

**Kent County**  
**Family & Children's**  
**Coordinating Council**



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2006, 12:00 p.m.**

**MSU Extension Offices – Room B**

**775 Ball Avenue, NE**

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Wendy Lewis Jackson, Paul Ippel, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger, Patti Warmington, Mike Weiler, Mary Alice Williams, Andy Zylstra

**Members Absent:** Tony Campbell, Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Judge Patrick Hillary, Arlen-Dean Gaddy

**Guests:** Wayman Britt, Ben Emdin, Rich Libertore, Matthew VanZetten

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol noted that Tony Campbell, Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell and Judge Hillary notified Matthew VanZetten that they were not able to attend today's meeting.

A motion was made by Lynn Heemstra to accept the meeting agenda and the February 7, 2006 minutes. Mike Weiler supported. **UNANIMOUS**

**2. KCFCCC Annual Report**

Carol reminded Council members that the 2006 Annual Report will be presented to the Kent County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, April 27 - a copy of which was distributed to the Council members prior to today's meeting.

A motion was made by Mike Weiler to approve the 2006 KCFCCC Annual Report as distributed. Debra Holmes-Garrison supported. **UNANIMOUS**

**3. Children's Commission Update**

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed Ben Emdin to provide an update regarding the Kent County Children's Commission.

Ben Emdin provided an overview of the Children's Commission efforts to date which included learning about the most recent research regarding brain development as well as evidence based early childhood programs. Specific areas of interest for the Children's Commission include programs that have a significant return on investment, ways to communicate to the community regarding the importance of early childhood, and ensuring action by the community.

Most recently, the Commission and Children's Partners' have created a Planning Committee to provide a recommendation to both committees by September 1, 2006. The Planning Committee will utilize the work of the Connections for Children report previously approved by the KCFCCC.

#### 4. **ELOA II Grant Update**

Carol Paine-McGovern provided an overview of the ELOA II grant status. Key points identified are as follows:

- The grant is at the end of its cycle, but a six month extension has been approved by the federal government
- Program components are winding down at the various service providers with the Kent District Library still finalizing its efforts
- The cultural competence work is being presented to the Chamber of Commerce in early May
- A full report will be provided to the Council upon its submission
- The United Way is following up to see if an ELOA III will be issued by the federal government

#### 5. **Youth Connections Committee Direction**

Carol Paine-McGovern thanked Lynn Heemstra for agreeing to serve as the Youth Connections Committee chairperson.

Carol explained that the Committee will continue to oversee the Kent County Mentoring Collaborative, but that it also needs to identify an issue in the community that needs to be addressed in an integrated manner.

To that point, the Council decided to set aside time in June to discuss community needs. Lynn and Matthew agreed to follow up and identify relevant data as well as key stakeholders and a facilitator.

#### 6. **Committee Updates**

- a. **Children's Partners Executive Council** – Susan Broman reported that the Partners are working on implementing the Great Start grant. Funds will be utilized for parent stipends, facilitation of the Planning Committee meetings, data collection and focus groups. The Children's Partners are also serving as a reactor panel for the Planning Committee.
- b. **School Age Services Committee** – Wendy Lewis-Jackson reported that the School Age Services is making substantial progress. A planning retreat was facilitated by the Bob Tobin of the Williams Group on Friday, March 3 which was very productive. A 'model' has been developed and a full report may be presented in June.
- c. **Youth Connections** – No report.
- d. **Ongoing Family Support Committee** – Jack Greenfield reported that the Committee is working on its Substance Abuse Train the Trainer model for the child welfare agencies.

#### 7. **Council Updates**

- a. **Prevention Initiative** – Matthew VanZetten reported that the Constella Group has been hired to conduct the Prevention Initiative evaluation. They will be on site the week of May 1 for meetings with contract holders and providers.
- b. **Strong Family Safe Children** – Matthew VanZetten reported that the SFSC allocation has been provided for 2006/07 and it is stable.
- c. **KCFCCC Survey Follow Up** – Matthew VanZetten shared that the Executive Committee discussed the survey results and that an ‘update memo’ will be provided in between Council meetings to update members.

#### 8. **Public Comment**

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

#### 9. **Miscellaneous**

Andy Zylstra shared that earlier in the day, DHS announced that it had received a federal Title IVE waiver to look at potential prevention efforts. He also noted that Jim Hennesy – State Child Welfare Director – will be in town on April 18 to meet with ECC members.

#### 10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Next Council meeting:**

June 6, 2006, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Kent County Health Department Great Lakes Rooms