

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**June 1, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room B**  
**775 Ball Avenue, NE**

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patti Gardner, Kristen Gietzen, Jack Greenfield, Paul Ippel, Jackie Klinesteker, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger, Patti Warmington.

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Cynthia Gladyness, Bob Haight, Lynn Heemstra, Ron Jimmerson, Kevin Konarska, Savator Selden-Johnson, Bernard Taylor, Sandy Walls.

**Guests:** Betsy Boggs, Wayman Britt, Veneese Chandler, Rebekah Fennell, Hilary Kurtz, Ricardo Rivera, Jim Talen, Nancy Teat, Deb VanderMolen, Matthew VanZetten, Jon Wilmot.

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Sue Broman opened the meeting with a welcome and had everyone introduce themselves.

Matthew VanZetten spoke about Jack Greenfield and his service to the Council. He mentioned that Jack will continue to be active in the Council, but will step down as chair.

The minutes were reviewed and Diana Sieger made a motion to accept the minutes, Supported by Candace Cowling – **UNANIMOUS**.

**2. Community Family Partnership Staffing & Committee Updates**

Jackie Klinesteker said an offer has been made for the staffing position for the Cultural Linguistic Competence Coordinator (CLC). They are unable to provide the name yet, with the announcement to come later in the week.

The selection has also been made for the Lead Family Contact through Advocacy Services for Kids. The person is the parent of children receiving mental health services and has been involved with the advisory council. That name is expected to be announced later in the week as well.

The interviews are in process for the Technical Assistance position. There are several great qualified candidates. The interviews for the Youth Engagement Specialist will be the following week.

This will complete the Community Family Partnership Staff.

The Governance Council continues their work thinking about the logic model development and stakeholder involvement in that process in trying to make a plan to get full community involvement in

the logic model development as it relates to the local evaluation piece the committee has been trying to align both with other initiatives within the community and also to use in the community's best interest. This grant-funded evaluation gives the opportunity to make the local look like whatever the community wants to know about what they do. The Governance Council has been spending time trying to figure how best to gain the information and get it into a workable format.

Jackie continued saying they have done some work with initiative alignment to look at initiatives in the community that are going on with the grant dollars.

The Evaluation Committee is the only one that is currently functional, which includes people from SRA International and CRI, Matthew VanZetten, Teri Clark and Jackie Klinesteker. Jackie said they have been working on the national evaluation, which requires a longitudinal study.

Jackie went on to say the social marketing group hosted the Up To You Mental Health Festival. She said it went really well with about 1,000 people attending.

Once the rest of the subcommittees are going, recruiting membership from partners will begin.

Matthew will be sending out the consensus agreement again as he didn't get many returned the first time.

### **3. KSSN Expansion**

Matthew VanZetten gave an update for this project. He said over the next year, KSSN will be at the following schools; MLK, Alger Middle School, Coit, Harrison Park, Sibley and Burton. Burton is going through a consolidation of the elementary and middle schools, which could mean 800 – 900 kids. The staffing ratios are uncertain at this time. The expanded sites include Campau, Ford Middle School, Caesar Chavez and Southwest Campus, Union, Ottawa and Creston High Schools. The expansion districts include Cedar Springs, Kentwood High School, Wyoming and Godwin Heights. They are waiting on a formal agreement with Kelloggsville to determine participation. Godfrey Lee has re-contacted KSSN after dropping the program mid-year last year and looking for assistance with high school and middle school reform based on No Child Left Behind work. This will be part of their plan to the State. In their State Improvement Grant, they have funding for all of this.

Regarding the RFP for expansion of services, six responses were received. They were from Wedgewood, Family Outreach Center, Catholic Charities of West Michigan, Arbor Circle, DA Blodgett & St. Johns and Bethany Christian Services. These are very high quality proposals and it will be a challenge in working through them. Matthew said they expect the new school sites to be operational by the fall with community school coordinators and a site team clinician.

### **4. Promise Neighborhood Report**

Matthew VanZetten provided the update by first saying we received the Community Family Partnership grant money from the Feds. Now we have the opportunity to apply for a Promise Neighborhood Federal Grant. The work is being done with the education reform under the Obama Administration under the Stimulus, partly looking at what has been successful in Harlem with the Harlem Children's Zone. In trying to figure out how to put together an application here, they have mapped out public services and are working toward determining how to best link them together. They have determined services that are more neighborhood initiatives than foundations and community groups are providing. The leadership group has been talking about this and decided because of the investment going on within the Hope Zones (Believe2Become) it makes sense to partner with them to determine the geography and to pilot it to look at.

Because the Federal Government wants a non-profit or higher education group to be the applicant, not

a school district, the leadership group considered which agencies in town could apply, and determined criteria to select a partner. They identified GRCC to be the lead applicant for the Promise Neighborhood work. The proposal will take a look at these services, talking about how to connect services better and more systemically using data technology, relationships, neighborhood outreach in doing a better job of engaging our community and moving people involved in services through a continuum that could be utilized for student success and family support services. There is a proposal being written, having to identify an advisory committee with institutions to be represented as well as parent and family slots. There will be some general operating guidelines for the work. They will work with CC to develop the budget. Funds will be needed for a project manager from CC, per diems for the advisory committee members from the community, contract with CRI to do the data analysis that is needed, and a facilitator. This should be ready for review by Friday of this week. There are a lot of things moving. Matthew asked the group if they see some mainstream services that were not included in the list he provided, to please get the information to him so it can be part of the planning process. This needs to be an all-inclusive process to work. We must make our services more connected to the residents and the families in the schools to support their needs.

Two other parties are interested in applying for Promise Neighborhood Work. One is Seeds of Promise at Dickinson Elementary, so Matthew said the group will work with Dickinson Elementary to figure out the system piece of KSSN and make sure our system is in sync with what they are doing.

A small group on the west side has submitted an application as well, and Matthew said they are trying to determine a contact there.

Participation from the school district with data are required for this program. Data needed includes afterschool program data as well as school readiness data, and the best way to connect it into one data warehouse to do some analysis and appropriate service delivery. Matthew said they are partnering with Grand Rapids Public Schools on this in finalizing the MOU commitment. It takes a bottom-up approach with neighborhood approach and top-down approach with the systems.

Moving forward the group will be updated. There are about 1,000 applicants for this grant, so there is no guarantee that we will receive it. In all 20 grants will be awarded. He went on to say that regardless of whether or not we receive this grant, these things are all happening in that community right now, so the leadership group feels it is important to move forward.

Wayman mentioned that we are differentiating ourselves by partnering with CC as opposed to non-profits, as so many of the others are. Matthew agreed, saying that CC has a relationship with the public schools now, as they have a Federal grant together on Early Childhood. They just received a Pathways Out of Poverty Grant. CC is working with GRPS right now on the Gear Up grant, for 7<sup>th</sup> graders to become more college ready. Finally, with the Upward Bound Program they have continued and are also dual-enrolling students in Community College. Dr. Taylor and President Ender have a good relationship and are trying to do more. They were a good choice for a partnership perspective and from a differentiation standpoint. Also, this Administration keeps talking about community colleges as being important ways to get out of the 'Great Recession.'

When asked what the size of this grant is, Matthew said it was a planning grant and would be up to \$500,000. There are requirements in terms of data linkages and in looking at who is being served. If a grant is secured and if it goes well, we would be invited to apply for a real program grant to help fill in the gaps of what has been identified, i.e., preschool, early childhood programming capacity, afterschool programs and workforce development. These programs could secure grants up to \$10 million.

When asked what the timeline was, Matthew said the application was due June 25, 2010. A draft of the proposal would be done next week for review and comments. The MOUs and governance and recruitment of the advisory committee will take some more time.

Matthew also mentioned that part of the grant requirements include that 51% of the advisory committee will need to be parents and youth. He said they will want resumes of the members and demonstrate how to train community members, which will take the remainder of the 2-3 weeks.

Matthew continued they hope to look at parents who have been part of the Great Start Parent Coalition, Head Start, Community Family Partnership and Leadership out of the schools. They are also looking at 1 or 2 youth. There were 8 family neighborhood connections that were identified as the first draft and then 7 more system players.

Sue Broman asked how the Promise Zone work would relate to the KCFCCC, possibly as a subcommittee? Will there be a reporting relationship? There hasn't been any discussion on that yet, according to Matthew. He said he needs to write the governance part of this yet.

Diana Sieger suggested the KCFCCC be the governance structure. There is so much going on that the KCFCCC needs to be that entity. It depends on Dr. Enders and their perception of this as well. The KCFCCC has become the hub of all things relating to Child and Family Services, so it would be the natural governance body.

Paul Ippel expressed concern over the KCFCCC spending too much time and resources on one small neighborhood and said we would be better off providing policy and principles instead of trying to deliver services in one tiny geographic area. We could learn a lot, but we have to focus on how to have the biggest impact.

Discussion continued on whether the Council was the proper governing body of the Promise Neighborhood, bringing up other issues such as who would be the better body, keeping groups from working in silos, etc. Although the Coordinating Council shouldn't control everything, it would be really good to get other groups talking.

Jack Greenfield mentioned that he was happy about the reintroduction of the needs of parents being brought into this.

Matthew said it's important what First Steps is doing in terms of home visiting, getting a pilot up for Welcome Home Baby to try to transition families to one of these home visiting services that are already in the community. Making sure we have the capacity will be a concern. Once we have families and children engaged, we need to figure out how to transition them to a community-based readiness program, whether operated by Grand Rapids Public Schools, or the Kent ISD, or another preschool program in the neighborhood. We need to figure out how to make the referrals. Once a child is in Head Start, how do we make sure they are in school? The Kindergarten data shows attendance is very poor.

This might be a small pilot in terms of the Neighborhood Promise, but the work should be occurring because we really should be transitioning it to the near West Side, Cedar Springs, etc. It is another opportunity to get people into the same room talking. Judith Larsen is the grant writer from CC that Matthew has been working with. They have decided that there has to be value to this even if it doesn't get funded.

Rich Liberatore asked if there would be an effort to work together on a proposal with the West Side group. Matthew said Seeds of Promise has decided not to submit a grant application on this, but Matthew committed to them to talk to them about the Community Family Partnership work to connect better in that neighborhood. He said we have an opportunity for another grant and he talked to them about engaging them. We need to do some follow-up work with them and the Grand Rapids Public Schools. If we can make this framework, we can connect people to us when these things come about. He continued that he's still trying to figure out who the group on the near West Side is.

Nobody has heard of them. It seems to be a small non-profit.

## 5. Human Services Committee Update

Sue Broman updated the group on the new structure of the committee. It is a broader group than before as it includes the Kent ISD, the ENTF and the KCFCCC. There was a meeting a couple of weeks ago. The County Commissioners are looking to this group to evolve and provide advice to the County on Human Services issues. They have scheduled a time for the KCFCCC to present to the County Commission in July. The Chair thinks that is the best forum for communication to the Board.

Wayman said the Board Chair, Sandi Frost Parrish has the heart for this type of work. She works with a lot of non-profits. The Board of Commissioners has a real interest in maintaining the level of services that we have in prevention services. Wayman continued saying Chair Parrish has asked that the commissioners be updated on the KSSN. He said they met with her and talked about how that would happen. Wayman said Chair Parrish also wants to be sure the commissioners are all engaged as a whole instead of just her.

Matthew added that Chair Parrish appreciated that the County sets the tone for the discussion and how things move in Human Services. Within the budget parameters, that should be communicated in terms of where the leadership should go. Moving forward, the County has to cut \$7 million and maybe more. The target is roughly 5% per department.

When asked if they wanted a show of support at the July meeting of the KCFCCC, Matthew said that would be good. He reminded the group the meeting was July 22 at 8:30 am.

Sue Broman said she sees a systematic structure to communicate with the County Commissioners on a regular basis, along with some direct communication with commissioners as the best vehicle to do so. She said it will help the commissioners as a whole understand how important this work is. The County is very influential in setting the tone on where we need to go as a community.

Paul Ippel asked what this group can do to be more influential and impacting of the commissioners.

Wayman answered that having a regularly scheduled time to get in front of the Board would be helpful. It will be critical to identify the priority based on the discussions coming out of this group. There will be opportunity to identify what projects or issues should be conveyed back to the Board. We need to identify a more systemic way to bring about a more collaborative effort towards Health and Human Services the schools are working with. This is a golden opportunity to solicit the support of the board moving forward. We have an opportunity to leverage resources with our institutions of higher learning. It is important for the Board to see how we are leveraging the dollars that are coming from the different streams from the Feds and how we are taking those dollars and combining them with the foundations and from other resources.

Matthew said we should be talking about a specific policy or issue that emerges relative to the Human Service community that we could educate our board chair and administrator on. They could schedule one of our committees as a work session item or something. We continually hear the best way to advocate with our state legislators is through the local elected officials. This is our opportunity to bring forward things if there are serious policy issues at the state that aren't being addressed through our own staff administrative advocacy efforts. To be able to educate a commissioner takes some time. This meeting is a good forum for that. Wayman and Matthew offered the group the opportunity to notify our staff and ask to address it in this meeting.

Susan Broman also mentioned that department heads that have County Commissioners on their boards, educate them through that vehicle, to have more county commissioners who understand Human Services and the collaborative nature of how this work gets done in this community.

## 6. **DHS 0-18 Prevention Funding Update**

Candace Cowling provided a handout, an Intent to Bid (ITB) for the Department of Human Services 0-18 Prevention Pilot. She said they received fairly short notice there was funding available. The description of the pilot is outlined on the ITB. It is designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in the 0-18 age group. The requirements are for category III or IV CPS cases. There are 5 communities who will receive funding. The funding has not been appropriated, but is pending legislative approval.

Candace said Matthew convened a number of community service providers to determine interest in joint submission for the ITB. The group decided to work together in submitting a proposal. The funding is only for 1 year and 2 months. She said the group did a great job coming together with ideas on how to build capacity from what we know works and aligning what does work.

The RFP was designed to target home visiting services. If families have Category III or IV risk factors, they could be eligible for home visiting services, or at least the Early Childhood portion, where Welcome Home Baby could help introduce the opportunity for these services.

Transitional/Support services that could be added to the home visiting services were outlined as well.

Candace said the grant proposal was submitted and they are waiting for word. Matthew said he appreciated Candace taking the lead on this. People need to understand that this will be Federal TANF contingency money, so there will be no state match. This is in direct response to the Children's Rights Settlement and to the five communities.

After Matthew went on to explain how this RFP came about, Candace offered kudos to the service providers who pulled it together in a very short period of time.

## 7. **Public Comment**

Cathy Raevsky mentioned that Sandy Walls was retiring from the Health Department this month.

Jack Greenfield thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the KCFCCC.

## 8. **Miscellaneous**

There was none.

## 9. **Adjournment**

Nancy Marshall made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Cathy Raevsky, Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:** Tuesday, September 7, 2010 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room B