

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**June 7, 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, Bev Drake, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patti Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Cathy Raevsky, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Justin Swan, Patti Warmington.

**Members Absent:** William Forsyth, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Kristen Gietzen, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Ron Jimmerson, Ron Koehler, Kevin Konarska, Vicki Seidl, Bernard Taylor, Matthew VanZetten.

**Guests:** Wayman Britt, Teri Clark, Selena Dirksen, Carol Paine-McGovern, Mike Nowik.

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

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

The minutes were reviewed and Patti Warmington made a motion to accept the minutes, supported by Lynne Ferrell– **UNANIMOUS**

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Bev Drake Retirement**

Wayman Britt congratulated Beverly Drake on her upcoming retirement. He commented on her good character and fine service to the citizens of the County. Other members of the committee offered their comments, congratulations and good wishes.

**4. Community Family Partnership/Family Run Organization Overview**

Savator began by saying the handouts they hoped to provide were unavailable due to a system outage at the DHS. She said there has been some progress in this effort. There will be an update on the scope of service, the plan for the implementation, the intent to proposal, Kent County Access, was posted effective last Friday. We are in the process of using our County Child Care Fund dollars and the Community Mental Health System of Care dollars to implement the Parent Support Partnership program. State dollars were not usable because it was late in the fiscal year. She said they expect to be able to expand the program in terms of hours and accessibility for families in October when the State dollars can be accessed.

Savator said they discussed the court partners about using Child Care Fund dollars from their side. This program will affect the lives of families who are in the DHS system, family court system, and

mental health system. It is designed around a family-run organization and youth-guided principals. This system involves listening to the family and doing things more family-focused and to help the families to develop their natural supports and to try to keep them from entering the system.

They will also look at infrastructure development and training, talking to our community about the need for parent partners and their role in preventing abuse and neglect.

Parent Support Partners will have very rigid supervision, a lot of community partnership, group involvement, working at the schools, agency involvement, and CPS case involvement.

Savator continued saying this model has been successful around the state. There is already a program in Ingham and Kalamazoo, although Detroit is still struggling. She said we would like to use some families who have successfully navigated our system, considered to be low risk in terms of access to families. Their specific involvement would be with the parent and not the children. These can be very beneficial support for families going through the DHS system. The system is plagued with a lot of mistrust and a lot of families who view the government as a punishing entity. There has been a lot of work looking at the proposal process.

Savator asked Teri Clark to provide her comments.

Teri said the state sent out some guidelines on family-driven and youth-informed practices and policies and how they hope they will all align to be inclusive with parents as partnerships. She added that one thing Savator has been talking about is the Parent Support Partners, one of the ways families can provide a direct service to other families. However, they are becoming engaged in much broader system work as well. At the policy level as equal partners with professionals, advocating on the community's best path for services for kids. She was talking broad systems. How can they help our work force to be better equipped to work successfully with parents. How can they help train other parents to partner with professionals to reach their outcomes. Should we partner with parents to provide care coordination and become strong advocates for their kids' treatment and services. The state is really embracing and valuing this philosophy.

The State of Michigan is in the process of offering a System of Care Expansion Grant. The System of Care is no longer doing the 6-year grant as in the past. Instead, they are doing one year grants for planning purposes. She said the following week they will find out what that means.

She said this family-driven organization our community is jointly looking to launch has the potential to move that forward. She said we hope to see that integrated at the policy practice and direct service level.

Diana Sieger asked Savator to forward the powerpoint to the group when their system became available.

## **5. Community Evaluation/Collective Impact**

Susan Broman began talking about Collective Impact. Handouts included a Situation Statement, a draft Timeline and a draft list of three different committees. The process is laid out with possible tweaks going forward.

She proceeded to go through the timeline, explaining each item.

First item Susan talked about was the Indicator Forum Planning Team, who are expected to plan the August Symposium. This is an open process, and the Indicator Forum Planning Team will pull together broad groups in the community to look at different indicators and come up with a consensus on community indicators that we should be looking at as a community.

The next item in the timeline was in meeting with Sterling regarding Kellogg and funding and

strategy. This is in the works for the Kellogg Group and a Kent County team to talk about potential funding for this work.

Susan mentioned that a group from Kent County attended a Collective Impact forum in Palo Alto and Sterling Spring from Kellogg was there. Kent County was highlighted as the county with the broadest and most representation in the country for the Collective Impact Conference. Kellogg Foundation took note of that and made contact with the group from Kent County at the conference. They are interested in this work in Kent County.

The next item in the timeline was about writing the Kent County Case Statement. This is the statement in the handouts.

Matthew is in the process of creating the Draft Collective Impact Budget.

There has been a collective effort in meeting with all of the possible community partners to give them a heads-up on this new effort.

The step Begin Data Sharing Discussions, Susan indicated this will be a discussion on how to share data with each other and to discover what mechanisms and data systems are in place at this time. The group will look at whether there are models that are already in place that can be used or if something different will need to be created. It will be necessary to combine data from multiple sources in the community.

CRI will have a strong role in this step.

Next step will be planning the Fall Forum with Kramer, Kania, Powell & Edmundson. Kramer and Kania are the authors of the Collective Impact article this is based on and have done an incredible amount of work in community building. Powell is the individual whose philosophy is targeted universalism. This is looking at how to allocate services based on need. Edmundson is the individual who started Strive in Cincinnati. Cincinnati seems to be the furthest along in collective impact work than any other community in the country. They are touted as a model that we should look at.

In the fall there will be a large forum for the community to hear from these people to raise the community's understanding.

The next step will be in getting Kramer & Kania engaged in this process. There is hope in getting them involved on a non-profit basis.

Dr. Powell will then be engaged for the Fall Forum.

The Community Forum on Data Management will be held in July as well.

In July the KCFCCC will provide its annual Report to the Kent County Board of Commissioners, where it will share the work on Collective Impact to the Board. This is where the KCFCCC will present the direction the council is headed with Collective Impact.

Over the course of the summer, the groups will come together to determine the indicators to be looked at.

In September, the KCFCCC is expected to approve the indicators recommended by the different data groups. Also the Fall Forum will be held at this time.

These timetables will be flexible as needed.

Lynne Ferrell wanted to know if the Collective Impact effort will coalesce around shared measurement and then build out the other conditions. Susan Broman said we will start with the

indicators and build out from there. She added the data sharing group will be looking at the capability of our community to measure these things.

For this effort to work, everyone must be on the same page. The Fall Forum is intended to provide some of the information to the broader community so more people will understand where we are trying to go, what Collective Impact is and what the Strive Model is. There needs to be a broad-base of support for Collective Impact to work.

Susan continued by talking about the Kent County Collective Impact Situation Statement. She said it is designed to provide a basic statement of this effort. This document was approved by the KCFCCC Executive Committee at their last meeting. The intention is to send this statement to the Grand Rapids Press, Grand Rapids Business Journal, and other media. It basically sets the stage for this community to think differently about how we work. Susan requested the group approve the direction the Executive Committee is taking on this.

This statement also says we have serious issues in this community that are not improving. They are getting worse. We all need to think about how we can contribute to improving these conditions in a collective way. It will take a number of people.

It serves to call attention to some significant problems we have in this community and to also think differently about how we work together.

When asked why the public sector is not included in the committee lists, Susan said they are not in this draft stage, she asked the group to provide their suggestions on who needs to be added. A lot of the people on the sheet are the typical players, but the group must decide who needs to be included as it needs to be a broader group. The community needs to be involved.

Diana Sieger expressed that there seems to be a disconnect between knowing what needs to be done and actually doing it. Beverly Drake agreed.

Justin Swan commented on the draft budget. He said he would have a hard time voting on going forward without knowing what the cost was going to be. He asked if there were some preliminary numbers.

Susan said she didn't have them, but wanted to know if Wayman did. He said he did not, but could get what the numbers are projected to be. He said at this time we just want to be sure and collect the information about measurements and such. We could get an idea of the cost, but it wouldn't be a hard number.

Diana Sieger said some of the budget elements would be the cost of bringing in the consultants and some staffing to get the process started. She added that the foundations will likely be helping to foot the bill so it will not come out of public sector dollars.

Judge Gardner asked what markers Cincinnati has chosen for their Collective Impact process. Susan Broman answered that she knew some were; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading; readiness for school; graduation rate; college completion time. Their program is cradle to career. Susan said that by picking them out and focusing their work there, they have seen significant changes in these indicators.

Judge Gardner said as she looked at the data sharing committee, since we don't know what the indicators might be at this time, and the data sharing is so critical, but the committee doesn't include any schools. If any academic indicators were chosen, it would be critical to include schools on this committee.

Susan said part of what is happening with CRI is that there is a fair amount of work already going on in the community about data sharing agreements among different entities. She continued that nothing is cast in stone and the more suggestions, the better.

The group agreed that the schools do really need to be included on the data sharing committee. Carol Paine-McGovern added that Gustavo Rotondaro is the point person for GRPS and KentISD on the Master Data Sharing Agreement. The conversations of the last 18 months have had Gustavo as the point person. Although it is not spelled out in this document, they have been included. There was agreement that needed to be spelled out in this, including what the data sets that are being brought into the process that have already figured-out data sharing agreements.

Sharon Loughridge said that the Governor's dashboard contains 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading Scores and Graduation Rates, which should add some leverage to Collective Impact.

Rich Liberatore said he appreciates the Executive Committee endorsing this effort, and that even if the stats change a little in the next few months or so, there is a lot of value in doing this. He said it may be more a matter of when to release this, how to do it. He said he is glad we are starting with this now.

Susan said that it all really comes down to the last three paragraphs of the situation statement, saying this is a paradigm change; one organization didn't create these problems and one organization won't fix them; this is not the problem of one sector in the community. It is also a matter of each entity looking at themselves and asking themselves what part they are playing/not playing in this.

The Collective Impact and Kania and Kramer have consistently used the term humility. This is huge. It will cause some organizations to think differently about what they say they actually do. Susan said the last three paragraphs in the situation statement are the most significant thing in saying we have to think differently. The current governor is saying if we aren't focusing on outcomes for people, we are missing the boat. We have to show that what we are doing is making an impact on people. We have to cross over the boundaries of the different departments and look at people outcomes and not specific department outcomes.

Lynne Ferrell commented that she agrees this has a lot of value, but one of the elements of what this group is trying to communicate with the Collective Impact, is the need for the shared vision and how it ties everything together. We ought to be careful of the message and it may be a function of timing when we release it. The magic of the Collective Impact is that you have to find a way to make it shared. We have to work on this important document, although it is terrific, it can be strengthened with the idea that it has to have some kind of shared element to it. She added we have to get at some of that before we send it out.

Bev Drake said that this document needs to say this is what we believe in and we invite you to join us. This is how we are going to participate.

Susan said that is what they anticipate happening in the next several months and that will include a lot more people than this group. The collective vision is not yet identified, but will have to be developed by this entire group. The group agreed the document needs to say just that.

Justin Swan said we are saying that we have identified something and a possible solution and here are some statistics that show what direction we are going. He said without having the other items, his reaction as a press reporter would be how much will it cost. He hears we don't know. We need to wait and ensure this is exactly what we want it to say and we need something to back it up with.

Susan Broman disagreed on the cost. She said we can come up with the cost for having Kania, Kramer and Edmondson come to town, but the true cost of doing this work is a whole other thing. It is an incredible amount of inkind work by all of us. The real cost will be in all of the people sitting around the table and getting the thoughts out there.

Justin added that the answer may be in the end that we will save money. This could replace wasted costs.

Diana Sieger said she doesn't think the finances are the focus of this, although we need to have a little more structure around the budget, but the intention of Collective Impact isn't a financial one. It is more of how it will affect people's lives. She added the cost of community work is going to fall to the organizations. The tangible costs in getting this going will be in bringing in the experts.

Diana said her hopes were for the group to agree to the statement today, with it being wide open to comment and who else should be involved, communicating that we don't know what the vision will be, but input is welcome.

Susan asked if everyone would provide their comments to Sherry Hall, giving Matthew VanZetten the opportunity to see what was said. She asked everyone to be honest. It is critical to get as much information and feedback as possible to try and do it right in the first place. She added that in Cincinnati they said that you can't do what they did, each community will do this differently. She said we need to make sure we are doing this right and we have the right people and that we are paying attention to the right things. Nobody knows everything that is going on in this community. She said please be critical and constructive at the same time. How can we make this better and how can we move forward in a positive way.

Susan added this was presented to the Human Services Committee of the County and they were real interested. The County wants to have an active role in this.

Wayman said Cathy Raevsky has been in work sessions with the Finance Committee, where they are looking at what value each has and what mandated services do we want to keep going forward. This particular discussion was brought up at one of the meetings and they discussed what we are attempting to do, how it fits with the Prevention Initiative and all the stuff we are doing with Child Welfare. There was commitment from 4 or 5 of the members there that we need to move forward on.

Wayman then mentioned that he went to Lansing and met with Senator Caswell, who is in charge of the DHS Budget Appropriations. The senator is very supportive of this work and will come down to meet in July with Human Services Committee members. He says the Governor and the legislature often point to Kent County and West Michigan for some of the things being done here.

Susan Broman asked for a motion to adopt the plan, although this is not final and will be tweaked with suggestions and additional work of members of the committee. Judge Gardner made a motion to adopt the plan, seconded by Sharon Loughridge. The motion was unopposed.

Wayman added that in July the KCFCCC will be going before the Board of Commissioners and the Committee needs to begin communicating the Collective Impact effort.

Susan added that members will be contacted about committee membership and changes to the Collective Impact Statement.

## 6. **Miscellaneous**

There was none.

## 7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:** Tuesday, September 6, 2011 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room A & B