

Kent County Family & Children's Coordinating Council

KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2018 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Kent County Administration Building
Room 311

Members/Alternates

Present: Melanie Beelen, Candace Cowling, Judge Patti Gardner, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Jack Greenfield, Ron Koehler, Adam London, Jacob Maas, Jackie O'Connor, Jim Paparella, I, Julie Ridenour, Bill Riley, Diana Sieger, Michelle VanDyke, Matthew Van Zetten, Patti Warmington.

Members Absent: Chris Becker, Ron Caniff, Lynne Ferrell, Tracey Fountain, Cynthia Gladyness, Lynn Heemstra, George Meek, Yazeed Moore, Teresa Neal, Savator Selden-Johnson, Michael Zoerhoff.

Guests: Kristen Gietzen, Jennifer Headrick, Kasie Pickart, Maureen Kirkwood, Wende Randal Carol Paine-McGovern, Annemarie Valdez.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Adam London, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Judge Gardner made a motion to approve the minutes and the agenda, Support provided by Michelle VanDyke – vote was UNANIMOUS.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Community Mental Health Update – Bill Riley, Interim Executive Director for Network 180 began this update.

- Finances are still an issue. Losses continue on a monthly basis. Very aggressive plans are in place in utilization management in a number of structural areas to reduce the losses in the upcoming year. Concerns continue over funding from the State of Michigan. Several program and service areas, including Healthy Michigan and the Autism program are significantly underfunded. While improving operations, efforts continue to determine how to lobby the State for additional funding. Hoping current elections will help to solve some of the issues at the State level.

- Strengthening of the Utilization Management process is another area of concern. There are now a number of strategies in place to address this. It is basically an oversight of the provider network requiring that a person receiving services has support in their clinical records for their treatment plan to utilize those services. This area has not been focused on for some time now, so they are in the process of reestablishing the focus.
- CARF, an accreditation body for behavioral health, recently did a review for Network 180 and provided five minor recommendations. Final recommendations will occur sometime in January or February 2019. The results were very positive in the exit interview.
- An Executive Director search continues, with the committee being led by Adam London. Surveys to stakeholders, providers, consumers and staff at Network 180 and Kent County recently went out. The timeline to fill the position is April or May 2019.
- Bill reported working with Centria Healthcare to put a plan of correction together to get ahead of any issues seen on the other side of the State.
- Network 180 is going through some internal cost containment evaluation in the Finance area. Currently leadership is contracted out. This will be brought in-house in about a year and a half.
- The Network 180 budget was approved at the end of September.
- A large number of strategic projects are going on right now to stabilize Network 180. This will culminate in the development of a 2-year plan.

One of the biggest things is the implementation of electronic medical records beginning in February 2019.

Additionally, the LRE has signed the Beacon contract. This will have a big impact on all of the CMH's in the region with some of the functions they will be taking over. Meetings with Beacon are expected to assist in the development of Network 180's plan as well.

The implementation with Beacon is scheduled for January 1st, but will likely take 2 to 4 months to get everything in place.

Additional discussion took place about the funding issues with the State. Bill said these issues are still being worked on. He is hopeful there could be an additional supplemental issued out to the PiHP's during the legislative Lame Duck session due to some available money at the State.

Bill also shared there has been a delay by the State to provide information on what funding will be allocated for the next 3 months. These numbers are usually out in August or September. This could be due in part to the amount of turnover in the Department of Health and Human Services at the State.

4. **Affordable Housing Discussion** – Matthew VanZetten began this conversation, saying the County has been looking into this issue for the past year, trying to determine what is happening and what role the County plays. He asked the Coordinating Council what theirs or the County's role should be in Housing Affordability.

Adam London shared that a report recently stated that although it is common knowledge that no more than 30% of household income should go to housing, in Kent County we are looking at between 43 and 48% on average is going toward housing.

Discussion on this topic included being mindful that homelessness and housing affordability are parallel with each other. Also, the County and the Coordinating Council should work in partnership with other entities that are working to solve this issue. Another thing that needs addressing is that the landlord plays a part in this issue as well. One example cited is when a family is renting a property which is purchased by another landlord who then triples or quadruples the rent, it causes the renter to become homeless because they cannot afford that kind of increase in their rent. Sadly, this is typically substandard housing to begin with.

Melanie Beelen suggested one important factor is being a good listener to the needs of the community. ICCF has done a great job getting the equity to develop affordable housing.

Candace Cowling suggested a great need to look forward in the needs ahead. She said this is a structural problem and we need to figure out what policies could be used to provide answers. We need the data, the policies and the right players to work though this issue.

Another issue raised is how to shift the thinking of what Affordable Housing actually means. This is a demand vs. supply issue. There are approximately 38 housing units for every 100 people looking for one. Many of the homeless are working, but cannot find affordable housing. In order to afford a decent apartment in the Grand Rapids area, those making minimum wage would have to work 57 hours a week. That is just to cover rent. It doesn't include daycare, utilities, food and other essentials.

We also need a communication tool so the community can be informed on current issues. We need to develop trust in the community.

Adam London left the meeting early for another meeting.

5. Miscellaneous

- Sandra Ghoston-Jones introduced Jennifer Headrick, the new management analyst in the Administrator's Office at the County. Jennifer provided a bit about her background.

Sandra said that County Administration is very excited about the data experience that Jennifer brings with her. She is also very familiar with the work that is being done in Kent County.

- Melanie Beelen shared that Baxter Community Center turns 50 next year.
- Ron Koehler shared that he has been working state-wide on the School Research Finance Collaborative, in an effort to bring all children to competency on Michigan Standards.

6. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2019.