

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**  
**September 3, 2019** 12:00pm – 1:00pm  
Kent County Administration Building  
Room 311

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**Members/Alternates**

**Present:**

Ron Caniff, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Tracey Fountain, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Judge Patti Gardner, Jack Greenfield, Lynn Heemstra, Maureen Kirkwood, Adam London, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Jackie O'Connor, Jim Paparella, Kasie Pickart, Julie Ridenour, Diana Sieger, Scott Smith, Michelle VanDyke, Matthew VanZetten, Bill Ward.

**Members Absent:**

Chris Becker, Cynthia Gladyness, Savator Selden-Johnson.

**Guests:**

Heather Boswell, Veneese Chandler, Anissa Eddie, Shannon Gardner, Kristen Gietzen, 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 June meeting, second was provided by Lynne Ferrell, vote was unanimous.

Adam asked to move the **Network180 Executive Director** agenda item to #3. He called for a motion to accept the agenda as amended: Motion made by Jim Paparella, second provide by Michelle VanDyke – vote was unanimous.

**2. Public Comment**

Adam London thanked Jack Greenfield for his many years of service in our community, in making this a healthier, better place for people to live in. He wished him the best in his upcoming retirement.

**3. Network180 Executive Director Update** – Adam London began the update with a welcome to Bill Ward, the new Executive Director for Network180.

Bill shared that he has had an extensive background in Human Services, Behavioral Health, Affordable Housing and Mental Health service, from a provider standpoint. He is looking forward to getting to know this group, in working with the members and in participating in being a good community partner with all of these organizations.

4. **Census 2020 Presentation** – Shannon Blackmon-Gardner, Heart of West Michigan United Way, provided the update. She introduced herself to the group. She said Michigan Non-Profit Associates approached United Way, asking them to lead this effort in our community. She thanked the Foundations who helped to provide the funds to offer the mini-grant provided this summer.

Shannon said the addition of the Census including a question on citizenship has caused some fear among the community, so easing that fear is a top priority with this group. This is the first time Kent County has had a regional Census Hub. Many people are not aware that the Census affects Federal Funding that comes into our community, as well as State and Local Funding and our representation in Congress.

Shannon said they offered six informational sessions in various neighborhoods in an effort to get the word out about the Census.

They are offering several avenues for residents to complete surveys, for example, on-line.

United Way is partnering with local governments to be sure the message is the same as what residents are getting from them.

Census workers are already in the community looking at addresses to determine who needs to receive the Census. April 2020 the goal is to get out into the community and get others to participate.

With the Census going digital this year, workers will help people fill in the census by explaining the questions to them.

5. **Ready by 5 Update** – Annemarie Valdez provided this update. In November 2018 the Ready By 5 Millage was provided by the voters. In April 2019 the Kent County Board of Commissioners approved First Steps to be the fiduciary of the funds. In May the 1<sup>st</sup> RFP was issued, due in July. The resident proposal review board reviewed the 11 applications that were received. At this time this round of funding will go to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. It is \$2.4 million for 27 months and covers navigation and outreach, which is essential to lay the groundwork for future funding. The next round there will be a bidder's conference on October 15. That RFP will go out then. The second round of funding will be released in early 2020.

The second RFP, \$5.0 million dollars for two years, will focus on these areas:

- Early Learning Programs
- Healthy Development Programs
- Navigation and Outreach
- Parenting Education Programs

This information will be available on their website: First Steps Kent, on the Ready By 5 Page.

6. **Miscellaneous**

- Lynn Heemstra – The To College Through College Summit is taking place on October 25. Anyone interested in learning about the City of Grand Rapid's post-secondary

efforts, please plan to attend. It will be at Grand Rapids Community College in the morning.

- Candace Cowling – She stated they are still waiting to hear about the long-shot grand partnership with Cedar Springs. Hoping to hear soon.
- Maureen Kirkwood – HealthNet has received a grant as a partner with HQ and 3:11 Youth Housing, provided by the Steelcase Foundation and the Health Endowment Fund. This is called the Comprehensive Health Initiative, targeting 18-24 year-old young adults, many of whom have aged out of the Foster Care System. HealthNet's piece will provide navigation for benefits they are eligible for and finding a primary care provider. The providers then will focus on the downtown area in youth-friendly sites. There is also a mental health component. Maureen said it would be good for Shandra and Lauren to come and talk to the group after it's all ready to go.
- Matthew VanZetten – He added comments to AnnMarie Valdez's presentation. He shared that there were questions from the morning's County Commission Meeting regarding First Steps and the contract for Ready By 5. He said many people worked really hard to get that passed. He said they had to talk with the Commissioners about the difference between the Ready By 5 and Senior Millage and the reason for the two-year contracts with Ready By 5. They also had questions about capacity where they shared that this would be serving new people, not just replacing other funds. Last, the outcome work was asked about between the agencies, Health Department and the agencies. Matthew said there is work already to figure that out.
- Wende Randall – The Coalition to End Homelessness just met to finalize the ranking for the local competition. The Collaborative Application is posted on the Coalition's website. They are seeking public comment for input for any changes that need to go into the community-wide proposal.

The Strategic Plan was extended through April 30. This Fall a new strategic planning process will begin, that will be formed by both the community and the Coalition membership. They hope to have a new Strategic Plan launch on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2020.

- Jim Talen – He mentioned he is a new member of the Governor's task force on jails and pretrial. Jim said if the group is interested in jails and how the criminal justice system affects families and children and wanted to talk to the task force about that, there is an opportunity on Friday, September 20. They will be meeting in Grand Rapids at GRCC. The meeting can be viewed in the morning and public testimony will take place in the afternoon for 2-1/2 hours, designed to allow the public to share testimony on what they know is happening and ideas on how the Criminal Justice work can be done better as it affects local jails. Please see Jim after the meeting for more information on attending.
- Ron Caniff – He congratulated Scott Smith for his 1<sup>st</sup> day of school in Cedar Springs. All districts are up and running.

Ron said they are still waiting on the State's budget. He added they are paying close attention to mental and behavioral health. He said they are paying particularly close attention to *Caring for Students*, a program the Department of Health and Human

Services (DHHS) is rolling out. This program would provide behavioral health supports for the expansion of Medicaid services within the school system. This will be offered to general education students in addition to special education students.

- Anissa Eddie – She said because Kent County has been losing a lot of Child Care slots, a group of stakeholders have been meeting for over a year exploring the Shared Services model that is getting momentum across the country. There is a state-level coordinator in a position for Michigan looking at that from a state-level systems framework. She said they are in the interview process of hiring a local project manager for shared services in Kent County. They hope to have an accepted offer by the end of the month.

She also shared that Michigan was awarded a planning grant from the Pritzger Foundation at the State level to create a policy agenda for early childhood. It is well underway and will be due at the beginning of the year. Local communities will have an opportunity to give feedback on that. Anissa said she would follow up with Sandra Ghoston-Jones to give some additional detail. She suggested marking calendars for October 23, possibly 2:00-4:00 session where staff will walk through some of the proposed policy items and gather feedback on what organizations have seen impacting the local community with infants and toddlers and families with young children. These recommendations will be brought to the State. This will be done all across the State so it will be a large effort to put this into a consolidated, consistent document.

Agencies and/or representatives are welcome to participate in the feedback session.

- Adam London – He gave an update on the Mental Health Crisis Center. He said the Task Force that was tasked with looking into the need for urgent 24X7 care for individuals in the midst of a mental health crisis, came up with a concept paper of the model they recommended for our community. They brought it to the County and asked if the Population Health Consortium could take it to the next step. The Consortium includes Spectrum Health, Mercy St. Mary's, Metro Health, Pine Rest, Mary Free Bed, Network180, Kent County and others. All these partners are contributing financially to this planning project. They have selected Tri-West Consulting to lead the Community in the next 6-9 months in a planning process. They will be looking at the concept paper, validating it or recommending changes. They will be looking at models they've seen and have had first-hand experience with in other communities. The hope is there will be a plan to build around at the conclusion of this process.

The next month or two members of this committee may receive an invitation to meet with them to provide feedback on your experience and vision.

- Adam also reminded the group to get their flu shots. He said they are expecting a rough flu season this year.

7. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, 2019.