

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2006, 12:00 p.m.

MSU Extension Offices – Room B

775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Bev Drake, Judge Patrick Hillary, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Carol Paine-McGovern, Cathy Raevsky, Wendy Lewis Jackson (for Diana Sieger), Jack Greenfield, Patti Warmington, Mary Alice Williams,

Members Absent: Tony Campbell, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Sharon Loughridge, Mike Weiler, Andy Zylstra

Guests: Wayman Britt, Gayle Orange, Matthew VanZetten

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol noted that Lynne Ferrell, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Sharon Loughridge, Patti Warmington, and Andy Zylstra notified Matthew VanZetten that they were not able to attend today's meeting.

A motion was made by Sandra Davis to accept the meeting agenda and the January 10, 2006 minutes. Paul Ippel supported. **UNANIMOUS**

2. Kent County Child Death Review Team Presentation

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed Robin Bell from the Michigan Public Health Institute and Tracy Cyrus of DeVos Children's Hospital to discuss the efforts of the Kent County Child Death Review Team.

Robin provided the Council with an overview of a Child Death Team's responsibilities. Its primary goal is to study all child deaths within a county and determine their preventability through interventions and/or education. As an example, in Kent County recent data suggests that an unsafe sleeping environment exist for many infants. The Death Review Team then discusses possible ways to educate the public regarding appropriate infant sleeping environments.

Robin noted that Child Death Review Teams exist in all 83 counties of Michigan with staff support from the Public Health Institute. She explained that County Death Team findings are aggregated at the State level to assist policy makers with legislation and/or funding decisions.

3. **Nomination Committee Report**

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

Carol Paine-McGovern reviewed the Nominating Committee report for the 2006 Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended the following individuals:

A motion was made by Mary Alice Williams to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2006 Executive Committee. Bev Drake supported. **UNANIMOUS**

4. **KCFCCC Survey**

Carol Paine-McGovern reviewed the findings of the 2005 KCFCCC Survey. Communication was identified as the area that needs to be strengthened. Suggestions for improving communication included the following:

- Meeting once a year with the County Board Chair and/or Vice Chair regarding KCFCCC Activities
- If concerns are identified and resolved, making sure that the feedback loop is closed.
- Identifying possible ways to communicate more regularly with the Council between meetings

Carol stated that the Executive Committee will follow up on these suggestions and report back to the Council.

5. **Council Updates & Information**

Matthew VanZetten provided brief updates regarding the following:

- a. Safe Haven Grant – The Grant has been submitted and Matthew thanked members of the Council that assisted in this effort.
- b. Prevention Initiative – Interviews are scheduled for Friday, February 10 with three firms to conduct the evaluation. Response to the RFP was strong.
- c. Strong Family Safe Children – The Executive Committee is following up on the focus groups held this fall and a meeting will be held with the adoption agencies and Adoptive Families Support Network to discuss possible ways to collaborate.
- d. Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners – The Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

6. **Committee Updates**

- a. **Children's Partners Executive Council** – Susan Broman reported that the Partners and Children's Commission are working toward increasing parent participation. Parents are being identified and Ben Emdin is following up with them.
- b. **School Age Services Committee** – No report.
- c. **Youth Connections** – No report.
- d. **Ongoing Family Support Committee** – The Committee continues to work on Early Impact Basic Needs and revising the Substance Abuse training sessions.

7. **Public Comment**

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

8. **Miscellaneous**

Child and Family Resource Council is hosting the Resource Bonanza on March 15.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation is reconvening the P21 Committee to look at key themes and if changes are needed.

ACSET and DHS are working together on the next steps of welfare reform through the JET pilot. The Community Collaborative in the planning process has been requested by the State. More details to come.

Cliff Johnson will be presenting information at the Grand Rapids City Commission on February 21 regarding the 'City Platform.' All are welcome.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting: April 11, 2006, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B