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## Minutes

**Tuesday, September 3, 2024** 1:00pm – 2:30pm  
Lakes Rooms, Kent County Health Department  
700 Fuller Ave NE – Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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<b>Council Members/ Alternates Present:</b>	Tara Aday, Chris Becker, Tracie Coffman, Mandy DeWilde, James Geisen, Kristin Gietzen, Ron Gorman, Bryana Hopkins, Carissa Judy, Maureen Kirkwood, Jason Loepp, Jacob Maas, Trudy Ngo-Brown, Tracey Silas, Michelle VanDyke, Kirstyn Wade (designee for Leadriane Roby)
<b>Council Members Absent:</b>	Candace Cowling, Kendrick Heinlein, Adam London, Judge Deborah McNabb, Joas Occes, Madelyn Olson, Scott Smith, Bill Ward
<b>Council Partners/Guests:</b>	Tiffany Clarke, Erica Harris, Jennifer Headley-Norman, Keenan King, Karen Lezan, Courtney Myers-Keaton, Wende Randall
<b>Kent County Staff:</b>	Christopher Eakin, Brian Hartl, Jenny James

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**

Kristin Gietzen called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. **Icebreaker**

Jason Loepp distributed pennies and each attendee had an opportunity to share a life event or historical fact from the year printed on the penny. Roundtable introductions were completed at the same time.

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

A motion was made by Maureen Kirkwood and seconded by Tracey Silas to approve today's agenda and the meeting minutes from June 4, 2024. Agenda and minutes were approved unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

5. **Orientation Presentation/Strategic Plan Discussion**

Kristin Gietzen shared the context for today's presentation. There has been a need identified to better orientate new members to the work of this council and some existing members have also expressed wanting to have a better understanding. With that in mind, the Executive Committee decided it would be beneficial to do a brief orientation to the council's history and work, as well as initiate the discussion about the council's most recent strategic plan. She explained the history and structure of the council. Deputy County Administrator Jenny James then spoke about the organizations that formed from the council's activities: West Michigan Partnership for Children, Kent School Services Network, First Steps Kent, and KConnect; out of First Steps Kent came Health Net of West Michigan and out of KConnect came Housing Kent. Finally, Trudy Ngo-Brown led the council in an exercise focused on strategic initiative #1 ("Develop a Governance Strategy"). She asked three questions related to this initiative:

- In what areas has KCFCCC made progress?
- What additional resources might be needed to reach our strategic goals?
- What questions do you have about priorities or activities outlined in the strategic plan?

Attendees were then divided into five smaller groups to discuss these questions. After a period of discussion, each group briefly reported out on their discussions. Kristin thanked everyone for their participation and shared that the Executive Committee would be discussing feedback from today's meeting. At the November meeting, the council will look at strategic initiatives #2 and #3.

## 6. **Agency Updates**

- James Geisen: Universal Caseload went live in Kent County last Monday, which is ahead of schedule. Queues were cleared on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. They are seeing benefits already to its implementation and beneficiaries seem to be pleased with it. More formal feedback will be sought through the distribution of satisfaction surveys.
- Wende Randall: The Kent County Food Policy Council is publishing recommendations for county and city government, which will be available in late fall. They will start doing presentations early next year. There was great community and stakeholder engagement. She offered to have the Food Policy Council present to KCFCCC in January 2025 or later.
- Maureen Kirkwood: There will be a community convening in the third week of November to discuss the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) hub project. Anyone from KCFCCC and the public is invited to attend. Additional details will be coming soon.
- Trudy Ngo-Brown: The W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Steelcase Foundation will be hosting a convening on issues facing children and families. It will be on October 3 at ICCF Community Homes (415 Martin Luther King St. SE, Grand Rapids).
- Courtney Myers-Keaton: The 100 Housed in 100 Days initiative is underway. This is specifically aimed at housing people who are chronically homeless. The plan is to take learnings to inform improvements to the housing system in hopes of being more creative in developing solutions to homelessness. The hope is to scale this project up over the next year by using systems that already exist.
- Chris Eakin: He shared that he received word today that the board appointments process is now open. There will be four seats to be filled for the upcoming year. He will forward information on how to apply to council members and partners.

## 7. **Volunteer(s) for Next Meeting's Icebreaker**

Jason Loepp will lead the icebreaker at the November 5, 2024, meeting.

## 8. **Adjournment**

Kristin Gietzen adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Next meeting is November 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kent County Health Department (700 Fuller Ave NE, Grand Rapids).