

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



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**KCFCCC Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday November 1, 2022** 12:00pm – 1:30pm  
Room 311, County Administration Building  
300 Monroe NW – Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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**Council Members/  
Alternates Present:** Chris Becker, Candace Cowling, Lynne Ferrell, Tracey Fountain, Kristen Gietzen, Madelyn Hall, Maureen Kirkwood, Tawana Brown, Judge McNabb, Eileen McNeil, Mary Muliatt, Jackie O'Connor, Kendrick Heinlein, Shaunte Paul Oliver, Savator Selden-Johnson, Diana Sieger, Scott Smith, Michelle Van Dyke, Bill Ward

**Council Members Absent:** Misti DeVries, Ron Koehler, Adam London, Jacob Maas, George Meek, Leadraine Roby

**Council Partners/Guests:** Wende Randall, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Kennan King, Jennifer Headley-Nordman, Doug Booth, Eureka People

**Kent County Staff:** Brian Hartl, Sandra Ghoston-Jones, Jenny James, Chris Eakin, Katie VanHevel

**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Candace Cowling called the meeting to order at 12:07PM. Introductions were completed.

**2. Approval of Minutes: September 6, 2022**

Lynne Ferrell made a motion to accept the September 6 meeting minutes, support provided by Savator Selden-Johnson – Vote was unanimous.

**3. Public Comment**

There was none.

**4. Recognition for Diana Sieger, President of Grand Rapids Community Foundation**

Today is the last full Council meeting for Diana Sieger. Diana has been a part of KCFCCC since its creation. A short video of Diana being interviewed in 1990 was shared with the group to thank her for her service. Diana shared these words regarding what she has learned: it's okay to make mistakes and it is a challenge to help people understand they can trust. She reflected on the great collaborations that have come out of the Council and the importance of open communication and supporting each other.

**5. Grand Rapids Justice and Governance Partnership (GR-JGP)- Trudy Ngo-Brown**

The presenter was unable to make it to the meeting.

## 6. Updates

### ARPA Update- Jenny James

The results of the ARPA prioritization exercise with the Board of Commissioners are posted on the website- there were over 250 proposals submitted. This process involved the Board of Commissioners ranking each proposal on a scale of 1-5. The Administrator's Office staff is now taking the data from the prioritization process and creating a proposed funding package to share with the Board of Commissioners for review.

Projects were scored based on eligibility, sustainability, feasibility, and impact by the County's ARPA consultant, GuideHouse. These can be found in the proposal catalog of the ARPA website. It is expected a portion of the funds may be held back by the Board of Commissioners during the voting of the final funding package at the December 14 meeting.

### CoC, Grand Rapids Coalition to End Homelessness- Courtney Myers-Keaton

The CoC received the HUD funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. This funding will be used to work towards ending youth homelessness in Kent County. \$2.5 million will be awarded for a two-year period and then the funds will be a part of the annual allocation for the Continuum of Care. A coordinated community plan will need to be created. Per HUD, the definition of ending homelessness is aimed at making the occurrence of homelessness rare, brief, and none-recurrent (functional zero).

### Network180, Crisis Continuum- Bill Ward

The Governor signed the appropriations bill in August with \$5 million dedicated to build the crisis center. The architect is currently drafting plans with a tentative opening date of November 2023. Funding has been allocated for the public patient. Private insurance does not typically pay for CSU services- Blue Cross Blue Shield has offered a rate for these services.

The Peer Respite Center is open. With the mobile crisis center, there is an embedded GRPD officer responding to mental health calls with a social worker. There have been 100 diversions from the emergency room or jail in the first four months and 325 diversions from EMS runs.

## 7. Housing Kent- Eureka People

The goal of Housing Kent is to create a housing system that works for everyone in Kent County with safe, quality, and affordable housing in the neighborhoods they choose.

Housing Kent is a collective impact backbone organization of the Housing Stability Alliance. The Housing Stability Alliance is a cross-section group which created a shared vision for the county with three goals. Priority is given to families with child, youth and people of color.



The goal of increasing affordable housing has a success indicator of 30,000 families stably housed or “housed by choice”; the goal of dissolving homelessness has a success indicator of policies that address the underlying conditions of homelessness and housing instability; the goal of eliminating racial disparities has a success indicator of zero racial disparities in the housing system and Kent County ranking in the top ten for equitable homeownership.

Short term areas of action include shared measurement, community engagement, policy advocacy, communications, eviction prevention, and project planning and prioritization. Housing Kent is looking for individuals to join an HSA action team or board committee, align resources and investments with the community plan, and invite others to join.

Older adults within the housing system was also a point of discussion regarding homelessness.

### **CERA Update- Michelle Van Dyke**

Over \$50 million in financial assistance has been given out to families and over 16,000 people have been kept housed. Preliminary data shows only half are these families are still stably housed at this time. This data is being compiled to form a Housing Stability Plan.

### **8. Miscellaneous-**

- **Candace Cowling:** 2023 meetings will be staffed and housed by the Health Department. Chris Eakin will send out the 2023 meeting schedule with a new time.
- **Kendrick Heinlein:** AAAWM is looking at housing and will bring it forward once there are more concrete plans.
- **Brian Hartl:** The first Equity Health Council went well, and the Council is looking forward on how to align with other organizations.
- **Savator Selden-Johnson:** The Kent Anti-Racism Transformation Team has started with community presence during the development. Central registry reform is changing due to the law and will remove some individuals from the registry. Risk assessments are being realigned with a racial equity lens. Savator is retiring at the end of 2022.
- **Mary Mullett:** D.A. Blodgett St. John’s Annual Gala is November 19.
- **Diana Sieger:** Thank you!
- **Shaunte Paul-Oliver:** Don’t forget to vote on November 8.
- **Wende Randall:** There is currently an eviction expungement bill facing the state legislation to automatically expunged certain evictions over five years old. There are two bills looking at how to address the expansion of earned income tax credit. It is looking to be expanded from 6% to a minimum of 20%.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:29PM. Next meeting is TBD.