

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2014 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
MSU Extension Offices – **Room A & B**  
775 Ball Avenue, NE

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**Members/Alternates**

**Present:**

Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Patricia Gardner, Kristen Gietzen, Kathy Freberg (for Scott Gilman), Jack Greenfield, Ron Koehler, Adam London, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Maureen Noe, Julie Ridenour, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Patti Warmington.

**Members Absent:**

Tom Czerwinski, William Forsyth, Scott Gilman, Cynthia Gladyness, Lynn Heemstra, Kevin Konarska, Gary Lemke, Sharon Loughridge, Nancy Marshall, Teresa Neal.

**Guests:**

Wayman Britt, Veneese Chandler, Dynetta Clark, Julie Cnossen, Tracie Coffman, Rebekah Fennell, Anthony Muller, Andy Soper, Shandra Steininger, George Tyndall, Matthew VanZetten.

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Lynne Ferrell opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions were done. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

After a minor correction that was mentioned by Maureen Noe, a motion was made by George Meek to accept the corrected minutes from the September 9 meeting. Support provided by Candace Cowling, MOTION CARRIED.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. HQ**

Lynne welcomed guests from HQ who would talk about the new initiative. Jack Greenfield opened with an introduction of the key staff of HQ; Shandra Steininger, director of HQ, Andy Soper, Mars Hill staff and Julie Cnossen, the program director of Youth Services at Arbor Circle. Jack mentioned November is Homeless Youth Awareness month.

Arbor Circle is partnering with HQ – a Drop-in Center for youth, bringing their experience of shelter services for teens in our community for 45 years. The Drop-in Center will be a community partnership, serving teens by connecting them to already-established services. Community partners will all be welcome to be a part of this endeavor.

Andy Soper said that after discussions among staff at Mars Hill Bible Church and Arbor Circle along with several months of research, the HQ Teen Drop-in Center was established. He mentioned that the research included visits to several Teen Centers across the country including Portland and Seattle.

HQ is not designed as a shelter, but as a place for kids to come and feel safe, while getting some of their basic needs met. The resources and readiness aspects are expected to come from community partners. Staff at HQ will not attempt to recreate services that already exist, but rather to partner with them and connect teens to the services.

Arbor Circle has a space within the building and will offer counseling services. There will also be an extra office in the building, giving other partners the ability to serve the youth on site. Other services planned for the space are groups such as psycho-social supports, education or job training. There is a large classroom in the space for these types of services.

The doors will open on November 17, 2014. November 11 at 11:00-12:30 a luncheon will be held and a tour provided. An open discussion will take place as well. This is expected to take place on a quarterly basis. On Friday, November 14 from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM a broad community open house will be held.

Questions from the Council included whether teens who are from the LGBT community would be accepted in the doors of HQ. Andy Soper answered, saying that HQ became its own non-profit, and the board of HQ has approved an extremely broad inclusionary policy, including the staff, volunteers and the work. This will be a place of belonging...all will be welcome.

Judge Gardner asked if the group could return in November 2015 to provide an update of the progress and lessons of the HQ initiative.

Additional discussion included capacity. Due to the research that was done, they are not expecting to experience issues with capacity, but it remains to be seen.

When asked how they would communicate the needs of HQ to groups, Jack Greenfield said that was part of the reason the group was presenting today and also to create that

structure.

Andy added they will be creating a monthly report indicating the numbers of youth using the drop in center and what their needs are. Also, the HQ staff are open to the feedback and information. The number one goal of the center will be for youth to come and engage in positive relationships with adults. Secondary will be for youth to have the opportunity to access the things they want. Andy also mentioned that they are creating a bible of all available resources.

Additionally, the group was asked where their initially funding came from and how much it was. Andy said the funding came from Mars Hill with \$1 million pledged over five years. Fund raising is currently taking place as well.

Lynne Ferrell asked if the Council could see the bible of resources when it is complete.

#### **4. Nomination Committee**

Lynne Ferrell noted it was time to look at leadership of the Council for next year. She said Patti Warmington, Sharon Loughridge and Julie Ridenour have volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Formal action is required for the group to do the work. Maureen Noe made a motion, supported by Diana Sieger, vote was UNANIMOUS.

#### **5. KCFCCC Planning**

Matthew stated commitments of up to \$20,000 has been secured, if needed. The County is filing grant applications now. The RFP is ready to be posted, we are targeting a kickoff in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2015. A review committee will need to be set up from the Coordinating Council with the Executive Committee. Thank you for your patience.

#### **6. Pay for Performance/Social Impact Bonds**

Lynne said the Executive Committee is exploring the idea of Pay for Success opportunities (i.e. social impact bonds) to build capacity for programs that have a proven return on investment. A public sector partner is an important part of this, which in this case is the State and/or the County. There is a resource at the State in the form of Anne White who is a Harvard Fellow that works in the Governor's Office that we would like utilize in acquiring some technical assistance. Further, there are models in other communities that are engaging in PFS contracts without specific State endorsement.

Matthew said the Governor's Office wants to consider a co-creation model with the community to do some strategic place-based work. The handout provided at this meeting is a copy of the letter that was sent to the Governor's office, a meeting will take place with them later this month about early childhood issues related to abuse and neglect prevention. There is significant interest at the State level due to the Prevention Initiative Evaluation that was done earlier in 2007 on Healthy Start, Early Impact and Bright Beginnings.

More to come in January or February on this topic.

## **7. Updates**

### **A. Child Welfare System**

Matthew said we have been working as a cross-sector community on this quite well and very hard during the past few months to implement our Performance-Based Funding, Section 515 Report. As an update, Matthew said all of the cases have been transferred to the Private Sector partners, for out-of-home care. We were successful in getting this accomplished by the September 30 deadline.

There has also been a lot of work being done to create a private agency consortia. DHS, network180, the Courts and the County have been meeting for 2 or 3 days a month with state-provided technical assistance to learn and design how a consortia can be created. In January a presentation will be ready for the KCFCCC on how this may work with a consortia model. Much is dependent on approval by the State's Child Welfare Council and Department of Human Services.

At the same time, the State has been rolling out an initiative called SOFAC, Strengthening Our Families and Children. It is instituting a common practice model across the child welfare system and trying to create a learning community of data.

For some reason our community is still seeing more removals than in other parts of the state. We are working diligently to try and figure out what is going on and how to get ahead of this and do more effective prevention work.

### **B. Medicaid Funding**

In Scott Gilman's absence, Matthew shared that the State provided the County with the General Fund dollars needed due to conservative estimates by network180, as well as some good management of its resources so we will be able to maintain the Jail Mental Health Services this year. Network180 also received a Jail Diversion Funding Grant.

Milliman – the State's Medicaid Actuary – continues to cut the county and region based on past historical expenditures. We have engaged the County's lobbyist to assist us with changing this, and have data to suggest ways that we could possibly change the funding formula. The election will determine how that conversation may go.

By the end of the calendar year, a plan will be shared with the Council on how we will approach this. This is a significant loss to our PIHP Region in the form of \$10 million in actuary funds, in addition to the money for the General Fund that was cut. We hope to have Scott Gilman do a full presentation in January.

Unless we get this resolved in FY2015, significant reductions will need to be made in FY2016.

**C. KConnect/ENTF**

Last week there was a planning session between KConnect and ENTF to reenergize ENTF around some data needs and driving towards solution orientation in redesigning their work with KConnect, and the principal that children and families need stability to be successful.

A design session was facilitated by New North. It should roll out some new work in 2015.

After some discussion led by Jack Greenfield, Matthew recapped the discussion with three concerns raised:

1. There is a drop-off with the Healthy Michigan Benefit and how people access that and what it pays and what it means. There is a whole learning people need to understand on what the difference is between now and six or eight months ago.
2. The Health Insurances companies are basically the same as network180, with them being a provider of Medicaid funding, so they need to be part of the planning culture more than they have been.
3. There is an undocumented population that has been totally set aside because Medicaid can't pay for those clients, they weren't counted in the General Fund transition off the rolls. Previously, we were able to serve them with State General Fund money.

Matthew suggested tabling this topic so he and Jack could discuss with Scott Gilman and return it back to the Council.

Diana agreed to host a session for this discussion.

Adam London suggested crafting a problem statement, to which Wayman Britt asked Jack Greenfield if he could draft one up. He agreed.

**8. 2015 Schedule**

Matthew said the meeting schedule that was provided in the meeting packets, after print we learned there is an issue is using the current meeting room at the Cooperative Extension, so he is proposing moving all of the KCFCCC meetings to the County Administration Building, Room 311. We will validate parking. The dates on the list are firm.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

Jack Greenfield announced that Arbor Circle in partnership with some other folks are promoting a documentary of homelessness in our youth and young adults, called "Homestretch". It is at Celebration Cinema North on November 13.

Also, there will be a Bridge Open House on November 19. Brochures were provided.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at the Kent County Administration Building, Room 311.