

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Tony Campbell, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis, Jack Greenfield, Lynne Ferrell, Lynn Heemstra, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger, Patti Warmington,

Members Absent: Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, Lynn Heemstra, Debra Holmes-Garrison, Paul Ippel, William Forsyth, Arlen-Dean Gaddy, Judge Patrick Hillary, Kevin Konarksa, Andy Zylstra

Guests: Carla Blinkhorn, Wayman Britt, Tom Cotrell, Kathy Freberg, Judy Freeman, Sharon Haner

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol noted that Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, and Kevin Konarksa, notified Matthew VanZetten that they were not able to attend today's meeting.

A motion was made by Lynne Ferrell to accept the meeting agenda and the January 9, 2007 minutes. Sharon Loughridge supported. **UNANIMOUS**

2. Safe Haven Grant Presentation

Paine-McGovern welcomed Carla Blinkhorn from the YWCA to provide an overview of the Safe Haven grant that the KCFCCC assisted in helping to secure. As a reminder, Judge Zemaitis worked with several community members and the County to apply for a receive a Safe Haven grant from the Office of Violence Against Women.

Blinkhorn notified the Council that to ensure easy communication regarding the Safe Haven grant in Kent County that it has been renamed 'Safe Connection.' This ensures that there is not confusion with Safe Haven Ministries.

Blinkhorn noted that planning for Safe Connections has been completed - court orders have been drawn up, safety protocols have been put in place, staff has been hired and trained. At this time, Safe Connections is waiting on a signoff from OVW on the above planning protocol to operate the program. Unfortunately, it was not known that OVW needed to sign off on protocols until after staff was hired. However, it is likely that the grant can be extended.

It is anticipated that when Safe Connections is running it can serve 81 families at a given time. These families must have a court ordered to be served and must have a history of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

3. **Nomination Committee Report**

A motion was made by Lynne Ferrell to accept the Nominating Committee’s recommendations for the 2007 Executive Committee. Sandra Davis supported. **UNANIMOUS**

The following individuals will serve on the 2007 Executive Committee (April 2007 – March 2008):

Name	Representing
Carol Paine-McGovern (Chair)	Consumer/Advocate
Savator Seldon-Johnson (Vice Chair)	Public Service Provider
Susan Broman	Funding Agency
Bob Haight	Funding Agency
Paul Ippel	Public Service Provider
Kevin Kornarska	Public Service Provider
Sharon Loughridge	Private Service Provider
Judge David Murkowski	Public Service Provider
Diana Sieger	Funding Agency

4. **Early Childhood Update**

Lynne Ferrell noted that the Children’s Partners meeting was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Susan Broman noted that the Children’s Commission is gelling as a group and becoming an effective advocacy body. She noted their resilience related to a readiness tool. As a result, a tool will be utilized in 2007 to determine what has happened prior to a child entering school.

Also, the Commission intends to have Lynn Davies come to Grand Rapids to discuss her ‘framework’s communication philosophy. This will more than likely be utilized in communicating the importance of early childhood. Likewise, the Commission has discussed the compelling case that James Hekman makes for early childhood investment. He may be invited to speak to the community.

5. **Kent School Services Network Update**

Matthew VanZetten provided a brief update regarding the Kent School Services Network. He noted that the funding for FIS workers has been secured. Presently, FIS workers caseloads have been assigned and they are beginning to make connections with school staff. Challenges related to Department of Information Technology have caused delay in being able to move staff to schools.

Also, the Network is hosting Sue Carnell (Governor's Education Advisor) and Marianne Udow (DHS Director) on Thursday.

6. Ongoing Family Support Committee Update

Jack Greenfield noted that the Committee is working to create a more cost effective distribution method for case workers related to general household goods.

Also, the Committee continues to plan for substance abuse training for Early Impact workers.

7. Public Comment

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

8. Miscellaneous

There was none.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B