



**Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 27, 2022**  
**8:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

**Present:**

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters, Co-Chair Lew Chamberlin, Amanda Barbour, Claire Guisfredi, Melinda Johnson, Ron Koehler, Dr. Juan Olivarez, Kelsey Perdue, Anthony Queen, Milt Rohwer, Michelle Van Dyke, Beca Velazquez-Publes, Carl Ver Beek, Joslyn O. Ward, and Sean Welsh.

**Absent:**

Kristina Donaldson, Pastor Howard Earle, Lynne Ferrell, and Robert Herr.

**Guests:**

Emmy O'Dwyer, Kiel McQueen, Jessie Nagel, Jakob Panzer, Liv Rau, and Jim Pike.

**Staff:**

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

**Welcome:**

Kate Pew Wolters welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Three new Board members were welcomed and introduced. They are Parent Leaders Joslyn O Ward and Anthony Queen and Co-Director of Urban Core Collective, Beca Velazquez-Publes. Board, staff, and special guests were also introduced.

**Consent agenda:**

Kate Pew Wolters asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Michelle Van Dyke  
Support: Melinda Johnson  
Unanimous

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**Investing Early:**

- **Ready by Five Data & Evaluation Presentation:**  
Kiel McQueen, Senior Researcher with Basis Policy Research, an organization that focuses on early childhood evaluations, and Equity Consultant Emmy O'Dwyer founder and

principal of Advancing Communities for Equity presented. This evaluation will monitor the delivery of services to participants. It will evaluate early evidence of impact, the cost and benefits of services, and analyze whether there is justification for funding and continued support of Rb5. Equity will be embedded in all aspects of the evaluation. A period of question and answer followed.

Kate noted that Kelsey Perdue and Lynne Ferrell have been appointed to the Evaluation and Data Advisory Team so that there is Commissioner representation.

○ **Kent County Board of Commissioners Meeting:**

Annemarie Valdez reported that round four of Ready by Five Allocation funding was approved by the KCBOC on January 3, 2022. This was the same allocation that the FSK Board approved on September 30, 2021.

○ **Ready by Five Funding Transfer:**

Christine Timbol Larson explained the Ready by Five reprogramming policy and process. A Board approval is needed to move \$150,397 from Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative's Pre-KEEP program to Arbor Circle's KEEP program. This is for services beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022.

Motion: Carl Ver Beek

Support: Dr. Juan Olivarez

Unanimous

○ **Finance Report:**

Treasurer Bob Herr was unable to attend the meeting. In his place, Jim Pike, Fusion Financial Services, explained the new financials formatting. FSK is using an accrual format.

● **December Financials**

Jim Pike presented the First Steps Kent December financials and Cati Cortes presented the December Ready by Five financials.

Motion to approve the December financials: Sean Welsh

Support: Milt Rohwer

Unanimous

● **2020-2021 Audit**

Jim Pike explained that the Audit was prepared by Rehmann who gave an unqualified (clean Audit) opinion. The FSK Finance Committee met January 21 and recommends approval of the acceptance of the Audit report to the FSK Commission. It was completed virtually this year and there were not any concerns.

Motion to receive Audit: Carl Ver Beek

Support: Michelle Van Dyke

Unanimous

### **Equity & Inclusion:**

- **Equity Talks Video Series:**

Annemarie Valdez reported that the second round of filming will begin soon. There has been positive feedback from the colleges/universities who are testing them in their classrooms. The official launch of the series has been postponed from February to later in this summer. Our national partner, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, would like to hold a national convening in Kent County this summer. The Equity Talks Video Series will launch in partnership with this convening.

### **Accessible Resource for Families:**

- **Communications:**

- **Website/New Intern:**

Megan Streng reported FSK's intern, an advertising and public relations senior at GVSU, will help with the website's translation into Spanish.

- **RAPID-EC Survey Project:**

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the University of Oregon has been conducting national surveys on how the pandemic has affected families. They have a grant to begin gathering local data. They approached FSK to incorporate Kent County families. Quarterly surveys will begin in March. FSK will use the survey data for its Millage renewal campaign and 5-year anniversary of the Gap Analysis.

- **2021 Impact Report:**

This project is in process.

- **Normal was Never Enough:**

This project is being disseminated among partners including being shared at their local convenings.

### **Systems Foundations:**

- **Nominating Committee Update:**

Kate Pew Wolters and Melinda Johnson reported that a Board DEI Task Force is forming. If anyone is interested in joining, they should let Kate know.

Melinda Johnson reminded Commissioners to continue bringing new member names forward. She also announced the Nominating Committee is looking to add one more member. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to her.

- **Conflict of Interest Form/Roster Updates**

Please complete a Conflict of Interest form and return to Shelby French. If there are changes to the Roster, please send them to Jill Salisbury.

- **2022 Board Meeting Dates**

These are listed in the calendar invite.

### **Adjourn:**

Co-Chair Kate Pew Wolters closed the meeting at 10 a.m.

**Next Commission Meeting:**

**Thursday, March 24, 2022**

**8:30-10:30 a.m.**

**via Zoom**