

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 5, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm**  
**MSU Extension Offices – Room B**  
**775 Ball Avenue, NE**

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**Members/Alternates Present:** Susan Broman, Candace Cowling, Bev Drake, Kristen Gietzen, Jack Greenfield, Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patti Gardner, Sandra Ghosten-Jones, Lynn Heemstra, Paul Ippel, Ron Jimmerson, Jackie Klinesteker, Ron Koehler, Randy Koekoek, Rich Liberatore, Sharon Loughridge, Carol Paine-McGovern, Cathy Raevsky, Diana Sieger, Jim Talen, Patti Warmington

**Members Absent:** Tom Czerwinski, Sandy Davis, William Forsyth, Bob Haight, Kevin Konarska, Mike Nowik, Savator Selden-Johnson, Dr. Bernard Taylor, Deb VanderMolen, Matthew VanZetten, Sandy Walls

**Guests:** Wayman Britt, Veneese Chandler, Jill Myer, Tracy Thompson

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Jack Greenfield opened the meeting with a welcome and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Jack asked for an update on Matthew VanZetten, saying he was doing much better and is recovering very well.

**2. Kent School Services Network Evaluation Update**

Carol Paine-McGovern gave an update on the Kent School Services Network Evaluation. She began by saying we did the evaluation beginning from day one. Carol said this report is the findings from the 3-year evaluation from Public Policy Associates, just released in December 2009.

She reviewed the schools who participated and the collaborative partners. Carol also touched on the basic research questions that were used, the main one being whether KSSN is effective in improving the academic achievement and student behavior in the schools.

The evaluation shows that KSSN is maturing and becoming institutionalized. They found that more parental support, community support and more coordination with afterschool activities is needed.

When looking at outcomes, she said teachers are responding more to the surveys, and their perceptions are of an improved environment and a decrease in behavioral problems.

Carol said absenteeism is improving. She did a review of the absenteeism statistics in each of the schools.

Suspensions have not decreased in numbers, but in percentages they have shown a steady decrease. Average length of suspensions has decreased as well.

All schools showed improvements in some of their MEAP scores and all schools showed improvement in their MEAP Mathematics scores.

Overall, Carol said Teachers are more knowledgeable and supportive of KSSN; KSSN improves the school environment; KSSN helps children be more ready to learn; KSSN schools have experienced improved behavior and reduced absenteeism; Community involvement and activities and student participation is low, but growing. Chronic absenteeism in most schools has decreased; extreme chronic absenteeism at most schools has decreased; suspensions are on track to increase, however the percentage of students suspended is on track to decrease. Academic achievement overall is improving, the greatest being in Math. All KSSN Schools met Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008-2009.

Carol provided a handout and said there will still be some evaluation being done because of the Community Family Partnership Grant. KSSN is the delivery choice for that grant. SRA will be the evaluator. There is a proposal into CRI to look at county-wide data, doing a quantitative and qualitative analysis in the County on all of the school districts to look at chronic and excessive absenteeism, looking at what policies and procedures are in place in each district.

The KSSN has been asked to join a peer review group due to the work that has been done in the last 3 years as important work.

KSSN will continue to focus on the chronic absenteeism issue. There is a state-wide interest in community schools. Detroit is looking toward adopting community schools as one of their methods. KSSN is working with Network180 in the Community Family Partnership on expansion. They have had some meetings with superintendents who are excited to have KSSN in their schools in the next year.

KSSN is part of the Kellogg Grant that will help support 2 DHS workers in the schools. They were also approached by Kellogg to put together a more comprehensive KSSN grant application to them this spring.

They are pulling together Medicaid Task Force to look at Medicaid reimbursement, to look at how we as a community can better capture the funds. Carol said they have been working with Lansing because they have a state-wide task force addressing it as well.

KSSN will be focusing on after-school programs and working closer with what is going on there. They will also be taking an in-depth look at what is going on across the country with Community Schools to see where they can improve.

### **3. ARRA Prevention Grant Application**

Jill Myer from the Kent County Health Department and Tracy Thompson from Kent/MSU gave an update on the Communities Put Prevention to Work Grant. They requested about \$10 Million to look at how to reduce chronic disease, obesity on a comprehensive county-wide basis through environmental change, policy change in all age groups.

They looked toward a variety of community partners to create a comprehensive look at this issue. Tracy said Grand Rapids has a lot of groups already looking at this issue. They did what they could to try and pull them all together. This included the YMCA, MSU, Health Department, Spectrum Healthier Communities, Child and Family Resource Council, Grand Rapids Public Schools, other Kent County school districts and City of Grand Rapids planning office. She said it was a fast turn-around grant because it is Stimulus Package money. They will be hearing back in February.

If the grant is awarded, there is a 90-day period for pulling the committee pieces together.

#### **4. Suicide Prevention Grant**

Jackie Klinesteker said the Department of Community Mental Health in their Injury and Violence Prevention section let out a grant for Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention programs at the end of October. The Executive Committee was asked if it could be done under the heading of the KCFCCC because DCH required that. It was approved.

Although the grant is small, \$27,000 in the first year. It is to continue with a project being done with the Mental Health Foundation for a number of years, called Live, Laugh, Love set of groups. The groups are stationed in schools and are anti-stigma suicide prevention groups focused on young people and their mental health issues. This being done in conjunction with the Teen Screen Evaluation, an evaluation or assessment done on-site in schools for substance use and suicide prevention and depression. There has been a great deal of success with this. Because of dwindling funding, it has not been much opportunity to continue. This will give them an opportunity to continue. Over a 3 year course, it has been provided to 1,700 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It will be done in conjunction with the teen screening process. The screening is done in the school with clinicians on site. If a student appears in need of assistance, they can get help the same day.

The school districts involved were Grandville and one other school, which between them were 4 completed suicides of adolescents in the previous year.

Jackie said they should find out in the next couple of weeks if the grant is won.

#### **5. Human Services Committee**

Wayman said the last Human Services Committee was not a standard meeting, but rather a meeting of the leadership group, in attendance at the Network180 meeting. He said they talked through how to make the Human Services Committee more effective. They took a comprehensive, collaboration look at the issues in the community. If asked to submit for stimulus dollars, we need to have our act together and make sure we are ahead of things.

The group talked through it and Matthew VanZetten and David Schroeder came up with the idea of using the Human Services Committee. The heads of the County Health Department, DHS, Network180, Daryl Delabbio, Roger Morgan and Bev Drake.

After speaking with Daryl, he thought it was a good idea. The new Board Chair, Sandi Frost Parrish will likely be in support of it as well. Other commissioners attend the meetings as well.

One other idea came up with are that our legislators are frequently not aware of our critical issues in the community. So, while they are making decisions and recommending new policy, it will be good for them to have a better feel for what's happening.

There is hope the meeting will be more robust, strategic and proactive. All the partners at the meeting seemed to support it. The next meeting will take place later in the month. He said they came up with about 4 or 5 areas for the Human Services Committee to continue to focus on. Wayman agreed to provide the list to the group.

#### **6. Nomination Committee for Executive Committee**

When asked for nominations or volunteers for the Executive Committee for 2010, Cathy Raevsky, Sharon Loughridge and Patti Warmington all volunteered.

#### **7. Public Comment**

There was none.

## 8. **Miscellaneous**

Lynn Heemstra invited the group to attend the Ready by 21 Summit on January 14, 9:00-2:00 PM. It is at New Hope Baptist Church. The Forum for Youth Investment from Washington DC will be helping in the work session to utilize the input received over the past year and a half to look at what children needs under 21 to be ready for college, work and life.

Lynn provided flyers and asked for anyone attending to RSVP.

## 9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**Next Council meeting:**      Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
MSU Extension Room B