

# Kent County Family & Children's Coordinating Council

---

## KCFCCC Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2020 12:00pm – 1:00pm  
Kent County Administration Building  
Room 311

---

### Members/Alternates

#### Present:

Melanie Beelen, Ron Caniff, Candace Cowling, Tracey Fountain, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Kristen Gietzen, Lynn Heemstra, Maureen Kirkwood, Adam London, George Meek, Jackie O'Connor, Jim Paparella, Julie Ridenour, Diana Sieger, Scott Smith, Michelle VanDyke, Matthew VanZetten.

#### Members Absent:

Chris Becker, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Gardner, Cynthia Gladyness, Jacob Maas, Kasie Pickart, Savator Selden-Johnson, Bill Ward.

#### Guests:

Doug Booth, Heather Boswell, Peter Dickow, Karen Lezan, Carol Paine-McGovern, Kristyn Peck, Wende Randall, Jim Talen, Annemarie Valdez.

### 1 Welcome & Call to Order

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

George Meek made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting, second was provided by Diana Sieger, vote was unanimous.

### 2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. **Crisis System Update** – Adam London reminded the Council that TriWest was hired as the consultant to assist with the Mental Health Crisis System project and were here for a site visit in November. They plan to make another site visit on February 10 and 11. Recommendations were made to the Consortium since the initial site visit. One is that the Executive Work Group, consisting of the chairs, Wayman Britt and Mike Jandernoa, Tina Freese-Decker, Hyung Kim, Peter Hahn, Mark Eastburg and Kent Riddle as the hospital executives within the group, add Phil Weaver, from Hope Network and Bill Ward, from Network180 due to their roles in the community. They also recommended expanding the work group to add an appointee from the Sheriff's Office, the City of Grand Rapids, a representative from an organization representing the homeless, a children's crisis mental health provider, a child and adult health provider, an FQHC representative, a

consumer/family advocate and a payor. TriWest also recommended expanding the role of the project team, appointed to provide the consultants with data, orient them to the community and to make sure they are meeting their milestones along the way with the project. They suggested expanding their role to be a consensus work group. There are some slots to fill at this time. Suggestions are welcome.

The goal is to have a plan developed by TriWest in partnership with the consensus work group by mid-summer. TriWest will be finishing their work in June and will bring a set of recommendations forward. After that will be implementation.

Lynn Heemstra asked for a synopsis of the expectations to ensure the right people are on this work group. Adam answered that the right people will be the ones who have access to senior leadership of their organization and who understand the high-level interests of their organization or their constituency group. Also, those who have literacy with this subject matter. He added they will need to be able to respond quickly to document review. The group will meet a couple of times a month.

Ron Caniff added to the update, saying that they received a large supplemental as part of a new school aid bill. Section 31n provided about \$300,000 for each of the ISDs. They are using the funds to increase their school-based mental health services for mild and moderate-level Tier 1 and Tier 2 situations which should reduce the Tier 3 situations. Services are not provided at a clinical level. They are partnering with DA Blodgett-St. John's, Arbor Circle and Family Outreach Center to utilize their clinicians within the schools. The budget enacted in October 2019 provided a renewal of the funds.

Ron said they are working with KSSN to ensure maximum use of the funding.

- 4. WMPC Update** – Sandra Ghoston-Jones talked about the stressful time that WMPC went through last Fall when their administrative funding was cut from the State Budget. The Administrative board cuts were restored in late December 2019 which was a victory for the community. The amount of calls, cards and letters to local legislators was phenomenal.

Kristyn Peck thanked the group for their support through this issue. She said it helped for legislators to see what kind of support this initiative has within our community.

The remaining issue is that the case rate received by WMPC was not adequately funded from the start of the pilot, so they are experiencing an ongoing funding deficit. Although it was recommended by the State's own actuaries that funds to "true-up" the shortfall be paid to WMPC, they have not received the monies yet. They do not have adequate funds for program expenses, so they have been operating with insufficient funding. They have been delaying payments to vendors and partner agencies where they can.

Kristyn said she has an upcoming meeting scheduled with DHHS and Senator MacGregor to discuss a way forward. Senator MacGregor says the money is in their budget to pay the shortfall.

WMPC uses MiSACWIS and Mindshare to gather their data. The State recently issued an RFP looking for a vendor to replace MiSACWIS which will be phased out over the next

five years, with the initial phaseout at the end of 2020 which is expected to affect Foster Care Licensing. Kristyn Peck has reached out to MindShare with her concerns over this issue, to ensure that they will continue to get the data they need to do their work.

Adam thanked Kristyn Peck and the Council for their advocacy in getting the administrative funding restored to WMPC.

**5. Early Childhood Millage Update** – Sandra Ghoston-Jones informed the Council that going forward, this update will be called the Ready By 5 update.

Funding began October 1 with three providers. It is going well. There was an initial challenge with the reimbursement methodology, but it is going well now. Sandra said she will be working very closely with First Steps to be sure things go smoothly with services beginning on the date the contract states.

Sandra further stated that she spent several days with the Resident Proposal Review Committee, to review the 27 proposals that were received for the second round of funding. The funding is approximately \$5-7 million for two-year contracts for 22 providers. The First Steps Commission will review the recommendations made by the committee and hopefully approve the allocations at their January 16 meeting. After that it will go to the County Finance Committee and the Board of Commissioners.

Annamarie Valdez thanked the County for their support in getting this initiative going.

**6. Miscellaneous**

- Jackie O'Connor shared that the Senior Millage is in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year. She provided a handout outlining the various services that are being funded this year. There is \$12 million in funding for the program this year, the largest senior millage in Michigan.
- Jim Paparella asked about free radon testing services in Kent County. Adam London said they were providing free test kits for radon.
- Melanie Beelen said Baxter finished their 50<sup>th</sup> year. They made a quilt as part of the imitative and will have an open house on January 29 from 3:00-6:00 PM. The quilt will be on permanent display at the Center.
- Ron Caniff announced that Ron Koehler retired, but will be coming back for projects. There will be an open house in his honor on January 20 from 3:00-6:00 PM at Kent ISD. He also mentioned that the Bright Beginnings program received Blue-Ribbon accreditation through Parents as Teachers. Karen Lezan from Bright Beginnings was present to talk about the multi-year process to achieve the accreditation.
- Jim Talen said that the Michigan Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration has been working for about 8 months and will meet this Thursday to approve the final report. He is a member of the task force and shared there will be recommendations in the task force report addressing the effects of incarceration on children and families. He asked for the group's advocacy in supporting this initiative.

- Adam London – The 2020 Meeting schedule was provided on the table with the agenda. Please mark your calendars.

7. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020.