
Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Lakes Rooms, Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Ave NE – Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Council Members/ Alternates Present:	Tara Aday, Kim Baron (designee for Leadriane Roby), Tracie Coffman, Mandy DeWilde, James Geisen, Kristin Gietzen, Maureen Kirkwood, Ron Koehler, Jason Loepp, Adam London, Mary Muliett, Trudy Ngo-Brown, Joas Occes, Madelyn Olson, Tracey Silas, Scott Smith, Michelle VanDyke
Council Members Absent:	Chris Becker, Candace Cowling, Kendrick Heinlein, Bryana Hopkins, Carissa Judy, Jacob Maas, Judge Deborah McNabb, Bill Ward
Council Partners/Guests:	Jennifer Headley-Nordman, Sonia Noorman, Craig Heerema, Joel Bell, Erica Harris, Wende Randall, Keenan King
Kent County Staff:	Christopher Eakin, Brian Hartl, Jenny James

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**

Adam London called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Roundtable introductions were completed.

2. **Icebreaker**

Jason Loepp asked everyone to think about a childhood memory that holds significance for them in relation to children's well-being. A common theme was the impact that generous adults can have on children.

3. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes of February 6, 2024**

A motion was made by Mary Muliett and seconded by Mandy DeWilde to approve today's agenda and the meeting minutes from February 6, 2024. Agenda and minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

5. **Executive Committee, Chair, and Vice-Chair Selection**

Adam London shared that the Executive Committee has needed to be repopulated for some time due to the departure of several valuable members. The KCFCCC operating guidelines state that it should be comprised of seven to nine members and committee members should only serve two-year terms. Three people on the committee are currently in compliance (Kristin Gietzen, Maureen Kirkwood, and Tracie Coffman), but there are an additional four to six open seats. The committee recommended reappointing Candace Cowling and Adam London and appointing Jason Loepp, Tracy Silas, and Trudy Ngo-Brown. Moved by Maureen Kirkwood and seconded by Mary Muliett, these individuals were unanimously approved by the Council to serve on the Executive Committee.

Adam shared that the operating guidelines also state that the KCFCCC Chair can only serve in that capacity for six years and he has served since 2016. The Executive Committee recommended Candace Cowling to be the new chair and Kristin Gietzen as vice chair. Moved by Michelle VanDyke and seconded by Ron Koehler, Candace Cowling and Kristin Gietzen were approved unanimously by the Council to serve as chair and vice chair respectively. Kristin thanked Adam for his leadership, especially through the pandemic.

6. **Opioid Settlement Update**

Deputy County Administrator Jenny James provided an update on the opioid settlement spending plan. Kent County will be receiving \$12 million between now and 2036. The County has been engaging different groups, including the Kent County Opioid Task Force (KCOTF), in conversations to help draft an initial two-year spending plan. This plan will cover activities from prevention to treatment and recovery. The final draft is being reviewed and will be sent to the Board of Commissioners soon. Once the draft has been shared with commissioners, a copy will also be shared with this council. Jenny encouraged anyone with comments, questions, or concerns to contact her. The KCOTF will be used as the designer for future years' spending along with the Health Department and other County departments. There is more litigation underway, and as soon as a settlement is defined in that case any additional funds will be added to the existing settlement dollars.

Maureen Kirkwood wondered if there would be any political challenges with commissioners related to this spending plan. Jenny stated that she expects robust conversation. The plan is to give commissioners over a month to review the plan, ask questions, and get additional information. Tracie Coffman asked if the settlement language broadly or narrowly defines how the funds can be spent; Jenny responded that there are a lot of options for eligible uses and the settlements have been written quite broadly.

Jenny also shared that the County is working with the State of Michigan on an initiative to expand broadband internet service to all residents and businesses in the state. A significant amount of money will be coming to the state and will be allocated based on greatest need. Currently there is an assessment underway to ensure that the access map is correct. There is a publicly available website where anyone can go, enter their address, and make sure the information about internet service is correct. Responses will be accepted until April 23. She will share information about this project with this group. Mandy DeWilde asked if others outside of Kent County are included on this map, and Jenny said yes. Wende Randall commended Jenny for the work she has done to train community-based organizations on how to use this map.

7. **Community Health Needs Assessment Data Review**

Brian Hartl provided an overview of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), which occurs every three years and helps inform the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHNA process was multiple steps and included data collection through a Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, a community partner survey, a community survey, and focus groups, as well as review of secondary data (existing data collected by others). This year's community survey was much more representative of the population compared to the 2020 CHNA; there was also a more robust response. After the data collection step, there was a data review session where those in attendance prioritized needs. Identified needs were, in order of highest to lowest ranking: housing, health insurance, access to medical care, access to healthy food, mental health, community safety, substance use, chronic disease, sexual and reproductive health, and access to dental care.

Brian reviewed data points related to housing, access to medical care, health insurance, access to healthy food, and mental health. Regarding housing, it was asked whether the ability to pay for housing was a subjective or objective measure; Brian stated that the question was from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey that asked respondents if they were unable to pay for housing in the past 12 months. It was also asked whether this data had been cross-walked with the Housing Kent report that came out recently; Brian stated that he has not looked at it yet but will review it. A question was asked about how income limits

are defined, particularly as they relate to public assistance programs. Maureen Kirkwood and James Geisen pointed out that income limits depend on the number of adults and children in a household, as well as whether there is a pregnant person. It was noted that some people experience a conundrum of wanting to remain low income so that they can keep receiving public assistance as opposed to getting a higher paying job. Maureen said this is called the "benefits cliff."

Discussion was held about how this CHNA will be used. The goal this year is to get University of Health Michigan-West, Corewell Health, and Trinity Health-St. Mary's aligned and working on one common priority. It was asked whether this priority has been identified, and Brian stated that this still needs to be done. He also shared that the Health Equity Council has an advisory board that consists of representatives from health systems, payers, and others that have been engaged in this conversation. Adam London stated that health system leaders have been paying close attention to CHNA findings; in fact, leaders of the major health systems came together in 2017 to collaborate. The CHNA will be shared with these executives in anticipation of their next meeting in June or July.

Brian shared that the Health Equity Council has been offering mini grants to help address the priorities identified in the CHNA. It was asked whether a list of recipients could be provided, and Brian said that he could share this list. It was also asked how community-based organizations find out about these mini grants. Brian replied that the County does an RFP process and are posted publicly; he stated he will share future opportunities with this council in the future.

8. **Agency Updates**

- Michelle VanDyke: Shannon Blackmon-Gardner, Vice President of Community Impact at Heart of West Michigan United Way, will be leaving and her position is being posted today.
- Mary Mullett: She will be leaving D.A. Blodgett-St. John's as she lives in Battle Creek and has taken a job with the Battle Creek Community Foundation. Joel Bell, Chief Program Officer, attended today's meeting and will be attending these meetings in the future.
- James Geisen: Universal caseload implementation in Kent County has been extended to August. This has been helpful as it has allowed time to learn from other counties' experiences. Medicaid redeterminations should be completed over the next month and a half. MDHHS is partnering with the Women's Resource Center and the Steelcase Foundation on Steelcase's Investment in Families Initiative, which is a 10-year longitudinal study aimed at providing enhanced supports to families who are part of the cohort.
- Tara Aday: Safe Haven Ministries and MSU Social Work have been partnering on a CDC initiative regarding Cultivating Communities for Change. This Friday there will be two community listening sessions at 1pm and 4:30pm. There will be food trucks and activities for attendees. There is no cap on RSVPs but they would appreciate knowing approximately how many people to expect.
- Kristin Gietzen: Network 180 will be hosting an open house for the new behavioral health crisis center on April 29 from 1-4pm. She will forward information about this event to Chris Eakin to distribute to this group. It is open to the public.

9. **Miscellaneous**

Adam London encouraged everyone to share the importance of getting vaccinated against measles. There is concern about a reemergence of measles as there is diminishing MMR vaccine coverage. Kent County still has a higher coverage rate than most in the state. It was declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000, but in 2019 there were over 1,000 cases. One quarter of recent cases have required hospitalization. It was asked whether vaccine refusal is playing a role in this uptick, and Adam stated that is certainly part of it.

10. **Volunteer(s) for Next Meeting's Icebreaker**

Jason Loeppe volunteered to lead the icebreaker at the June 4, 2024, meeting.

11. **Adjournment**

Kristin Gietzen adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Next meeting is June 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kent County Health Department (700 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids).