

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2006, 12:00 p.m.

MSU Extension Offices – Room B

775 Ball Avenue, NE

Chairperson: Carol Paine-McGovern

Staff: Matthew VanZetten

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Jim Koetsier (for Judge Patrick Hillary), Tony Campbell, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell, Paul Ippel, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger, Jack Greenfield, Patti Warrington, Mary Alice Williams, Wendy Lewis-Jackson, Andy Zylstra

Members Absent: Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Lynn Heemstra, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Cathy Raevsky, Mike Weiler,

Guests: Laurie Gardner, Wayman Britt, David Schroeder, Maureen Geary, Victoria Sluga, Janay Brower, Gayle Orange

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Special thanks were given to Laurie Gardner for serving on the Council for the past few years. New and/or reappointed Council members include Lynn Heemstra, Candace Cowling, Carol Paine-McGovern, Lynne Ferrell, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Sharon Loughridge, and Susan Broman.

A motion was made by Lynne Ferrell to accept the meeting agenda and the November 10, 2005 minutes. Paul Ippel supported. **UNANIMOUS**

2. Vision to End Homelessness Presentation

David Schroeder introduced Sister Maureen Geary and Victoria Sluga from the Housing Continuum of Care (HCOC) committee of the ENTF. David provided the Council with a brief update regarding the activities of the ENTF and the coordination that has been occurring between the KCFCCC and ENTF. David explained that one of the largest undertakings of the ENTF has been the Vision to End Homelessness (VTEH).

Sister Maureen explained that the HCOC oversees and coordinates the distribution of \$4.4m of HUD Supportive Housing Program dollars as well as \$500,000 of Emergency Shelter grants within Kent County. These dollars support the infrastructure to house the County's homeless population of 700 – 850 people a night (1/3 children and 2/3 single women). Additionally, between 50 and 250 people (usually single men) sleep outdoors on any given night of the year.

The HCOC has committed through the VTEH to stop managing this problem and end homelessness in Kent County. The strategies within the VTEH are threefold:

1. Close the front door by preventing homelessness
2. Open the back door by rapidly rehousing people in permanent housing if they become homeless
3. Build infrastructure (not buildings) to utilize market rate units and decrease vacancy rates. This may include creating a rental assistance pool to subsidize units.

The VTEH was a public process that included seven project teams, surveys, focus groups and community forums attended by over 100 people. After hearing comments and presenting a draft VTEH plan, the HCOC adopted the VTEH and has committed to begin its implementation so that in ten years the face of homelessness will look very different than it does today.

In closing, Sister Maureen requested that the KCFCCC express support for the VTEH.

Carol Paine-McGovern requested if the Council would like to express support for the VTEH and that this would be discussed at the February meeting. After a brief discussion the Council agreed that it felt prepared to support the VTEH at today's meeting.

A motion was made by Diana Sieger to have the KCFCCC endorse the VTEH Plan. Candace Cowling supported. **UNANIMOUS**

3. **Kent County Human Services: School Age Services Framework**

Wendy Lewis Jackson provided a historical overview of the work that the School Age Services Committee has embarked on over the past 18 months. She explained that over the past six months, the Committee has conducted several focus groups with parents, teachers, school administrators and service providers to discuss how human services can better be connected with schools to support student achievement.

Throughout October 2005 and November 2005, a subcommittee worked to create a framework to guide implementation discussions. This plan included the following four points:

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| Component 1 | Create a responsible person at several schools or geographic locations within the KISD that is the connection point between all public and non-profit services, afterschool programs, teachers and parents (Kent School Services Network). A single point of contact. |
| Component 2 | Assign caseloads for WIC, NFP, MSS/ISS, DHS, Mental Health Services (Arbor Circle, Family Outreach, CSS, other agencies) and other services based on geography using REGIS & GIS technology. Have schools serve as home sites for geographic areas with their own mini human service office. Secretarial time may be jointly purchased. |
| Component 3 | Institute requirements into RFPs from organizations such as, but not limited to: DHS, network180, Public Health, KISD, and Child & Family Resource Council that contractors deliver existing services in schools. |
| Component 4 | Schools provide in-kind space within school for human service contractors. |

At its Wednesday, November 23, 2005 meeting, the full School Age Services Committee endorsed the four-point framework. Since then, the Committee has scheduled a retreat time on Friday, March 3

to discuss how to move the framework forward. At this time the Committee is seeking Council support and endorsement of the four-point framework concept.

Mary Alice Williams made a motion to support in concept the four-point framework for delivering human services in schools. Diana Sieger supported. **UNANIMOUS**

4. **Nomination Committee Report**

Matthew VanZetten provided an overview of the Nomination Committee report for the 2006 Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals:

Name	Representing
Carol Paine-McGovern (Chair)	Consumer/Advocate
Savator Seldon-Johnson (Vice Chair)	Public Service Provider
Candace Cowling	Consumer/Advocate
Sharon Loughridge	Private Service Provider
Patti Warmington (formerly Nussbaum)	Private Service Provider
Paul Ippel	Public Service Provider
Diana Sieger	Funding Agency
Tony Campbell	Funding Agency

The late of nominees will be voted on at the February Council meeting.

5. **Council Updates & Information**

Matthew VanZetten provided brief overviews of the status of the Safe Haven Grant, the Prevention Initiative Evaluation and the status of Strong Family Safe Children funding. A more detailed report will occur in February.

6. **Committee Updates**

A. Children's Partners Executive Council – Susan Broman reported that Kent County received a \$60,000 Planning Grant for the Great Start Collaborative. Challenges with the proposal included not having satisfactory parent participation.

B. School Age Services Committee – No report.

C. Youth Connections – The Council was notified that Lynn Heemstra will be the new Youth Connections Chair.

D. Ongoing Family Support Committee – No report.

7. **Public Comment**

Carol Paine-McGovern asked if there was public comment. There was none.

8. **Miscellaneous**

Janay Brower notified the Council that the Kids Count data will be released tomorrow at WEMCAT. She welcomed people to attend the press conference.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting: February 7, 2006, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B