

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Offices – Room B
775 Ball Avenue, NE

Members/Alternates Present: Sandra Anderson, Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patti Gardner, Kristen Gietzen, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Jackie Klinesteker, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington.

Members Absent: Tom Czerwinski, Bev Drake, William Forsyth, Ron Jimmerson, Kevin Konarska, Bernard Taylor.

Guests: Wayman Britt, Veneese Chandler, Rebekah Fennell, Diane Gibbs, Sharon Harris, Mike Nowik, Carol Paine-McGovern, Sandra Springer, Jim Talen, Deb VanderMolen, Jon Wilmot, Carla White, Mark Witte, Steve Zwart.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

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

The minutes were reviewed and Paul Ippel made a motion to accept the minutes, Supported by Diana Sieger – **UNANIMOUS**

2. Youth Master Plan Presentation

Lynn Heemstra began by giving an overview of the Youth Master Plan. The two-year initiative was completed with the help of many of the people in the room. She thanked the group for their support. Lynn introduced Shannon Harris, the program youth coordinator for the Youth Master Plan. She will share about the Youth Commission.

Dr. Rhae Ann Booker is chair of the Youth Master Plan Committee, but was unable to attend the meeting. Lynn said they have produced a “living” blue print for the community to improve children and youth to prepare them to be successful in college, work and life.

Lynn went on to give a background on how the Youth Master Plan came to be. She said the steering committee, chaired by Dr. Booker, a youth commission comprised of 25 youth, the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County’s Ready by 21 Committee, the Office of Our Communities Children serving as fiduciary, all combined with community input to create the Master Plan.

Planning began in January 2008, after receiving a grant from National League of Cities Institute for Children Youth and Education, as well as a grant from the Department of Justice to involve the Youth Commissioners, as well as the Forum for Youth Investment out of Washington DC.

Shannon Harris then spoke, saying the Grand Rapids Youth Commission began in 2008 to ensure youth had input into the Youth Master Plan. She went on to describe activities that took place which included the youth. They participated on steering committees, held press conferences, created a teen profile. They created a survey, which was administered to 1,500 teens in the community. The survey profiled teens, giving an overview of their needs and wants, relating to parents and jobs and activities after school.

The Youth Commission also participated in Community Forums around the profile to get community input. They created a web site called www.grteens.com. It was created by the teens and is a website for teens to find job opportunities, scholarship opportunities, and community activities. The website is still a work in progress, but is kept updated on a regular basis.

Lynn Heemstra began again, talking about the Ready by 21 model by the Forum for Youth Investment. She said they use the model: How to take aim, take stock of what's going on in the community, target the action and track the progress. Their first effort was a landscape mapping to figure out who was doing what for youth in the city and county. They used this as a starting point to build on. They developed a shared vision and common language, built on those initiatives, held 13 focus groups, surveyed community resources, held 3 community forums, produced the GR Teen Profile, held 2 Ready by 21 summits with the Forum for Youth Investment.

Lynn said they created a "dashboard" that was used as the framework for the Youth Master Plan. They intend to use the framework and align efforts and build on work that is already being done to produce better outcomes for youth.

Recommendations were made to have broader partnerships, better engage families and youth in different ways, improve city, county and regional alliances, elevate the importance of parents in our community, have bigger goals in increasing employment opportunities for youth, civic leadership opportunities, promote positive messages about good school attendance and college opportunities. They need better data, completing indicator benchmarks, promoting a common on-line database for outcomes and create a council for child and youth outcomes. We need bolder strategies, ensuring quality in all of the programs. We intend to look internally for the quality components and strengthen support for educational systems. Increase educational access and attainment.

The next steps: how do we share the story of the work that has been done? How to follow up the youth mapping exercise? How to build on the work that is being done? How to build on instead of build out?

Lynn said the Youth Master Plan is online at www.grcity.us/OurChildren.

3. Prevention Initiative Funding Recommendations

Susan Broman asked Matthew to provide his report. She stated we will be looking for a motion to approve the funding recommendations and forward them on to the County Board of Commissioners.

Matthew provided some history of the Prevention Initiative. He said it was prior to his employment with Kent County, but Commissioner Talen was on the subcommittee that started the initiative. He began saying that 2000 or 2001 several foundation representatives came to the Board and talked about the funding they had been putting into prevention. They felt it was important for the County to become involved in funding these types of programs. Then-Chair Heacock agreed to establish a subcommittee to look into Prevention funding. The committee met and provided a report recommending the County begin investing resources into the 3 types of prevention services: Primary Prevention, Secondary Prevention, and Tertiary Prevention. They identified areas they wanted the services to target, child abuse and prevention, substance abuse and broad parent and support programs. In 2003, an RFP was released and four programs were funded. They were: Child and Family Resource Council, the Healthy Start Program, the Intermediate School District's Parents and Teachers programs, Bright Beginnings; Early Impact and network180 substance abuse tertiary prevention program for mothers with children. He added the Board and subcommittee required that

evaluation needed to be an essential part of the program. In 2005, the Constella Group (now SRA) was hired to start the evaluation. Contracts were renewed in 2007. About a year ago, SRA made their presentation to the Board with positive findings on all four programs that were happening, with good outcomes. Those contracts were extended through June 30 of this year.

Over the past two years, network180 was reviewing its Medicaid manual to determine how to utilize Medicaid funding for services to expand the programming, and use the County funds to direct services that Medicaid would not pay for.

Earlier this year, an RFP was issued for Primary Prevention services. Secondary and Tertiary Prevention programs were held through procurement processes at Kent ISD and network180. network180 was able to expand from 2 to 6 teams of providers using less County general fund money, saving \$100,000. This helped to slightly expand funding to Healthy Start, Bright Beginnings and Early Impact.

Matthew said the Executive Committee approved the funding requests at their August meeting and was asking for Coordinating Council approval today. The requests would then move to the Finance Committee of the Board of Commissioners in two weeks, with final approval of the full Board on October 14. He added that the County historically provided \$1.8 million, and now will provide \$1.6 million.

Chair Broman asked if anyone had questions for Matthew and added that a team reviewed the proposals and generated questions for each of the proposals received. Many issues surfaced and were discussed with each of the providers. Proposals were scoured prior to recommendation.

When asked how Medicaid dollars were being used instead of County funds for some services, Mark Witte said that they found that many services that were being provided could be paid for by Medicaid funds when clients were determined to be Medicaid-eligible. They identified more clients that were eligible for Medicaid instead of just paying out of County funds.

Lynn Heemstra moved to approve the recommendations, supported by Diana Sieger. **UNANIMOUS.**

4. **KSSN Expansion Report**

Carol Paine-McGovern provided a handout, which included a list of the participating KSSN schools and agencies. After the System of Care (Community Family Partnership) grant was awarded in September of 2009 to network180, Carol, Ron Koehler (Kent ISD) and Jackie Klinesteker (network180) went to several school districts to determine if they were interested in having Kent School Services Network in their schools. Six districts signed on, with Kelloggville showing interest for later.

In June 2010, the RFP for Kent School Services Network (KSSN) lead agencies was released. Six proposals were received. In July, three agencies were chosen. They are Arbor Circle, DA Blodgett/St. Johns and Family Outreach Center. Staff were hired in mid-August, Abe Fernandez of the Children's Aid Society facilitated a half-day discussion with KSSN Leadership Team. The topic was coordinating the expansion into the new schools, engaging community partners, recommitting the goals of the Community Schools and identifying outcomes and governance structures.

Meetings were held in August with principals from the schools to understand staff's space needs. Abe Fernandez returned to Grand Rapids for these meetings. He is working on contract through the end of September to provide technical assistance and training for the start-up. The training was attended by the three agencies as well. The clinicians and social workers are mostly new, so training is crucial. All six superintendents met with him also. The principals met on the last day. The KSSN staff were all in place on the first day of school.

Moving forward, network180, Kent County, Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, KentISD, United Way, Kent DHS, Keller Foundation, Sebastian Foundation, and Changes in Early Impact Delivery are all funders in the program. For each school district that signs on to be a KSSN school, there is a match required. Grand Rapids Public Schools are using their Title I Stimulus dollar money to secure their match. Others are using their 31-A State Dollars High Risk, or Title I as well. Title I language now includes Community Schools.

Also, Godfrey Lee schools, who dropped the program last year, asked to be included again. They wrote a school improvement grant that KSSN was included in. They were given the grant for the next three years. Their middle school, high school and alternative school will all participate in the program.

Other funding opportunities include some outstanding grants, the Promise Neighborhood Zone Grant. They also worked on a full service Community Schools Grant through the Department of Education, but didn't submit it because Grand Rapids Public Schools did not sign a specific MOU related to the grant. Kellogg came to KSSN a year ago and invited them to apply for a grant. The Kellogg Grant was submitted a month ago, which will go before their board in September or October. The start date is expected to be December 1. This five-year grant is expected to support the expansion and provide enhanced services. Also built into the Kellogg Grant is community school coordinators and Medicaid money, how to move towards sustainability, extended evaluation. The Public Policy Associates evaluation showed that KSSN did not do a good enough job touching early childhood and afterschool opportunities. This is built into the Kellogg Grant as well.

Carol said they have also had conversations with Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation about continued funding. She has also had conversations with Chase Foundation. Along with Spectrum Healthier Communities Leadership, Carol pulled together a couple of school districts that would be a quality applicant for community school-based health clinics. Healthier Communities has taken the lead on it. Cherry Street Health Services would be writing the grant.

In other updates for KSSN, Carol said we have gotten good recognition across the country for attendance data and the work being done in Kent County. She added the focus will continue to be on attendance. Year-end attendance data will be available later.

Carol added they are working with the Urban Network for Community Schools on a return on investment, trying to be more intentional and delivered on how we pull that together.

KSSN has an early chronic absenteeism study with CRI that will be finished up in the next month or so. It was done district-wide, K-3 in every school in the County.

Conversations took place with Nancy Marshall and her staff on what changes may take place because DHS staff was not part of the Community Family Partnership. They are trying to figure out how to continue along with the integrity of those services with DHS Staff, as well as nursing staff in all of the schools. Part of the Kellogg Grant included adding DHS Staff to the schools.

Community Family Partnership Update (was moved to discuss after item #2)

Carla Waite of network180 shared that the community has been working with DHS on how to transition Early Impact cases to the KSSN school sites. Carla provided a handout with the process that has been identified.

Matthew VanZetten added that one of the theories of change within the CFP was to be able to access Medicaid money more broadly to serve more children and families. One of the main cuts to the State budget has been Child Abuse Prevention Services programming. When looking at Early Impact, knowing we were facing a half-million in funding cuts out of a \$1.8 million overall budget, one strategy was to look at services with KSSN and move Early Impact services from Child Abuse and Prevention, General Fund programming dollars from DHS or the County, making it a Medicaid-eligible expense. As we have gone to more sites with KSSN, there have been discussions on the

referral processes. Carla will provide a description/briefing for those not involved, and help the group understand some of the changes that are happening, and that there will be a different referral process in place for Early Impact Child Abuse and Prevention programs. Services will still be available.

Carla began talking about a pilot they did with Arbor Circle in transitioning some of the Early Impact kids into Severe Emotional Disturbance service (SED) through Medicaid. Carla continued talking about the process by which Early Impact cases could be identified. The workers will be onsite at the school, so anyone can identify a child with needs and they will be assessed and potentially receive services through the coordinators at the school. This hopes to be a more positive, user-friendly process for the parents.

When asked if they anticipate any capacity issues, Carla said this will all be a learning process and we'll have to determine what will work as things develop. Resources may need shifting based on need.

Carla reminded the group that they do have the ability to send families to an agency for assistance without having to go through the access center. She added that contact phone numbers for the site clinicians will be distributed to the Council once the list is updated.

Candace Cowling asked how quickly the data will be available. Matthew said a lot of the data will be managed by the CMH system, due to pushing the cases to Medicaid. There will be more performance measure reports. Carla added that all of the children served at the KSSN sites coming through DHS will be in the CMH system. The data will be available very quickly this way.

Savator added that re-referral back to CPS after Prevention Services would require a special request to the data management unit in Lansing to get data. She said with changes that have been made there, more timely responses can be expected.

Candace said she was referring to the initial calls coming into CPS and knowing how many are coming in and how many are being referred to Prevention Services vs. how many are going on to CPS. Savator said that could be handled locally.

Jackie Klinesteker said there are a many pieces they are working through with CRI.

The staffing update for the CFP was provided by Jackie. She said they have everyone on staff except the training and communications coordinator. The position is being offered as two part-time or one full-time position. There hasn't been a lot of interest in it. Beth Hemry is the parent coordinator and Taj Bergen is the youth coordinator. Syd Harvey is the cultural and linguistic competence coordinator. Syd has been out and about getting a feel for where we are as a partnership.

Matthew added that there will be more training on the cultural responsiveness piece. He added that CRI has hired a new person on our team, Nancy Koester for the evaluation piece. She has been helping lead the process of the evaluation of families who enter services in a new way. She has been training and recruiting interviewers to go out in the field and work. By November 1 it should be up and running. That is the logic model we were required to create as part of the National piece. The next step will be moving towards some of the questions asked by Candace Cowling and some of the other smaller localized evaluation pieces we want to know, not only look at Community Family Partnership pieces at KSSN, but other things as well. He said there will be meetings with others to talk about systems changes with open access, cultural competency and things like that. Part of it is waiting for approval from the Kellogg Foundation for the grant so they can quantify how broad the evaluation can be with CRI.

Jackie said they hope to have a large stakeholder meeting in October. The goal will be to figure out what the community is interested in, in terms of a local evaluation in tying the initiatives together.

Matthew said the training will be the next step. They will continue to talk to the court about other

kinds of service delivery models, more community-based services that might need to be put into the continuum of services that are available. He added they also need to talk with the Early Childhood system to determine what we need to do to compliment what they are doing.

Jackie added they need to take advantage of this point in time where CRI is working other initiatives around the data for Early Childhood. She said they are trying to keep things integrated where they can.

Matthew said the funding partners involved are very interested in trying to figure out better strategies to extend dollars to other federal resources and to align dollars towards indicators that can be mutually agreed upon.

5. Public Comment

Shannon Harris mentioned, as follow-up to her earlier presentation, that they have two youth programs that offer young people the opportunity to lend their voice. They are the Mayor's Youth Council program, which involves ninth through twelfth graders. They must be residents of Grand Rapids. They meet with the Mayor once a month to discuss issues that affect teens and issues in their community and schools. They go on field trips and communicate with their ward commissioners. Applications are due on September 14.

The second program is the LEAD program. It stands for Leadership and Employment, Achievement and Direction. This is a youth employment civic engagement program, where young people ages 15-21 are taught how to write a resume and cover letter. Workplace etiquette is taught. They visit the mayor's 50 businesses that were called upon by him to hire young people 15-21. Once they go through the LEAD training, they interview with one of the Mayor's 50 businesses and are employed for 6 months after receiving the training. Applications for this program are due on September 24. Information is available on the website: www.grcity.us/ourchildren.

Rich Liberatore said United Way would be putting in place the open notice of intent for organizations seeking funding under the Community Investment Program for funding beginning July 1, 2011. The proposal deadline isn't until early December.

Patti Warmington said the Kent County Prevention Coalition is sponsoring Family Day on September 27, 5:30-7:30 at John Ball Park Zoo. This is to promote families eating dinner together and talking in healthy ways. This event includes children's activities and dinner and is FREE.

6. Miscellaneous

There was none.

7. Adjournment

Candace Cowling made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Cathy Raevsky, Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, November 2, 2010 12:00pm – 1:30pm
MSU Extension Room B