

**Marion County Children & Families Commission**  
**July 21, 2016 Meeting**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.**  
**Broadway Commons, Salem, Oregon**  
**Minutes**

**Commission Members Present:** Sue Bloom, Gladys Blum, Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Marilyn Dedrick, Donalda Dodson, Jayne Downing, Ron Hays, Levi Herrera-Lopez, Cyndi Leinassar, Pete McCallum, Chief Jerry Moore, Allan Pollock, Judge Tracy Prall, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, and Shaney Starr.

**Commission Members Absent:** Jaime Arredondo, Walt Beglau, Rod Calkins, Faye Fagel, Randy Franke, Terri Frohnmayr, Chuck Lee, Krina Lee, Matthew Lucas, Sheriff Jason Myers, Sam Osborn, Stephen Thorsett, and Lyndon Zaitz.

**Staff Present:** Tamra Goettsch, Mary Grim, and Krista Ulm

**Guests Present:** Ariana Adams, Catholic Community Services; Shelly Ehenger, Marion County Housing Authority; Melissa Kidd, Salem-Keizer Transit/Cherriots; Wasi Khan, Galaxux; Rena Peck, City of Salem; Brandy Spradling, Catholic Community Services Forever Home Youth Council member; and Patricia Wagner, Marion County Housing Authority.

**Meeting Convened:** 11:40 a.m.

**Introduction:** Mary Grim, Community Services Program Coordinator was introduced. Mary will provide staff support for the Children and Families Commission.

**Marion County Housing Authority (MCHA) Presentation** – Shelly Ehenger, Executive Director, Marion County Housing Authority

1. Handouts
  - a. Included in packet:
    - i. Proposed changes to the Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher Program - HCVP) Administrative Plan
    - ii. MCHA Payment Standards for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (effective 4/1/2016)
  - b. Distributed during the meeting:
    - i. Marion County HUD Apartments
    - ii. MCHA business cards
2. Housing Authority Overview
  - a. Salem-Keizer Housing Authority – serves within the city limits of Salem.
  - b. Marion County Housing Authority – serves rural areas (outside the Salem-Keizer areas)
    - i. Federal funding administered, but mirrors the needs of the community.
3. Proposed changes to the Section 8 HCVP – highlights:
  - a. Current
    - i. Vouchers are based on meeting the screening criteria – primarily income.
    - ii. Change in household income must be reported immediately.
      1. Rent will increase or decrease based on income.

- b. Proposed changes
  - i. Family does not report an increase in income until their annual recertification. This will encourage clients to look for employment versus creating a barrier to affordable housing.
  - ii. The Supreme Court has determined that clients need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
    - 1. Crime committed in the last five years.
      - a. Has their life changed? Do they have a support system?
      - b. Automatic Section 8 denial:
        - i. Sex Offenders
        - ii. Distribution or manufacture of methamphetamine.
    - 2. Landlord will conduct a background check/screening after MCHA completes its initial screening.
- c. Questions/Answers/Comments
  - 1. Question about MCHA owning property. MCHA does own property and provides Section 8 vouchers, which allow clients to rent privately owned properties.
  - 2. Comment on using a risk assessment versus a background check to screen potential clients with criminal backgrounds. Preference is given to individuals and families who are homeless and can demonstrate that they are in transitional housing and individuals with mental health issues. Currently there are 1,900 individuals on the MCHA wait list. Of those, only seven have a preferred status.
  - ii. Question about whether MCHA could designate vouchers for victims of domestic violence and whether the Regional Housing Task Force could be included in the conversation?
  - iii. MCHA's plan will be posted on its website by October 1, 2016. Community meetings will take place within the city limits of rural communities. Mary Grim will notify the CFC once more information is known..

Commissioner Janet Carlson moved the March 17, 2016 CFC meeting minutes to an action item. Sam Skillern seconded the motion; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Cyndi Leinassar made a motion to approve the March 17, 2016 CFC meeting minutes. Marilyn Dedrick seconded the motion; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

#### Updates:

- 1. Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT)
  - a. Foster Care Youth Request
    - i. Brandy Spradling, Catholic Community Services Forever Home Youth Council, is 18 years old and a leader of the Forever Home Youth Council.
    - ii. Brandy requested on behalf of the Forever Home Youth Council that the Marion County Children and Families Commission take the lead in developing a plan to help the current foster parents to be successful and to recruit more good foster parents.
    - iii. Videos shown at the meeting:
      - 1. Forever Home Youths' Introduction Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIXnjtPif0Q>
      - 2. Embrace Oregon Legislative Testimony - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICFkBYsZRdc&feature=youtu.be>
- b. Questions/Answers/Comments
  - i. Comment about history of community leadership coming together around foster care, starting with *No Meth, Not in MY Neighborhood*. As a result, an additional 400 youth were placed in foster care – for a total of 1,200 youth.

- ii. Currently, there are approximately 700 youth in foster care in Marion County; however, there are only 250 foster homes available in Marion County. The Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT) is launching a three-part effort: 1) Safe Families Initiative – help youth get care before they move into foster care (in partnership with CCS); 2) Increase the number of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to 300; and 3) increase recruitment and retention of foster parents.
  - iii. Question about the training and process to become a foster parent?
    - 1. The *leaning in* model that was identified in approximately 2005 was designed for outreach to churches; however, it can be edited to be used for other target audiences.
- c. Discussion on Foster Care Champion
- i. FPAT is seeking a Foster Parent Champion to work with community leaders to facilitate the design of a foster parent recruitment/retention strategy, and a plan that meets the needs of the organizations that recruit or hire foster parents. Additional responsibilities of the Foster Parent Champion are listed in the job description.
  - ii. The recruitment process has identified a promising candidate. A subcommittee of FPAT has been meeting regularly on the development of the Foster Parent Champion concept. Funders for the Foster Parent Champion position are: DHS, CCS, Salem Leadership Foundation, Community Services Department, and Family Building Blocks. Following the 90-day planning process, a different position will be created to implement the recruitment plan and will be charged with recruiting foster parents for all participating agencies. The desired outcome would be to have enough foster parents available to match foster parents and foster children based on the child's needs and attributes of the foster parents. FPAT will evaluate Embrace Oregon, and One Church, One Child which aims toward adoption.

Janet Carlson moved this item from information to action. Shaney Starr seconded the motion; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Sam Skillern moved that the commission adopt FPAT's findings and recommendations. He clarified that his motion does not commit money or staff time that has not already been committed. Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty seconded the motion; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

d. Questions/Answers/Comments

- i. The initial Foster Parent Champion contract will be managed by Community Services. It's anticipated that the scope of work will be complete within 90-days. During that time, FPAT will identify implementation needs and resource options. FPAT may return to the CFC to request additional resources in September or November. Community Action Agency (CAA) assists foster families during times when youth are very small through its Early Head Start and Head Start (prenatal through five) programs. CCA has found development concerns amongst the children enrolled in its programs due to trauma experiences. Nearly 60 percent of children in foster care are six-years old or younger. These children are often in the system the longest.

2. Youth Resources Action Team (YRAT)

a. Raising Resiliency Issue Brief

- i. YRAT has been talking about adverse childhood trauma, and what we can do as a system to reduce the flow of children who enter the juvenile system. YRAT members have explored brain development, ACES, HOPE research, and trauma informed care as topics of concern and interest.

- ii. The Marion County Juvenile Department is expanding its staff's knowledge in the four areas mentioned. The hope is to deepen the staff's knowledge and understanding of how the youth in their programs are impacted. Faye Fagel brought her plans to train department staff to YRAT and suggested that some of the presentations could be of interest to the commission, as well as community partners and the public. Two priority topics are the ACES study and implementing the HOPE scale. A few members attended a conference in April where both topics were presented. YRAT believes the two topics would be beneficial for the greater community and key partners.
- iii. Janet Carlson attended an ACES presentation by Dr. Felitti and he told a story about a woman who caused him to ask how adverse childhood experiences impacts behavior and health; i.e., diabetes, obesity.
  1. Dr. Felitti has been secured to present on the evening of November 1, 2016 to a community audience. He will train Fay's staff on November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  2. Bill Guest, Willamette Valley Community Health, mentioned that doctors are looking at adverse childhood experiences, too, and how to integrate the philosophy into its practice. There is a possibility the CFC could partner with WVCH.
- iv. Community Action Agency's Early Head Start/Head Start childhood partnership is coordinating a presentation on the "whole brain child" on August 2, 2016 and spots are available to the public. Mary will distribute to the CFC.

Janet Carlson moved the agenda item from discussion to action. Chief Jerry Moore seconded; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Janet Carlson moved that the CFC to endorse its role identified in the issue brief, and endorse the plan to develop an ad hoc subcommittee to work with the juvenile department. Cyndi Leinassar seconded the motion; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

b. CFC viewed: Redford, J. 2015. *Paper Tigers* motion picture. USA trailer

c. Questions/Answers/Comments

- i. The Paper Tigers video may begin the conversation within the community. The Marion County Juvenile Department may also purchase the video. If so, it might be an opportunity to host a community viewing with targeted invites. Once more information is known, a formal request might be brought back to the CFC.
- ii. If programs are connected better, there is a system of trauma informed care, and then there is an opportunity for improved service delivery.
- iii. The education community needs to be included; schools are a natural conduit for children.
- iv. What they are doing in Walla Walla is relevant to Marion County.
- v. Funding does play a big part when dealing with high-need students. Chemeketa has a GED program for youth up to age 21. The program received awards and had been asked to present on its program. They day before presenting, the program learned it would be closing the evening program due to lack of funding - the funding does not follow the young people.
- vi. Troubled teens usually have been dealing with issues for 12-14 years; changes won't happen overnight.

### Next Steps/Wrap-Up

- YRAT will meet to determine next steps for coordinated community forums.
- Steering committee will meet to draft the September 15, 2016 CFC meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:20 p.m.

Next Children and Families Commission meeting: September 15, 2016.

Minutes recorded by Mary Grim