



Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2021
8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom
Minutes

Present:

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlin, Treasurer Bob Herr, Amanda Barbour, Pastor Howard Earle Jr., Lynne Ferrell, Claire Guisfredi, Maureen Hale, Sue Jandernoa, Hanna Jaworski, Melinda Johnson, Juan Olivarez, Julie Ridenour, Michelle Van Dyke, Carl Ver Beek, and Sean Welsh

Absent: Kristina Donaldson, Ron Koehler, Kelsey Perdue, and Milt Rohwer

Others in attendance: Ashley Karsten, Kent ISD and Paul Petr, Kent County Administration

FSK Staff:

Annemarie Valdez, Heather Boswell, Christine Timbol Larson, Kristen Sobolewski, Megan Streng, Daniel VanderMolen, Kyle Johnson, Shelby French, and Jill B. Salisbury who recorded the minutes.

Welcome & Introductions:

Kate Pew Wolters welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Consent agenda:

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the July 29, 2021, meeting.

Motion: Julie Ridenour

Support: Michele Van Dyke

Unanimous

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Equity:

○ **Equity Talks Video Series Update:**

Megan Streng updated that local colleges and universities are testing the videos this fall semester. We will continue outreach into winter semester. Also in winter, FSK would like to have a community event with a video watch and panel discussion. There has been good community feedback including national interest. There will be a discussion guide that accompanies the videos.

Discussion: It was suggested that we provide a formal feedback form. It was suggested that these could be marketed for use as professional development with larger systems.

Shared Services suggested incorporating it into the MI Registry system as a training for child care providers.

Investing Early:

○ Finance Report:

○ Financials:

Treasurer Bob Herr reviewed and presented the August FSK and Ready by Five financials. The financials were accepted and approved.

Motion: Sue Jandernoa

Support: Sean Welsh

Unanimous

○ FY 2021-2022 Budget:

Treasurer Bob Herr presented the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.

He explained the difference between cash and accrual basis budgets.

With the guidance of the Finance Committee, FSK has moved to an accrual basis budget format. This format is more typical of non-profit organizations.

Motion: Carl Ver Beek

Support: Juan Olivarez

Unanimous

○ Ready by Five:

○ Resident Proposal Review Board:

Chair Kate Pew Wolters and the Ready by Five team provided an update. Kate reminded everyone that it is a two-year cycle for this round of funding. There was a total of 31 proposals from 17 agencies that were submitted and reviewed. The Board received \$18 million in requests with \$16 million in funds to allocate.

The Request for Proposals are in the categories of:

- Outreach & Navigation
 - Four programs for a total of \$3,762,219 were recommended.
- Healthy Development
 - Six programs for a total of \$3,803,355 were recommended.
- Early Learning
 - Six programs for a total of \$3,134,277 were recommended.
- Parent Education and Support

One piece of this that is new this round is addressing the gap of safe sleeping and car seats. It also includes play and learn programs.

 - Twelve programs for a total of \$4,704,399 were recommended.

A motion was made to approve the recommendations of the RPRB and to forward them to the Kent County Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Motion: Sue Jandernoa

Support: Juan Olivarez

Unanimous

Conflicts were disclosed:

Carl Ver Beek - Health Net of West Michigan, Bethany Christian Services

Ashley Karsten - Kent ISD

Hanna Jaworski – Spectrum Health
Pastor Howard Earle Jr. – Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative
Lynne Ferrell - Spectrum Health West Michigan
Michelle Van Dyke - Employer of record for Great Start Collaborative; Help Me Grow, Kent ISD.
Maureen Hale – Help Me Grow, Kent ISD

○ **Reprogramming of Ready by Five Funds – FY 2021:**

Kyle Johnson explained the three agency requests for reprogramming of funds. **Reprogramming is a process that allows FSK to re-allocate funds from underspent/underperforming contracts and allocate funds in contracts that have spent down awarded funds, and where services are still needed. Agencies that have multiple contracts are allowed to move funds from one contract to another if the contract receiving funds has a need for additional funds.**

Motion was made to approve these reappropriations.

Motion: Bob Herr

Support: Julie Ridenour

Unanimous

○ **Ready by Five Evaluation:**

Annemarie and Heather explained that many community data experts are on the team that chose the evaluating agency, Basis Policy Research.

Motion was made to approve the three contract recommendations of hiring Basis Policy Research (\$146,000) and Equity Advisor Emmy O’Dwyer, LLC (\$47,240) and Kent County Health Department to cover staff time related to data collection technical assistance support (\$60,000).

Motion: Juan Olivarez

Support: Melinda Johnson

Unanimous

Supportive Policies & Programs:

○ **Shared Services Update:**

Annemarie explained FSK’s involvement in national, state, and local alignment over stimulus dollars specifically for child care. \$1.4 billion is coming to the state of Michigan. \$700 million is for child care stabilization grants. Governor Whitmer’s office has included FSK in its conversations around allocations including using a quote from Annemarie in a recent press release.

Accessible Resources for Families:

○ **Communications Update:**

- [The Case for Child Care Campaign](#) - Information is located on the FSK website and has been communicated on social media.
- [Normal is Never Enough Campaign](#) – FSK is working with community partners on this and the goal is for policy change around disparities.

Systems Foundations:

○ **Nominating/Governance Committee:**

Chair Melinda Johnson provided an update. The committee will bring forth some new member names for consideration at the November 18 meeting. Retiring board members will be recognized also. The committee’s next meeting is October 5. Kate encouraged board members

to submit any names for consideration. The number of Board members is 20, but there will be some overlap as terms are negotiated and new members are added or retired.

Adjourn:

The meeting closed at 10:20 a.m.

Next Commission Meeting
November 18, 2021 -- 8:30 a.m.
Location TBD.