
Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 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, Bryana Hopkins, Carissa Judy, Maureen Kirkwood, Ron Koehler, Jason Loepp, Madelyn Olson, Tracey Silas, Scott Smith
Council Members Absent:	Chris Becker, Candace Cowling, Kendrick Heinlein, Adam London, Jacob Maas, Judge Deborah McNabb, Trudy Nog-Brown, Joas Occes, Michelle VanDyke, Bill Ward
Council Partners/Guests:	Tawana Brown, Tiffany Clarke, Erica Harris, Keenan King, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Wende Randall, Amy Turner-Thole
Kent County Staff:	Christopher Eakin, Brian Hartl

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**

Kristin Gietzen called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She recognized Ron Koehler for his years of service on the Council and wished him the best as this is his last meeting before retiring from Kent Intermediate School District. Roundtable introductions were completed.

2. **Icebreaker**

Jason Loepp divided the room into three teams and played various songs. Teams were challenged to correctly guess the song title and artist.

3. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes of April 9, 2024**

A motion was made by Maureen Kirkwood and seconded by Mandy DeWilde to approve today's agenda and the meeting minutes from April 9, 2024. Agenda and minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

5. **Ready by Five Millage**

Amy Turner-Thole from the "Yes, Ready by Five" campaign presented on the early childhood millage that will be up for voter approval on August 6. She reviewed the millage's history, the case for why the millage is needed, and how millage dollars have been able to impact the community since its original passage in 2018. She stated that absentee ballots will go out around June 20 and early voting will start in July. Kent County is the first county in Michigan to have a dedicated public funding stream for early childhood services. It was asked whether the ballot language was expanded to include childcare; Amy stated that the language was expanded but the requested millage rate was not increased. Additionally, funding for childcare services would be limited to funding professional development, workforce development, and childcare navigation. The

resident proposal review board (allocation committee) will look at how to incorporate funding requests for childcare services without having to take away from existing programs.

6. **Strategic Plan Update**

Kristin Gietzen opened this item reminding everyone about the existence of the Council's strategic plan. At the September 3 meeting it is hoped that there can be a bigger discussion about progress and accomplishments made because of the plan and what some next steps could be. The goal of today's meeting was to remind everyone of how the plan was developed and what is included.

Brian Hartl shared the history behind how the plan was formulated. It was created about two years ago. Some of the action steps have been accomplished, so it will need some updating in the future. Brian and Kristin asked council members to familiarize themselves with the plan and think about ways in which the council has worked towards completing the plan's action steps. The plan's intent is to make the council more action-oriented and less centered on information sharing. Kristin also shared that the Executive Committee hopes to do an orientation to the council, primarily for newer members but also for longer-serving members, on the KCFCCC's history and reason for existence.

7. **Social Determinants of Health Hub Pilot**

Brian Hartl and Maureen Kirkwood co-presented on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Hub Pilot, a concept coming from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Over the last few years, MDHHS has been creating and working on a strategy plan related to SDOH. The main idea is to bring people and organizations together to work collaboratively to meet community SDOH needs. There have been various iterations of the hub concept for a long time, but the State has gotten behind it and attached funding to it. This pilot program is an opportunity for our community to take all of the efforts we have already been doing and pull it together under a more unified umbrella.

The State has rolled this program out in three phases, and Kent County has had projects in two of those. Currently Heart of West Michigan United Way and the Kent County Health Department have received funding to work in three areas: community health worker hiring and integration; community information exchange planning and implementation, and implementation of holistic interventions that address SDOH utilizing a Health in All Policies framework. Health Net of West Michigan has been working with both organizations to assist in planning.

Local healthcare systems are realizing they cannot tackle SDOH needs alone. Accreditation standards are now requiring them to do social needs screenings in hospitals; however, the challenge has been that health systems do not know exactly what to do with the data.

Wende Randall wondered how to leverage existing networks and processes so that a person or household can get the assistance they need without redundancy and confusion. Aligning efforts so that processes are seamless for those in need would be ideal. Maureen responded that the goal would be to pull a lot of efforts together and make efficiency improvements where possible. Tara Aday observed that this approach sounds a lot like collective impact; Maureen affirmed that that is the model the State is using for this program. Kim Baron asked if schools might have a role to play in this; Maureen stated that they could be a partner in the conversation. Kim stated that she would share information about this project with superintendents. Kristin Gietzen wondered if the State has been receptive to feedback about the barriers and fragmentation that happens between systems at the state level. Maureen replied that this initiative is coming out of MDHHS's Policy and Planning Division; they have said they are open to feedback, but it would need to be loudly and clearly given.

8. **Agency Updates**

- James Geisen: Kent County DHHS's universal caseload transition date is August 26. They have been doing community partner meetings. There are revised slides from those presentations, so James will send the slides to Chris Eakin to distribute to this group. MDHHS continues to expand its presence in the community. They were informed on Friday that the state's emergency relief funding will be exhausted by June 15, as federal funding as ended. They are currently working with community partners to see how to meet people's needs.
- Mandy DeWilde: There will be a 12-bed pediatric psychiatric unit opening at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital soon. It will be for any child who is admitted with a co-occurring psychiatric and medical issue. Patients will receive wraparound services. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held last week and it is slated to open on June 18.
- Kristin Gietzen: The behavioral health crisis center has opened. Network 180 has adjusted their operating hours at the Access Center. It was noted that most patients will be stabilized and discharged within 23 hours. She also noted that Heart of West Michigan United Way is merging with United Way of Ottawa and Allegan Counties.
- Kim Baron: Grand Rapids Public Schools received funding to add a fourth school-based health center. The new center will be at Harrison Park Elementary and will be operational by January 25, 2025. This will be the district's first elementary site. It will be offered in partnership with Catherine's Health Center.
- Wende Randall: She reported there are four Senate bills under consideration related to the state's energy assistance program. The bills would expand eligibility and funding. She offered to stick around after today's meeting in case anyone wanted to submit a comment card. She is hoping it will pass through committee and hit the Senate floor before the end of June.
- Jason Loepp: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is accepting applications again this year for grants to increase the capacity of local food pantries to provide nutrient-rich fresh food options that require refrigeration. Applications will be accepted until June 21. Those who received last year are unable to receive a grant this year.
- Courtney Meyers-Keaton: The Coalition to End Homelessness and other partners are getting ready to launch a 100 in 100 campaign, an effort to house 100 unhoused people in 100 days. The kickoff is June 20 and will run from September 1 through December 14.
- Amy Turner-Thole: She reminded everyone to vote on August 6.

9. **Miscellaneous**

Chris Eakin shared that the board appointments process will likely begin in August, before the next KCFCCC meeting. He will share the notice when he is made aware that the Board Office opens the application process. He will also reach out to those whose terms expire on December 31, 2024.

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

Jason Loepp will lead the icebreaker at the September 3, 2024, meeting.

11. **Adjournment**

Kristin Gietzen adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m. Next meeting is September 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kent County Health Department (700 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids).