

**We Care for Kids Council**  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
07-15-2020

**Members Present:** Ashley Kliewer, Mary Ellen Clery (via Zoom), Penny Dora, Robin Atwood, Cheryl Thelen (via Zoom).

The meeting was held at Cherry Street Health office in Greenville and called to order at 6:02pm

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the soon-to-be vacant Executive Director position of the council.

Members present shared how their agencies/offices have been impacted by COVID.

Will schools allow “guest teachers” in their buildings for the upcoming school year (Executive Director to teach Protect Yourself classes)? Idea: add a component of mask wearing to the curriculum. Masks protect our bodies. Protect yourself teaches how to protect our bodies too. If not allowed, we could do virtual programming or make pre recorded videos to provide to the schools. The ISD has some mask education/safety videos or materials we can review.

Mary Ellen shared her opinion that the position needs to be filled by someone with an education/teaching background. Knowing how schools run/function, classroom expectations, behaviors, and classroom management...all skills only known by teachers or educators.

Robin had a conversation with Emily from the office at Children’s Trust Fund to gather ideas as well as pros/cons of filling the vacancy. CTF does not have guidelines on how to fill the vacancy – it is up to our council to decide that – Emily would like to be informed of what we decide to do. There are 43 councils in Michigan, and some do partner with their local CAC. If we go that route, WCFK would lose some CTF funding. The 2021 tier structure of the councils is going to be redesigned but Emily could not share any more information about it.

Partnering with the CAC would limit us as a council. The CAC’s mission is child abuse and neglect with a focus on sexual abuse. That is currently the same mission as we have with the Protect Yourself curriculum. However, if our county were to see an increase in issues in another focus area (bicycle/helmet safety, car seat safety, internet safety/cyber bullying, etc.), by remaining as an independent council, we can shift our focus to meet the needs of our county in any area we choose whenever we need or want to. Partnering with the CAC would put us in a silo for a focus area, which we would not have control over and be unable to change.

Ashley Kliewer made a motion to focus on filling the Executive Director position of We Care for Kids independently and to not partner with our local CAC for prevention programming. Cheryl Thelen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Robin found out from Emily there will be some reporting changes in the next fiscal year. There will be 7 additional hours of work needed for the CTF reporting. Reporting for the next fiscal year will include quarterly reports (4x year), an obligation report (1x per year), a program registry and activity report (2x per year each).

The favored candidate to fill the position of the Executive Director is Sue Kearney. Many members would like to see her resume. Penny will ask Sue for her resume. We will hold a “meet and greet” meeting with Sue within the next week. The purpose of the meet and greet will be to meet Sue, outline the expectations of the position, compensation/salary of the position, and confirm that she is interested.

Ashley will draft an email to Lori at the CAC to let her know our decision.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.