

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



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

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Sandy Davis, Kristen Gietzen, Jack Greenfield, Lynne Ferrell, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Bob Haight, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Ron Jimmerson, Jackie Klinestecker, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Dr. Bernard Taylor, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington, Andy Zylstra

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Judge Patrick Hillary, Kevin Konarska, Mike Nowik, Cathy Raevsky, Jim Talen, Deb VanderMolen, Sandy Walls

**Guests:** Dona Abbott, Betsy Boggs, Wayman Britt, Denise Chandler, Rebekah Fennel, Maureen Kirkwood, Nancy Teat, Jon Wilmot, Randy Zylstra

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Jack Greenfield opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

A motion was made by Diana Sieger to approve the September minutes, supported by Candace Cowling, **UNANIMOUS**.

**2. Children's Healthcare Access Program/Introduction of First Steps Director**

Rebekah Fennel introduced Maureen Kirkwood, the CHAP Program Manager, who gave an overview of the preliminary outcomes of the Children's Access Healthcare Program.

The desired outcomes were:

- Increase access to a Primary Care Medical Home
- Improve quality of Medical Home Services
- Provide additional supportive services & parent education
- Demonstrate the return on investment

About 1,000 new Medicaid slots became available for CHAP patients. They also worked with the DeVos Pediatric Clinic and the Cherry Street Clinic to expand same-day access and evening access.

Although there is a lot more work to be done in this area, well-care visits increased. Vaccinations dropped due to the vaccine shortage.

The supportive services area includes home visits, phone consultations, asthma education, same-day

and next-day transportation services.

Maureen gave an overview of the ethnic population of those who were served in this program. She added that about 20% of their families are Spanish-speaking, so they now have some bi-lingual staff and larger health providers have added Spanish prompts to their customer service phone lines.

The dollar figures of the results of this program are expected out in a few days. It looks to be a break-even proposition.

They showed a significant decrease in preventable hospital admissions, for an overall decrease of 25% when including the Cherry Street Clinic.

Maureen said the CHAP program is working to coordinate behavioral health providers and the primary care providers.

Priority Health has committed to continue with the project for an additional year with the existing sites and potentially bring on additional sites, including the Baxter clinic. They are in conversation with one or two of the other Kent County Medicaid Health Plans to invite them to work with the program.

They continue to work with parent education, well-child care and obesity initiatives.

When asked if they would be back with the full report, Maureen said the full report is due out in mid-December and would gladly return with those results.

### **3. System of Care Grant Award & Next Steps**

Jackie Klinestecker gave an update on the implementation and leadership team working with this effort. They worked on outcome areas and indicators to align with United Way.

The next meeting, they hope to bring a consensus agreement to the group, an agreement between partners with the Community Family Partnership to make decisions and work in collaboration and support the principles of System of Care.

The next steps include hiring to include a project manager, a half-time cultural and linguistic competency coordinator and half-time technical assistant coordinator (combined into one position), additional DHS court liaison position, lead family contact-parent and a youth coordinator.

The evaluation team will be SRA is the national evaluator, while Grand Valley CRI will be the local.

The biggest piece of this program will be the implementation of 12 Community School Coordinators in 12 additional KSSN schools.

A timeline for RFP's has been created and the goal is to have the 12 new coordinators in the schools by the end of this year.

There have been some discussions about having a Care Manager to provide some prevention work, mental health work, prevention groups, an on-site person who could provide services for the school. In addition to that, the Grant may provide a parent mentor.

Matthew added there will be a meeting with the schools at the end of November. The landscape has significantly changed since the grant was applied for, so it will be important to work together with the schools.

### **4. Ready by 21 Committee Update**

Lynn Heemstra gave an update, saying they met with the Executive Team of the KCFCCC. They are looking at how to best utilize the tools available through the Forum for Youth Investment to help support the System of Care Grant and align efforts in a collective way. The committee has a preliminary draft of some outcome indicators. This is being shared with collaborative bodies in Kent County in an effort to be sure everyone's input is included. They hope to have the Forum for Youth Investment come in and help create an aligned process.

## **5. Strong Family Safe Children & Other DHS Funding**

Matthew gave a brief overview of the prior update, reminding the group of the discussion about how to reallocate dollars from the Health Department for Healthy Start to programs that serve children. There was a challenge in getting the RFP posted. The local DHS office was finally able to get the RFP posted for \$72,000 annually. Because of the way it's working with the State, it will be prorated for this Fiscal year, based on the number of months we don't have service. This is not in our best interest.

Next step is Kinship. Historically, we have provided Kinship funding out of the Strong Families Safe Children Program to Family Outreach Center to families that may be involved with the Child Welfare System. Interventions are done to keep them out of the formal system.

The Kinship program is no longer a viable program as it exists due to the Children's Rights Settlement and the requirement of families to be licensed Foster Care homes. Matthew said Savator Selden-Johnson is trying to work within these parameters to keep children out of the formal system. The challenge is there is no clear answer, so there will be lapsing dollars in this area as well.

AFSN contract has been reduced to \$14,992. Now that the State Budget has passed, it is the Governor and executive office's prerogative how to spend the appropriation. The numbers are all subject to change.

## **6. Prevention Initiative Update**

Jack Greenfield said the Advisory Council reviewed the first draft of the 2-year evaluation. There is a plan to present a revised evaluation to the Board of Commissioners on November 5 at 8:30 am.

Matthew VanZetten added that the outcome shows that all of our programs seem to be functioning fairly well. In looking at the data, they costed the line items out and found that Early Impact has more positive outcomes that are statistically significant for keeping children out of the formal child welfare system if you look at after program involvement.

The second thing is the cost benefit comes back much differently when you look at the levels of engagement. The programs more than pay for themselves.

## **7. Child Welfare Update**

Matthew VanZetten said in looking at the budget that was just passed, it changed from a 50% reimbursement to the County to 25%. That section of the bill was line-itemed out, so we are back to a 50% rate match. Now the private agencies will be given \$37 (as opposed to \$27) per diem for children in their care. DHS will receive \$40 per diem for each child in public care. This is instead of an appropriation managed by DHS.

Also, the local DHS after being given an additional General Appropriation of \$1.5, they returned money back to the County. This was a positive step toward cost containment in working with DHS and private partners.

The County is still evaluating its options relating to the settlement and Headlee violations. No

decisions have been made.

**8. Public Comment**

There was none.

**9. Miscellaneous**

Andy Zylstra notified the committee that he has been reassigned to work in Lansing effective November 9. He expressed appreciation at the local support provided him.

Candace Cowling asked to recognize the work that Jackie Klinestecker and Paul Ippel in getting Medicaid reimbursement for Healthy Start. She said it is a huge accomplishment in making the system work for kids and for effective programming.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:**        Tuesday, January 5, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
   MSU Extension Room B