

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2009, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – **Room B**
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Sandra Davis (for Tom Czerwinski), Lynne Ferrell, Jack Greenfield, Bob Haight, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Ron Jimmerson, Jackie Klinestecker, Kevin Konarska, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Diana Sieger, Sandy Walls (for Cathy Raevsky), Patti Warmington, Andy Zylstra

Members Absent: Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Judge Patrick Hillary, Cathy Raevsky

Guests: Dona Abbot, Wayman Britt, Marcia Rapp, David Schroeder

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Carol Paine-McGovern opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Matthew VanZetten thanked Carol for her years of service as KCFCCC chair.

A motion was made by Diana Sieger to approve the January minutes. Jack Greenfield supported.
UNANIMOUS.

2. Essential Needs Task Force Fund Presentation

Paine-McGovern welcomed Marcia Rapp from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation (GRCF) and David Schroeder from the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF) to the meeting to share about the ENTFFund at the GRCF.

Rapp and Schroeder commented that as we all know, due to the economic downturn, demand for assistance to meet basic needs for food, utilities, housing and transportation has increased. In response, area foundations have established a temporary, flexible pool of funds to help address these escalating needs. To date, the funding collaborative included the Daniel & Pamela DeVos Foundation, Dick & Betsy DeVos Foundation, Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation, Rich and Helen DeVos Foundation, Dyer-Ives Foundation, Frey Foundation, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Neighbor to Neighbor Fund (City of Grand Rapids), Nokomis Foundation, Paine Family Foundation, Sebastian Foundation, Slemmons Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, VanderWeide Family Foundation, Wege Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Fund is estimated at \$2.1 million.

The effort aims to be responsive to nonprofit organizations that are struggling to meet the needs of families in Kent County and efficient to avoid duplication of existing community initiatives. As a way to meet these objectives, the ENTFFund and GRCF are working together to implement the fund.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation will accept applications for grants available through the ENTF Fund. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations that address the primary focus of the ENTF including food, housing, utilities, transportation, and system infrastructure and provide those services in a way that supports the overall philosophy of the ENTF.

Ongoing funding and in-kind support for ENTF operations is provided by the Kent County Board of Commissioners, Kent County Department of Human Services, and the Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Several members thanked the Foundation community and commented about how fortunate Kent County is to have institutions such as this as well as the ENTF where this type of response can occur.

3. **KCFCCC Nominating Committee Report**

Carol Paine-McGovern shared that the Nominating Committee has put forth the following slate to serve as the KCFCCC Executive Committee for April 2009 thru March 2010:

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

A motion was made by Sharon Loughridge to accept the slate. Patti Warmington supported.
UNANIMOUS.

4. **First Steps ‘Next Steps Report’ Update**

Paine McGovern shared that the Executive Committee held a conference call with Ben Emdin & Kate Pew Wolters regarding the First Steps report. The questions raised by the KCFCCC were reviewed and discussed. She noted that it was agreed that First Steps desires to have a relationship with the Coordinating Council and vice versa and that working through the details over the next few months will be critical.

First Steps is planning to hold a meeting with leaders from the KISD, Kent County, n180, United Way, Spectrum Healthier Communities, and others for conversations and discussions. Similarly, meetings need to occur to discuss relationships/roles of the Great Start Collaborative, the Parent Coalition, the Steering Committee, the KCFCCC, et cetera. It was also shared that at this time it is envisioned that the role of United Way may be one of back room services.

Regarding sustainability of First Steps, it was shared that in the short term a few key donors would be approached regarding funding. It is not First Steps plan to solicit broadly. Program dollars will be raised through the success of pilots and system change. Also advocacy will be a key ingredient.

Finally all agreed that governance will be a key; and getting services to align will be critical. This is something First Steps is aware of and looks forward to working on. The authority of the board will come through those that serve and their connection/care for the issues.

5. **Public Comment**

There was none.

6. **Miscellaneous**

There was none.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Council meeting:

NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE

Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

MSU Extension Room B