

Kent County
Family & Children's
Coordinating Council

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KCFCCC Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2018 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Kent County Administration Building
Room 311

Members/Alternates

Present:

Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Tracey Fountain, Judge Patti Gardner, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Cynthia Gladyness, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Ron Koehler, Jim Paparella, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Kristin Spykerman, Michelle VanDyke, Matthew Van Zetten, Patti Warmington, Michael Zoerhoff.

Members Absent:

Chris Becker, Melanie Beelen, Ron Caniff, Adam London, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Yazeed Moore, Teresa Neal, Jackie O'Connor, Julie Ridenour, Bill Riley.

Guests:

Anisa Eddie, Steve Edison, Kristen Gietzen, Katie Hop, Maureen Kirkwood, Carol Paine-McGovern, Pam Parriott, Annemarie Valdez.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

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

Cynthia asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting. Motion was made, supported, and approved unanimously. Cynthia asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the current meeting with the notation that Bill Riley was unable to attend however Kristen Spykerman will speak in his place. Motion was made, supported, and approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Community Mental Health Update – Kristin Spykerman, Chief Clinical Officer at Network180 (previously Kathy Friberg's role), began with an update on Beacon Health Options and their ongoing contract negotiations with the Lakeshore Regional Entity

(LRE). The delegation grid is almost complete to determine what services the BLRE will provide and which that the CMHs will continue to perform. Much of what the CMHs are currently doing will stay with them while Beacon is anticipated do things such as credentialing, to make the contracting aspect easier so the CMHs won't have to sign multiple contracts or handle audits. BLRE hopes to have a contract ready to go to their Board by the end of September, and the implementation date will be January 1, 2019. It will likely be a rolling implementation; some things will start right away, and some will take longer.

The State of Michigan was awarded a Healthy Transition (SAMHSA) grant in the amount of \$1 million per year for five years; Network180 and Kalamazoo CMH were selected as pilot sites for the grant. This will serve youth from age 16 to 25 who will be transitioning into the adult mental health system; it will work with youth who are in special education, foster care, juvenile justice and mental health systems. The goal is to increase youth voice and participation in the system while improving education and mental health as well as employment and housing stability. Services are to begin January 1, 2019.

Crisis Center update: This project is intended to meet needs of mentally ill adults who need immediate help, to get them into an inpatient setting without having to sit for several days waiting for the lengthy assessment/placement process. The Crisis Center Task Force continues to meet; they still have an open request for information for ideas; there is a public meeting on September 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Health Department for the community to offer input.

The 298 Demonstration Project that Network180 was selected for continues to move forward with Priority Health and the State of Michigan; Network180 is working with the State to determine ways to ensure people don't have to move between mild and moderate services as their symptoms fluctuate. The timeline for the pilot implementation is October 1, 2019 but that may be impacted by the upcoming election.

Kristin will forward information about the September 12 RFI meeting to Sandra Ghoston-Jones for distribution to the Council.

Jack Greenfield expressed appreciation for the efforts around the challenge with finances, especially in the area of children's services.

Savator Selden-Johnson commented on the challenge of finding housing for children transitioning out of foster care, especially autistic and developmentally disabled children, and inquired if there are funds for housing development for that population or for respite for parents of young children with those challenges. Kristin stated that Teri Clark will be administering the SAMHSA grant, which does have a focus on housing. Kristin will check into what portion of that grant will be addressing housing and noted that this is an opportunity to create what is thought to be best for our community. The State would then like to use it has a Statewide model.

Matthew Van Zetten noted that the Board of Commission approved a significant seven-figure line of credit for the LRE to drawn down on in a risk mitigation strategy; he

recently heard that that line of credit will need to be drawn on. Kristin noted that that situation has seen improvement and the State has agreed to settle earlier than previously thought for 2017.

Kristin commented on the question about the executive director; a recruitment team is being assembled and Adam London will be chairing that team; they hope to have a recommendation by April 2019. They are aware of the challenges involved around finding qualified candidates.

Cynthia thanked Kristin for the information.

4. **First Steps Kent Pritzker Children's Initiative Update** – Annemarie Valdez distributed information about the Fellow Position and stated that the Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI) is focused on children from birth to age three with the goal of improving kindergarten readiness. There are an estimated three million young children at risk of starting kindergarten not ready to learn; the PCI is a five-year initiative to dramatically reduce that number. Kent County is one of six prototype communities out of 29 communities across the county selected for the initiative. Pritzker recognized the evidence-based work that Kent County has been doing.

Annemarie introduced Anisa Eddie, who was selected as First Steps' Fellow. Annemarie also noted that this position and KConnect entered into partnership that will advance both organizations to ensure the community has the systems in place to prepare children for success in school and beyond. The project will also be overseen by a Taskforce that includes First Steps, KConnect, a representative from the County administrator's office, Kent Intermediate School District (KISD), and West Michigan Partnership for Children (WMPC). They are thrilled because coupled with this fellowship is also a shared data position with KConnect. They believe that these two positions will help to accomplish the vision in terms of being able to collect data for early childhood. Annemarie also mentioned that Heather Boswell was at the meeting and she has really been the lead for First Steps staff on this initiative.

Annemarie clarified how the Fellow position will be leased to First Steps for the next two years; there are local funders who are interested in shared systems.

Sandra noted that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is also a partner with the Pritzker Children's Initiative, so it's great that Kent County is one of the recipients of a Fellow.

Matthew asked for an update on the Early Childhood Millage initiative; Annemarie stated that the campaign would be launched September 7 at 10 a.m. at Dwight Lydell Park in Comstock Park, and they are expecting a large turnout, including speakers and the media. The campaign will run through November 6. Byrum Fisk is the political entity that will be running the campaign.

5. **WMPC – Child Welfare Advisory Committee Changes** – Sandra noted that the committee has had a lot of involvement from inception until now; there have been

discussions with the Executive Committee about the composition and structure of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) and it was felt that this is a good time to make some changes. It's been almost a year and they want to make sure they are staying on track and focused on the data that is being shared. It was felt that a chair is needed, and Sharon Loughridge has agreed to fill that role. Sharon brings a great level of expertise and knowledge and the historical component that is thought to be necessary because not everyone who's on that Committee has a strong background in child welfare.

Sandra also noted that Dean George Grant from Grand Valley State University is eager to be a part of the Committee and he will be able to offer information and background from an academic perspective. The Committee also would like someone to represent the mental health community because many of the children and/or their parents have significant mental health challenges. The Committee also will have themes each month to ensure a more focused approach in order to provide input to WMPC; the Committee will also be provided all of the handouts at least a week in advance of the meeting so that participants can come to the meeting informed and with questions formulated (submitted in advance), which will result in more productive meetings. Sandra noted that these are public meetings, and all are welcome to attend.

6. **Strategic Planning Update** – Sandra noted that due to summer availability challenges, no meetings have been held. She is evaluating what each funding entities fund, whether the County or local Foundations; the goal is to bring a survey for participant's input.
7. **Miscellaneous** – Lynn noted that there is an *Expanded Opportunity Network* membership drive going on, and there will be an information meeting to be held at 8:30 on September 7 in City Chambers.

Ron Koehler shared info on the *Strive for Less Than 5* absence reduction initiative that all KISD districts are participating in; it is proven that attendance is critical to learning success. Ron will send a link that can be shared on websites of various local organizations.

Savator mentioned Families First, a federally funded initiative to provide service for families, to keep children out of the system and families together in treatment situations. They are looking at evidence-based practices around substance abuse, over-representation of color, and race equity. Judge Gardner has been a great advocate. Savator noted that they are using GenoPro, a site similar to Ancestry.com; it is a web-based system to help families determine who they can call on when they are in challenging situations and how to build bridges with relatives as well as help define social networks.

Candace mentioned that Family Futures submitted a peer reviewed article that was accepted for publication; it will be shared when published.

Matthew shared that there has been a lot of challenging work and collaboration, and the progress and successes should be celebrated, especially the *Strive for Less Than 5* initiative. Ron expressed appreciation for the recognition and is encouraged by the potential impact on children.

8. **Adjournment** – Cynthia thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, at the Kent County Administration Building, Room 311.