



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes August 8, 2018 8:30am – 10:00am

Attendees:

Amber Hubbell, Connie Bellows, Dan Schoonmaker, Danielle Simmons, Deanna Howland, DeDe Esque, Eleanor Moreno, Emily Schichtel, Erin Skidmore, Erin Webley, Gordie Moeller, Heather Hughesian, Ingrid Aguayo, Jeff Hoyh, Jim Holkboer, Julie VanGessel, Kate Vanderwal, Kelly Hagemeyer, Mark Lubberts, Michelle Meulendyk, Nicole Karl, Shay Krick, Sherrie Gillespie, Wende Randall, Stephanie McKendry, Karrie Brown, Ameer Paparella, Kara Bilkert, Cait Melamed, Annie Shapiro, Phillip Greene, Janelle Ann Johnson, Kamara Sudberry, Bethany Joseph, Chelsea Totten

I. Introductions

- Minutes, July 11, 2018

Motion to approve: Eleanor

Seconded: Heather

Motion Passed

II. Host Comments

Mark introduced the facility; he appreciates your flexibility and participation.

III. Policy Update

Wende welcomes any invitation to events concerning FNC to build a larger network!

IV. Early Childhood Proposal

Amy from First Steps presented a future millage proposal. This would be the first early childhood development millage. Thousands of Kent County's kids under 5 are not receiving vital services. Investing in early childhood services is imperative to a childhood's projected success with social, emotional, and intellectual areas. The bold goals of this millage are babies are born healthy, from birth to third grade children are actively engaged in this work. The cost would be around 18 dollars per year. The benefits of this millage would be to develop consistent, accessible navigation system for all families, increase participation in prevention and early intervention services. There would also be developmental screenings for young children. These screenings will increase early identification of delays and/or disabilities.

Another benefit of the millage would be in-home and community-based support and education for families. Community-based early learning experiences would increase participation in programs that improve language and early literacy. This is not preschool but just another channel to integrate children to social and intellectual learning. The proposed structure is modeled after the Senior Millage. Allocation would distribute funds to community-based organizations that are already proven to work. All dollars will be reported through an independent financial audit. On the ballot this issue is anticipated to be the last question in an already lengthy ballot, so don't forget! More information can be found at www.firststepskent.org. Mark asked about the organizations that already have these programs in



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motion and Amy stated that all these organizations were at the table to recognize the gaps. An individual asked what the selling-point for the outlying communities is, as some areas need these resources more than others. Amy states that yes, there will be universal coverage but also areas that need services most will be met.

V. Table Work

Connie reviewed the journey map. We are at the point of finding leverage and acting strategically. Action teams will continue to work on the impact map.

VII. Next Meeting/Adjourn