

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**February 1, 2011, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room A & B**  
775 Ball Avenue, NE

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Judge Patti Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Lynn Heemstra, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Vicki Seidl, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Matthew VanZetten, Patti Warmington.

**Members Absent:** Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell, William Forsyth, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Kristen Gietzen, Jack Greenfield, Paul Ippel, Ron Jimmerson, Ron Koehler, Kevin Konarska, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Bernard Taylor.

**Guests:** Sally Borghese, Wayman Britt, Ross Buitendorp, Veneese Chandler, Teri Clark, Rebekah Fennell, Carol Paine-McGovern, Sandy Szanto, Jim Talen, Deb VanderMolen, Jon Wilmot.

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

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

The minutes were reviewed and Diana Sieger made a motion to accept the minutes, supported by Judge Gardner– **UNANIMOUS**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Nomination Committee**

Sue Broman mentioned that in the January meeting the slate of officers was presented for the committee's review. She called for a motion to approve the officers as presented. Patti Warmington made the motion, supported by Lynn Heemstra. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**.

**4. Community Family Partnership Update**

Matthew VanZetten introduced Teri Clark, project director for the Community Family Partnership, the Federal SAMHSA System of Care Grant we received over six years to provide systemic reforms. This is a partnership between the Coordinating Council, County, network180, DHS, ISD, GRPS, School Districts, Court, First Steps, United Way and various foundations within the community.

Teri provided an overview of some of the activities that have been going on. She also updated the group on where we are today, some of the things the community is working on together and where the partnership hopes this will go. She provided a matrix of various activities.

Teri began by saying this matrix is the result of many meetings with many people and organizations and many perspectives. Our families and our children in our community have a lot of needs, are being addressed by a lot of organizations, systems and groups of people, but to create a network to match them to the most appropriate service or services, it will take all of us.

The mission is to build a coordinated service network that supports the behavioral health of children, youth and families.

Three primary goals are; need to develop some sustainability; not only around funding, but the collaborations and partnerships that it takes to keep those things in place. Public education and social marketing shape how we think about mental illness and those in the child welfare system. Evaluation is essential to how we can bring all of the work together.

There are several internal capacity goals. Among them are the need to develop a governance representative of all of the public systems, community centers, groups of people who can inform and guide the work to make it multi-systemic and cross-systems.

There are some service-level outcomes, practice level outcomes and some system outcomes. Teri said they are focusing on three primary activities over the next 12-18 months. Partnering with Kent School Services Network is one; second is to develop an organization that is family-led for families; and finally, to improve and expand cultural/linguistic responsiveness.

Wayman asked where these efforts intersect with the current efforts of the Community Family Partnership and the KSSN today. Matthew VanZetten said because mental health services are difficult to provide at the school site due to billing, capacity of number of sites and access to families. He said that the CFP and KSSN are not the same thing. Part of what they are doing is trying to figure out where the value-add for the other parts of the system come into place. In KSSN the lead is Carol Paine-McGovern and CFP/network180 works with her to put the mental health services and other services in place. CFP's lead is more on the cultural linguistic relevancy piece and the parent partners.

Wayman clarified that KSSN brokers the services of CFP to fill the gap that has been identified. Matthew concurred.

Savator Selden-Johnson agreed they have been trying to find stronger efforts to engage families across the various systems.

Judge Gardner asked if there were duplication of efforts going on as she is hearing of things from different resources and wonders if it is all the same effort, or duplication. Savator said it was all the same thing.

## **5. Community Evaluation Introduction**

Matthew said the Executive Committee recently talked about the Community Evaluation and potential methods to accomplish it. He provided a written document and highlighted a few of the discussion points.

He went on to say the discussion was very good and the group felt there was real value. They had a deep discussion on some really sensitive issues. Matthew added that one of the significant take-aways is that when they begin measuring, there are real consequences for people. As an example, the Children's Rights Settlement and its impacts are causing consequences for action by outside interest groups or the State. This means jobs, job security, change in management. With No Child Left Behind, if education systems don't meet certain benchmarks, there are real consequences for people. It is also something that has to be looked at as professionals. Talking about the needs and successes in the community requires us to bring it together.

One of the things they talked about were the benchmarks the governor put out for data indicators happen to be things the group were going to drive to. Human Services looked at Infant Mortality and one was third grade reading scores.

In their discussion, the group determined there was a need to drill down to where the gaps and issues are in the service provisions so the services can be provided to those who really need them. Even though we might meet the overall benchmark, it's important to look at the problem areas and to direct the resources to those areas.

Building on that, Matthew said, we need to have services available to all people, however, access, location and poverty impede that. They honed in on the fact that geography matters and the upcoming census will help them to measure things in a new light in terms of providing services county-wide, but also in neighborhoods.

Based on the conversations, they identified a broad framework identified in the following:

- > Benchmarks from the state leadership need to be part of this
- > Limit number of measurements to ensure broad measurement of important ones
- > Time is crucial, so it will be necessary to look at what other people are doing and borrow from those and create a benchmark
- > Need to come up with ideas and ways to learn together as a community

Matthew was charged with putting a timeline together and a common agenda of the areas where there is already community investment congregating. The Executive Committee will discuss at this month's meeting.

In April there will be a broader discussion on this topic.

Lynn Heemstra asked if the Council was interested in focusing primarily on the initiatives of the Council, or across all collaboratives.

Matthew said all collaboratives is really too broad, but he gave the example of Early Childhood's First Steps. He said clearly this would be on the radar. It will be important to pick a few indicators to look at and gauge as a community and to drill down to a deeper level.

He said some programs have a more robust evaluation on the back end, but others don't so we won't know the effects of the program. It will be important to figure out how to evaluate these efforts in our goal to have children ready for life and for school.

This is a first step in an iteration of things to happen. One of the big considerations will be training. In order to change the way we deliver services, front-line staff will have to be equipped with new understandings of what our expectations are and how we believe services should be delivered. Cultural Linguistic relevancy is a key aspect of the conversation. It will require an investment of money and training to make sure that local DHS has the supports they need.

Lynn Heemstra said she was asking the question because one of the recommendations out of the Grand Rapids Youth Master Plan was to look annually at how we are doing on the indicators. They got to the first level of identifying what collaborations they are doing with the indicators. The hope is to begin to set the process of getting together annually and looking at the indicators. She wanted to be sure they would not reinventing the wheel.

While describing how this process will happen, while using third grade reading scores as an example, Sue Broman said the Committee wants to look at this as an entire county as well as school district, but also drill down all the way to the individual school level. It will be important to pick out a few meaningful indicators instead of using an exhaustive list. It will be looked at as a service perspective, as well as a neighborhood perspective. She said CRI has the capability to help us look at it, whether

at a block basis, a community basis or county basis. The goal will be to choose indicators that will be important indicators for our community work.

Judge Gardner asked if the full committee would be able to weigh in on the indicators before it is whittled down by the Executive Committee. Matthew said typically the Executive Committee whittles it down and then provides a refined copy to the full committee. Judge Gardner asked if it could be done with some input from the body of the whole.

Matthew said yes it will be done that way. Sue Broman said CRI will provide a much broader list of indicators. She said the whole group will be involved in this process. It will be a major piece of work for this group for next year.

When Sue Broman asked if anyone knew of a body elsewhere that has a great way of doing this, Lynn Heemstra said the Forum for Youth has processes in place in Austin, Texas. Also, there are counties in California and Ohio that can present on the county models they have worked with.

Wayman added that Prichard Initiative out of Kentucky that may be of assistance in this effort. Matthew said the cost will be an issue as well.

Rich Liberatore said United Way, with their funding process they are currently going through, he hopes to share what they will learn along the way.

When discussion continued, Sue Broman said that Kent County is very good at researching what others are doing and have done, but we will take those things into account and use what works here.

## 6. **Miscellaneous**

Lynn Heemstra said the Kent County College Access network is having a College Goal Sunday on February 13 where young people can get help with financial aid forms, how to get into college. It will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM at GVSU.

Also, the Expanded Learning Opportunity Network Leadership Council is having their meeting on February 18 at 8:00 AM. They will have Gwen Hughes, the new contract program coordinator at CS Mott Foundation, as well as Mary Sutton from the Michigan Afterschool Partnership and Michelle Corey from Michigan's Children.

## 7. **Adjournment**

Diana Sieger made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Candace Cowling, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:**      Tuesday, April 12, 2011 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room A & B