

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



KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2015 12:00pm – 1:30pm
Kent County Admin Office – **Room 311**
300 Monroe Ave NW

Members/Alternates

Present:

Wayman Britt, Sharon Briggs (for Patti Warmington),
DyNETta Clark (for Sharon Loughridge), Candace Cowling,
Lynne Ferrell, Judge Patricia Gardner, Scott Gilman,
Jack Greenfield, Ron Koehler (for Kevin Konarska),
Gary Lemke, Adam London, Jacob Maas, Nancy Marshall,
George Meek, Maureen Noe, Diana Sieger.

Members Absent:

William Forsyth, Cynthia Gladyness, Lynn Heemstra,
Teresa Neal, Julie Ridenour, Savator Selden-Johnson,
Michael Zoerhoff.

Guests:

Heather Boswell, Teresa Branson, Veneese Chandler, Teri Clark,
Kirsten Gietzen, Rich Liberatore, Anthony Muller,
Stephanie Myers, Pam Parriott, Jeff Roley, Matthew VanZetten,
Mark Woltman.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Judge Gardner called the meeting to order and introductions were done. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

After a review of the February minutes, a motion to accept them was provided by Diana Sieger, second by George Meek – vote was UNANIMOUS.

2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. **KConnect Update**

After giving a brief synopsis of KConnect, Pam Parriott provided an update on the progress of their data dashboard. She also shared that workgroups are the vehicle used to advance the common agenda. Currently, there are three domain workgroups in process. The Prenatal to 3rd Grade workgroup consists of 35 people and is meeting monthly. The 4th Grade to High School group is in the process of forming now. The year-long curriculum is currently being written and is expected to launch in the fall. The High School to Career workgroup is working and moving forward.

There are four cross-cutting workgroups. The first is Data & Capacity, which is working on the Dashboard. The Equity workgroup has about 40 people whose aim is to work with the various domain work groups to help them understand the data, the strategies for improvement, the systems and the structural barriers related to each of the domain areas through an equity lens. The Community Engagement and Public Advocacy work groups have not rolled out yet, but will likely next year.

Additionally, there are two support work groups, one being Basic Needs, who are joining forces with the Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF). They are working to shape basic needs and better understand and help the workgroups understand that all children need to go to school with a full night's rest, proper nutrition and adult supports in their lives in order to learn. The Preschool to 12th Grade support work group is not shaped yet.

Mark Woltman joined the update, describing the data found on the website. He gave an overview of how to navigate the website and the kind of data found there (See www.cridata.org/Kconnect). The data is broken down by school district, school building, ethnicity, etc. The data collected is 3rd Grade Reading scores, 8th grade math scores, 8th grade science scores, graduation rates, post-secondary completion and career success.

Further updates and filtering will be added to the website as the data becomes available.

The work of the workgroups is to unpack and look at the core issues behind the data and the way the systems are interacting or failing to interact to benefit the lives of our children and young people. They also want to look at the strengths of the neighborhoods and build on that.

Meetings will be held soon with Kent County departments to talk about data-sharing agreements and availability of data, which will serve to dig deeper into what's happening in the lives of our community's young people.

Additional discussion included the concerns that many students live in households where English is their second language and whether or not this is being taken into consideration when looking at the data.

4. **Community Family Partnership Update**

Teri Clark and Stephanie Myers provided the update. The report on the Community Family Partnership was distributed. Teri gave the background for this program. The youth this program serves are those who have been in multiple systems over a long period of time. They all share a mental health challenge at the moderate to severe level. They come in through partner doors i.e., Juvenile Justice, Special Education and Child Welfare. Independent systems have been ineffective in solving the issues for these youth, so this group serves to work in a partnership. This partnership is represented by four cornerstones:

- 1 - Work together at a systemic and practice level
- 2 - Integrated Care and Coordinated Service Delivery
- 3 - Community-based Services
- 4 - Family & Youth Involvement Support and Development.

A family center was built near network180. It is network180 directed, but family-led. Professional parents were hired to provide formal services. Many parents have become skill-acquired and are leading groups for parents. A lot of families are coming from the child welfare or court system, not necessarily by choice. The families are coming back by choice once they have participated.

Teri continued with an overview of those who have been served and the demographics. One success Teri highlighted was the reduction in cost per child as they progress in this program from \$1393 to \$804.

The focus of efforts going forward will include:

- Continue development of a shared pathway to care
- Use of health and trauma screens
- Identify, address and remove system and practice barriers that lead to a disproportionate number of youth of color in juvenile justice and foster care systems
- Transition from collaboration to integration of mental health services, juvenile justice services and child welfare services.
- Expand crisis service array

Matthew added this grant led to the child welfare performance-based funding model. He said what we are learning has helped us tie into a child welfare model.

5. **network180 Funding Status**

Scott Gilman began his update saying he, Wayman and Matthew have still been meeting with elected officials. Wayman and Matthew have been helpful in setting up some meetings with representatives out of the Governor's office. The three big solutions they are looking at are:

- The ability to use the HealthyMichigan surplus they already have
- The ability to redirect funds in other parts of the state that are lapsing funds because historically lapsed funds go back to the Federal government
- Rebasing the per member, per month formula to achieve system equity between the different regions in the state.

Matthew added that from our standpoint it is logical to try and rectify this situation, but logic is not winning out in this discussion. We need an injection of capital or a policy shift that will agree that even if we go into the risk corridor that the State will not bid out the Lakeshore Regional Partners area. The Department understands our position, but there is no strength to make the needed changes, making it necessary to go to the Governor's office.

Wayman commended Matthew, Scott Gilman and Commissioner Stek in their work on this issue. He said they've done a wonderful job in keeping the Board of Commissioners updated and working through it. He added we need to keep pushing this at the State level.

Lynne Ferrell added that the funders convened in Lansing with Nick Lyon a couple of weeks ago. The purpose of the meeting was to foster collaboration with the philanthropic community. She said the West Michigan funders stood up and talked about this issue and provided the data. The perspective from the meeting was the State feels Kent County is never happy and this is just another thing. The takeaway is that there needs to be a new approach.

6. Pay for Success/Social Impact Bonds Conference Report

Matthew thanked the group for their support of the County in this initiative. Teresa Branson, Lynne Ferrell, Julie Ridenour, Commissioner Shroll and Matthew VanZetten attended a conference in San Diego that was coordinated by the Institute for Child Success from South Carolina. They brought together all the major players in children's Pay for Success activity across the country. Matthew said he walked away with a positive learning experience. One takeaway was the importance of understanding the language and the general dynamics when speaking with peers who have executed Social Impact Bonds. The second thing we learned was that our application we made to Harvard and Third Sector Partners was not funded because the State of Michigan already has a Harvard Fellow and there are many parts of the country that are not resourced and they want to fill the country with resources.

Finally Matthew said the group learned that there's a lot of ability to do these projects in a community, but the programs will change systems because they draw resources in, which will grow programs that will have an impact on a system and how it operates. From a KCFCCC perspective re: early childhood Spectrum Health is looking at a variety of options in the expansion of Strong Beginnings with the Pay for Success Model. This is a positive opportunity, but it will have an impact on how referrals for other community based programs flow. We need to ensure there is a communication about that because the system will be impacted, meaning it will change and we need to understand what that model will mean for other programs and funders. He recommends a convening for those

interested in Pay for Success/SIBs.

Teresa Branson added that in trying to understand the different phases of a Pay for Success, she felt it was important to have a 3rd party vigorously evaluate a program and have a control group. The other four phases of a Pay for Success after a feasibility study is to start building and constructing what the project will entail and then you get into the implementation phase, beginning to demonstrate your outcomes before the commercial and private and public funders invest and risk their investment. Diversifying funding was important also. One of her concerns are system design issues around early childhood programs and home visiting programs. One of the most important parts of understanding a Pay for Success deal is how it will scale programs and that impact.

Lynne Ferrell added that she came away from the conference thinking this is a viable option for Kent County. We have a level of readiness that makes it doable. Also, part of the asset of Kent County is our system focus.

7. Updates

- a. **Child Welfare Consortia** – Matthew VanZetten said this is in the midst of four days with the State of Michigan and local consultants to execute. They are running up against an October 1 target date. There are a lot of questions yet to be answered, specifically related to financing with an actuary involved. The actuary has been meeting the last two days about funding, how it works and how it gets translated into master agreement languages with the State of Michigan. It is significant.

Also, the private agencies and Savator Selden-Johnson from DHHS came away with two important findings from their recent site visit to Hillsborough County, Florida. First, community-based care means community, so the data needs to be shared with them. Neighborhood forums need to take place in areas of high levels of abuse and neglect and have some honest dialog and search out new partners in families that want to become more involved in the care of children.

Second, the In-Home Care Services' front door needs to be shut to keep kids out of the foster care system altogether or the system could become overwhelmed. The dialogue with the State of Michigan is really important in that aspect. The funding scenarios being laid out aren't necessarily streamlined into an inhome and out-of-home model. It's more an out-of-home model. They need to keep kids from getting into care to begin with or they will be overwhelmed and the case rate will not be a success. This is about fundamentally changing a big state system.

- b. **Strategic Planning Update** – One proposal was submitted and Matthew talked with NewNorth about submitting one as well, but they didn't. Matthew said the Purchasing department would like to repost if we are to move forward and seek out better alternatives. We will then be rewriting the RFP to hopefully get new proposals.

8. Miscellaneous.

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at the Kent County Administration Building, Room 311.