

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**

November 7, 2006, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

MSU Extension

775 Ball Avenue NE – Grand Rapids

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Tony Campbell, Bev Crandall (for Candace Cowling), Lynne Ferrell, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Paul Ippel, Wendy Lewis Jackson, Jim Koetsier (for Judge Hillary), Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger, Patti Warmington, Mary Alice Williams, Andy Zylstra

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Judge Patrick Hillary, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Cathy Raevsky, Mike Weiler,

**Guests:** Dona Abbott, Janay Brower, Wayman Britt, Kathy Freberg, Deanna Kloostra  
Matthew VanZetten

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol noted that Judge Hillary, Cathy Raevsky, and Mike Weiler notified Matthew VanZetten that they were not able to attend today's meeting.

Special recognition was given to Mike Weiler and Mary Alice Williams for their contributions and years of service to the community and the KCFCCC as they enter retirement in 2007.

A motion was made by Diana Sieger to accept the meeting agenda and the September 12, 2006 minutes. Lynne Ferrel supported. **UNANIMOUS**

**2. 'Kent County Early Childhood Plan' Presentation**

A presentation was made regarding the components of the Kent County Early Childhood System. Over the years, the Children's Partners have worked diligently to create a system to ensure every child is ready for life and school. With the advent of the Children's Commission, the Partners have worked closely with the Commission and KCFCCC to structure a plan. Over the summer, fifteen community members met bi-weekly to establish the framework for what an early childhood system in Kent County would look like.

Key findings/components are as follows:

1. School readiness needs to be defined and measured.
2. Health Area – The establishment of a medical home with comprehensive screenings, capacity and resource connection
3. Early Care and Education – Quality, market driven, affordable, accessible, capacity and resource connection

4. Family Support and Parent Education – Information clearinghouse, parenting information, community services information, resource connection, home visiting levels appropriate to the strengths and needs of families, quality.

Additional areas that need to be addressed include:

Existing services need to work better based on the needs of families, not the system.

Emphasis on quality and accountability.

Expand capacity where needed.

More systematic touch points with families.

Inclusive of formal and informal systems/care.

Infrastructure capacity will be included, with a focus on research, access, utilization, and benchmarks; the development of a database of services and consumer information; content information centered around community awareness; standards regarding quality, best practices, and readiness; evaluation; funding; capacity building; and positioning.

The initial phase will focus on the medical home, early care and education, information and communication, home visiting and infrastructure.

One suggestion included incorporating a definition of culturally competence to the plan. Debra Holmes-Garrison stated she would provide various options.

A motion was made by Debra Holmes-Garrison to endorse the early childhood plan. Lynn Heemstra supported. **UNANIMOUS**

### 3. **Nomination Committee for 2007 Executive Committee** – Carol Paine-McGovern

It was explained that the November meeting is the time when a nomination committee is established to begin work on the 2007 Executive Committee. By consensus, Debra Holmes-Garrison and Lynn Heemstra agreed to serve as the Nominating Committee. No objections were noted.

### 4. **Kent School Services Network Update**

A brief update was shared regarding the KSSN. A National Advisory Panel has been established for the Evaluation with Public Policy Associates selected as the evaluators. The Children's Aid Society continues to provide TA for the Network, meeting with the Resource Connectors and Principals on a monthly basis. A work team has been established to maintain a strong communication presence.

The first leadership meeting of the Network is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16 at 11:30 a.m.

### 5. **Kent County Substance Abuse Prevention Plan Update**

The Substance Abuse Prevention Plan continues to move forward. Key focus areas include the reducing binge drinking and marijuana use. One important note has been the lack of data available to guide the process. An update on the plan will occur in February 2007.

### 6. **Public Comment**

There was none.

7. **Miscellaneous**

There was none.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:**            Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room B