years' participants and requests from other groups in the community for similar training. The committee also has workgroups looking at "Best Practices" for substance abuse screening for families at risk of child abuse and neglect, and university substance abuse training practices.

IV. Strong Families/Safe Children Committee Funds

Ms. Sieger presented the Executive Committee's recommendations for allocation of Strong Families/Safe Children committee funds. The Executive Committee recommended that \$8,175 be allocated to the Elementary School Years Committee's Family Food for Thought project, and that \$1,825 be allocated for year two of the Ongoing Family Support Committee's substance abuse training. Ms. Davis moved to allocate the funds as recommended. Carol Paine-McGovern supported. Motion carried.

V. 2003 Committee Appointments

Ms. Sieger presented the Executive Committee's proposed committee appointments for 2003. Judge Nanaruth Carpenter moved to approve the appointments. Christine Nelson supported. Motion carried.

VI. Community Input Task Force Report

Ms. Davis presented the report and recommendation of the community input task force. She reported that the task force recommended that the consumer input recommendations be implemented immediately. She noted that the task force had more difficulty in answering questions regarding the Council's image in the community, and recommended that these questions be shared with the Strategic Planning Task Force.

Mary Alice Williams moved to approve the report and recommendations of the community input task force, and to charge the Strategic Planning Task Force with identifying ways to address the community image questions. Ms. Nussbaum supported. Motion carried.

VII. Strategic Planning/ Advocacy Criteria Task Force Report

Ms. Sieger reported that the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Task Force was scheduled for April 16. The purpose of this meeting would be for the task force to finalize the format and timeline for the strategic planning process and determine its future meeting schedule. Key components of the strategic planning include identifying priorities and measures, incorporating the results of the community input task force, and identifying criteria for advocacy. The task force consists of the committee chairs (Susan Broman, Sandra Davis, Wendy Jackson, and Jim Madole) and two representatives of the Executive Committee (Debra Holmes-Garrison and Candace Cowling).

Ms. Williams noted that there were advocacy issues which should be addressed right away. She noted an example of United Way having to reduce its allocations to the children and families issue areas due to the campaign shortfall, while maintaining adult and seniors funding. She

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noted that this was a donor-driven decision, however, she questioned how that fit with community priorities. She stated that the Connections for Children project would result in recommendations and issues that may need to be addressed through advocacy. She questioned how the Council would address those situations.

Ms. Archbold stated that the issues were 1) how to prioritize the multiple issues for advocacy and 2) how to mobilize Council members. Ms. Nelson stated that the issue was not mobilization of members, but when the Council as a body should write a letter. How does the Council identify when it will or will not advocate?

Ms. Williams suggested that the committees identify issues and recommend methods, and bring them back to the Council for approval.

Mr. Madole stated that the task force would need to know how the Council interacts with the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Archbold reported that staff would be present to answer those questions.

Mary Swanson noted that there may need to be different criteria for issue advocacy vs. program/funding advocacy. She suggested that there should be multiple pathways for an issue to come to the Council's attention.

Ms. Sieger thanked the participants for their input.

VIII. Updates and Administrative Items

A. New Executive Committee Appointments

Ms. Sieger reported that per the Council bylaws regarding Executive Committee vacancies, the Executive Committee has appointed Mike Weiler (public agency) and Carol Paine McGovern (consumer advocate) to fill the vacant positions.

B. Executive Committee Action re:Housing Continuum of Care

Ms. Sieger reported that due to a February 21 deadline for submission of the Housing Continuum of Care plan, the Executive Committee signed the plan on behalf of the Council. The plan did not required formal MPCB approval/endorsement, only that the document had been shared with the MPCB for review.

IX. Other Community Information & Updates

A. Kent County Prevention Initiative

Ms. Archbold reported that the Executive Committee has appointed an ad hoc committee to review proposals for Kent County Prevention Initiative primary prevention family support funding. The committee will submit its findings to the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Council. The Council will then provide its recommendations to the County.

B. Other Updates

Ms. Cowling reported that April was Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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Wendy Jackson asked whether there would be any reductions to Strong Families/ Safe Children funding due to the State's budget problems. Ms. Archbold stated that there has not yet been any official word.

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 September 9, 2003, from 12:00pm – 1:30pm at the Kent County Health Department, 700 Fuller, N.E.**