

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Committee Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2005, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Kent / MSU Extension Offices

775 Ball Avenue NE

Members/Alternates present: Christine Nelson (for Susan Broman), Judge Patrick Hillary; Candace Cowling; Lynne Ferrell; Sandra Davis for Tom Czerwinski; Laurie Gardner; Barb Terry (for Debra Holmes-Garrison); Jackie Klinesteker (for Paul Ippel); Gary Ellens; Patti Nussbaum and Sharon Loughridge; Carol Paine-McGovern; Cathy Raevsky; Diana Sieger and Wendy Jackson; Mary Alice Williams and Jack Greenfield; Andy Zylstra.

Members absent (with no alternate present): Beverly Drake, Tom Czerwinski, Mike Weiler, Lindsay Wilkinson.

Others present: Cathy Weirick (staff); Tony Campbell; Janay Brower; Jim Madole; Kathy Freberg; Dona Abbot; Wayman Britt.

I. Welcome and Call to Order 12:10 pm

Diana Sieger called the meeting to order and welcomed the participants. Candace Cowling moved the acceptance of November 2, 2004 KCFCCC with the exception of taking out the parenthesis around “including Kent” on page two for the Committee updates. Sandra Davis seconded. Minutes Accepted. The agenda was modified to accommodate our speaker, Donna VanIwaarden from the Community Research Institute.

II. KCFCCC Appointment Announcement

Ms. Sieger reviewed the process by which interested individuals may become members of the Council. Annually, the KCFCCC has member openings due to the staggered terms of the various positions on the Council. This year there were three openings and a new appointment by virtue of office including a business person opening and two private funding organization memberships and one private agency representative position. Judge Patrick Hillary replaces Judge Nanaruth Carpenter; Diana Sieger and Debra Holmes Garrison were re-appointed as private funding agency representatives, and; Arlen-Dean Gaddy was appointed as a new business representative and finally Gary Ellens is coming on board as a private agency representative.

The next order of business is for the KCFCCC to appoint the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is comprised of the KCFCCC Chair and Vice-Chair and (at a minimum), a public service provider; a private service provider; an individual representing consumer advocates, and; a private funding organization. The present Executive Committee

will be discussing this process at the next Executive Committee meeting. With the growth of the committees, the KCFCCC by-laws are being reviewed and possibly amended to include additional duties for the Executive Committee.

III. KCFCCC – Strong Families/Safe Children Annual Report – Cathy Weirick

Cathy Weirick distributed the annual financial report for Kent County's Strong Families/Safe Children funding. She noted that some or all of the contracts are in their final year of the FIA three year cycle and the process for distributing/granting the funds will have to take place in 2005. Cathy will get clarity from Sue Toman on which contracts are in their final year and will review the process by which these funds are granted and implement that process as soon as necessary.

IV. Kent County Prevention Initiative – Cathy Weirick

Cathy reported that she has met with the various agencies under contract with the County to provide the prevention initiative services. They have reviewed the quarterly status reports and made some amendments. In addition, Cathy is meeting with Brian Hartl from the Health Department and the contracted agencies reviewing the evaluation process being developed and implemented. Cathy states she will be convening the Prevention Advisory meeting January 14th. Here she hopes to gain further insight on the review process and reporting process. Lynne Ferrell questioned whether or not the agencies were meeting their service goals. Cathy deferred the question until the Prevention Advisory Meeting due to difficulty discerning the reasoning behind the goal statements. A report was distributed to the group.

V. Community Research Institute Presentation – Donna VanIwaarden.

Diana Sieger offered a brief history and explanation regarding the invitation of today's presenter. Over the last year or so, Bethanie Archibold and Barb Terry were involved in a social indicator project whereby they were looking at indicators that would address the outcomes or some of the outcomes the KCFCCC Committees were attempting to achieve. The 2004-2006 Action plan lays out the idea beautifully for each committee and demonstrates how the work of each committee may ultimately affect social change. There was not however any system put in place to actually conduct any analysis in any comprehensive manner. In an effort then to create a social welfare measurement system, Diana Sieger, Wayman Britt, Bethanie Archbold and now Cathy Weirick have met with Donna VanIwaarden of the Community Research Institute to develop a coordinated, cost effective social measurement system. In an effort to keep all members apprised of this development, Diana felt it prudent to invite CRI to speak at the beginning of the New Year. Diana went onto her introduction of Donna VanIwaarden praising her willingness to collaborate.

Donna VanIwaarden: Donna gave a brief history of the development of the Community Research Institute – CRI. The idea came years ago with Delta Strategies idea for a community report card. Anytime you want to measure quality, however, you need a baseline of data and at that time there was no place to find this. There were pockets of information around in various agencies but after completing an inventory, CRI discovered most data was kept in paper format. As technology improved, so did the relationships develop between CRI

and the community agencies. CRI became the hub for data or knew how to access the data. Funding followed from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation and CRI is now at the stage of trying to make community data interactive and accessible to its community partners. CRI is now capable of building a network of machines that can talk to one another so data does not have to be stored in one place. CRI is now in the next development phase of analyzing the data. Donna's dream for CRI and the community is to develop a way to standardize the collection of the data, feed it into the system and create a total measurement of the data, then CRI would offer feedback to the human service agencies to see how their services may be affecting social change.

CRI presently has a website (www.cridata.org). Donna asked the group to look at it and provide any feedback to improve it or make it more useful.

Comments & Discussion:

- *Public and private agencies alike must report data to a multitude of funding sources – which is becoming an increasingly large portion of agency overhead costs. The thought of having to report to one more place – seems overwhelming. If CRI could get the data from the funding sources this would eliminate duplication.*
- *Some would like to see an entity like CRI act as the community data information hub that in turn would standardize the collection of data and analyze it for the community.*
- *Agencies who have worked with CRI in the past report having an excellent working relationship. CRI has staff that is smart, responsive, interactive and quick.*
- *A question was posed as how CRI or CRI's vision relates to the CATCH process that the Public Health Dept had/has in place.*
- *A question also came up whether or not CRI is collecting aggregate or individual data and it was noted that MERC is also collecting data – presently individual, de-identified data.*
- *CRI is collecting individual de-identified data but reports out on it in geographic coordinates.*
- *There was a concern about data collection being done prior to a community framework being created – the questions of what are we looking for? The 2004-2006 KCFCCC Action plan attempts to spell out what we are looking for – this could be reviewed and pared down in an effort to make it a more realistic endeavor. The biggest barrier to having a system such as the one proposed by CRI is “how people will misinterpret the data.” A data democracy needs to be formulated.*

Committee Updates

- **Early Childhood Committee.** Presented by Barb Terry. The Early Childhood Committee is broken into subcommittees in the process of assessing the status of services presently being offered in the community.
- **Elementary School Years.** Presented by Wendy Jackson. The committee, with the help of a facilitator, is reviewing best practices for health & human service integration in the schools; reviewing and/or deciding upon possible outcomes and

discussed 4 of the 15 Standards for Children as potential outcomes. In addition, the committee realizes there is no good inventory of what services are presently being provided via the schools; the committee is unaware of any systematic method in place for schools to assess student needs; the committee is considering a name change due to the broadened scope of the field it is trying to affect.

- Middle/High School Years. Cathy Weirick presented. This committee is reviewing the VISTA grant to insure the mentoring collaborative is meeting its stated goals. The committee is also reviewing committee goals & objectives and is looking for some direction or support from an organization/entity like CRI.
- On Going Family Support. Jack Greenfield presented. Jack has accepted the chair position for the On-Going Family Support committee replacing Sandra Davis. The committee will be reviewing the evaluations from the most recent substance abuse training hosted past October 2004. In addition, the committee will continue to try to connect with universities regarding student training needs.

VI. Other Updates

- Candace Cowling announced that a staging of the on-line 2005 Family Resource Guide is available via <http://staging2.gsite.com/CFRC/>. Please provide them with any feedback.
- Gary Ellens announced the opening of the Wedgwood Lighthouse Academy at 904 Sheldon SE.
- Cathy Raevsky announced the Health Department's most recent move and said her meeting rooms were available for use now.

VII. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

The next KCFCCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Kent County MSU Extension Service Room B, 775 Ball Ave. NE.

- a. 9/6/05
- b. C0608-04 - minutes