

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council

KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2019 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Kent County Administration Building
Room 311

Members/Alternates

Present: Melanie Beelen, Candace Cowling, Tracey Fountain, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Maureen Kirkwood, Ron Koehler, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Jackie O'Connor, Jim Paparella, Kasie Pickart, Julie Ridenour, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Scott Smith, Michelle VanDyke, Matthew VanZetten.

Members Absent: Chris Becker, Ron Caniff (Ron Koehler represented), Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patti Gardner, Adam London, Teresa Neal.

Guests: Connie Bohatch, Peter Dickow, Anissa Eddie, Jenn Headrick, Carol Paine-McGovern, Pam Parriott, Wende Randall, Jim Talen, Annemarie Valdez, MaryBeth Van Till, Mark Woltman.

1 Welcome & Call to Order

Cynthia Gladyness, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Jack Greenfield made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting, second was provided by Maureen Kirkwood, vote was unanimous.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. K-Connect Presentation – Cynthia introduced Pam Parriott and Mark Woltman from K-Connect. A PowerPoint presentation was provided with the update.

Pam shared that an analysis was recently done around homelessness.

Almost a year ago K-Connect received a letter from a group of stakeholders who work in the space specific to homelessness, asking K-Connect to bring its work relative to data process, equity and facilitation into the environment of housing security. Their Board agreed this was what K-Connect was designed for. A couple of months were spent listening to stakeholders to ensure understanding of the complexity of issues present in the

space. Discussions turned to ensuring that a process, with effective facilitation and an acknowledgement of data work that had to be done. Also, there needed to be perspective around equity that needed to be brought to the environment.

A structure was put in place. The components include:

- Design team, the primary synthesizer
- Context Experts
- Content Experts
- Scout/research Team
- Communications Team
- Community; Backbone/Facility Team; purpose; mission statement

K-Connect signed on for one year. The work is on target to complete within that one-year timeframe. The work will be to create a common agenda and roadmap for Housing Insecurity.

Mark Woltman took the group through an analysis of the data collected, which was provided by the Continuum of Care (COC).

One of the statistics Mark shared was that 27% of kids who were homeless in 2018 came from the 49507-zip code. When adding in 49503 and 49504 zip codes, the total percent is about 48% from the three zip codes.

He also shared that about one third of the homeless population consists of children ages zero to 17 years old. Of the children who are homeless (about 3,500), about 20% are Caucasian, 14% Latino and 76% are African American.

Matthew VanZetten asked if they could provide a single slide for future use that shows the percentage of children and the homeless rates.

In answer to a question on what the causes of homelessness have been determined to be, Pam Parriott said there were several things such as lack of livable wages, housing capacity, behavioral health as well as many other things.

4. **Network 180 Executive Director Search Update** – Matthew VanZetten shared that the search committee had held second interviews. The process is moving forward. Something should be communicated at the end of June or early July when hopefully a final candidate is selected.
5. **Early Childhood Millage Update** – Sandra Ghoston-Jones provided an update. She said First Steps issued their initial RFP (for Outreach and Navigation Services) and held a bidder's conference. She said it was a sizable crowd who asked good questions. All the parts and pieces are coming together. A policy and procedure manual has been drafted. Working through some of the nuances. An additional RFP (for Home Visiting Services) will be issued later this year.

Annemarie Valdez added that First Steps is grateful to have the Senior Millage as a model and also thankful for their helpfulness and support. She also mentioned that they were

pleased with the turnout for the bidder's conference.

6. Miscellaneous

- Pam Parriott – She shared that the 1st Housing Accountability Partner Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19 at Grand Rapids University, 8:00-12:30. It is listed on their website at K-Connect.org.
- Candace Cowling – She commented that the last K-Connect did an awesome job with their last training around systems.

7. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2019.