

**Marion County Children & Families Commission**  
**September 15, 2016 Meeting**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.**  
**Broadway Commons, Salem, Oregon**  
**Meeting Summary Notes**

**Commission Members Present:** Jaime Arredondo, Walt Beglau, ~~Sue Bloom, Gladys Blum, Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty, Rod Calkins,~~ Commissioner Janet Carlson, ~~Marilyn Dedrick, Donalda Dodson,~~ Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Randy Franke, Ron Hays, ~~Levi Herrera-Lopez,~~ Chuck Lee, Krina Lee, ~~Cyndi Leinassar, Pete McCallum,~~ Chief Jerry Moore, ~~Sheriff Jason Myers,~~ Sam Osborn (represented by Dawn Hunter), ~~Allan Pollock,~~ Judge Tracy Prall, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr, ~~Stephen Thorsett~~ and Lyndon Zaitz

**Staff Present:** Denise Clark, Tamra Goettsch and Mary Grim

**Guests Present:** Melissa Kidd, Salem-Keizer Transit/Cherriots; Wasi Khan, Galaxux; Irma Oliveros, Salem Keizer School District; Heidi Strauch, Marion County Circuit Court; Catherine Trotman, Law Office of Jon Weiner and MCRI Volunteer

**Meeting Summary Notes by Denise Clark**

**Meeting Convened:** 11:48 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

**Drxugsafe-** Tamra Goettsch

- The Drxugsafe website was established in 2007.
- Focus of the site was tailored to reducing the misuse of RX drugs including oxycodone and other drugs used in the community.
- Tamra has offered management of the website to other entities; no one has accepted.
- The Health Department still promotes the safe keeping and disposal of prescription drugs; they are not interested in maintaining the web site.
- The website annual fee is \$240 a year.
- Tamra recommends un-publishing the website; no decision was made.

**Bridging the Gap-** Sam Skillern

- Four pastors approached Chief Jerry Moore to discuss getting out ahead of problems coming to Salem following the Ferguson Missouri shooting incident. Chief Moore invited the pastors to join the Citizen's Academy; many of them attended the eight week training.
- Following three shootings in the Salem area, Marilyn Williams, from San Antonio TX, asked to set up some conversations in Salem. It led to the event called Bridging the Gap at Keizer Civic Center. There was a panel of community members and a panel of law enforcement officers; 300 people attended.
- The biggest take-away, the community can't demand that law enforcement do better, the answer is communication between the two bodies (law and citizens).
- This group (CFC and its concentric circles) has laid a good foundation of trust and communication.
- Walt expressed that at the event there was a sense of ownership and acknowledgement; people felt the conversation was genuine.

- Faye was impressed with the law enforcement panel; she felt like they spoke from the heart and with openness and willingness.
- Sam encouraged everyone to look for opportunities to bridge the gap with people that are new to, or different from, yourself; it's all about relationships.

**Announcements:**

Jim Seymour announced that on September 20th at 6:00 PM at Willamette University (Oregon Civic Justice Center) a conversation will be held with the Latino community. The Cavazos Youth and Family Center closed in Salem. He said that “out of the pain” came the Cavazos Coalition for Latino Youth and Families, which works on positive youth development and strengthening families.

Chuck Lee announced that Krina and he are hosting an event at Bentleys on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 to discuss Measure 98, not to be confused with Measure 97, around career technical education. If the measure were to pass, the Salem Keizer School District would receive up to \$9 million.

Jayne Downing announced that a donor came forward offering to match funds for the Center for Hope and Safety if they raised \$120,000 in thirty days; the deadline is October 7th at 5:00 PM.

**Approval of Meeting Summary Notes:**

Commissioner Carlson made a motion to approve the July 21, 2016 Meeting Summary Notes; Shaney seconded. Motion passed.

**Membership Update:**

Krina Lee introduced Eric Richards, a new member on the commission who filled Ruth Gelbrich’s vacated position. Eric is Director of Student Services for the Salem Keizer School District.

Tamra received a note from Terri Frohnmayer indicating that she is no longer able to serve on the commission. Her service on the commission has been appreciated.

**Marion County Reentry Initiative:**

Commissioner Carlson introduced Catherine Trottman, who was interested in volunteering with the Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCRI). Commissioner Carlson described her first meeting with Catherine where they discussed that there is no structure in place for community volunteers other than volunteering for individual organizations, such as the De Muniz Center or Bridgeway. Catherine is willing to set up the volunteer program.

Catherine is an attorney in Salem. She does court-appointed criminal defense. Her passions align with community work. She will be setting up workshops for the reentry participants based on what the participants might benefit from and what the volunteers have to offer. She wants the experience to be safe and enjoyable. The optimum group size is 10-15 people. She is looking for volunteers.

Tamra offered to send out an email with Catherine’s contact information and for soliciting ideas from potential volunteers. She encouraged everyone to think of their own hobbies and things that give them joy. MCRI participants can benefit from skill building and pro-social opportunities that help to fill spare time effectively.

MCRI participants are individuals who are on probation after being incarcerated in a state correctional facility; mostly those that have been incarcerated 24-36 months. The individuals have a range of offenses. MCRI hopes to help them to successfully re-integrate into the community. Participation is voluntary; however, participants are required to accrue a certain amount of “pro-social” activities.

The annual Giving People a Second Chance community breakfast event will be held October 25th. If anyone wants to attend, they need to contact Commissioner Carlson quickly as seats are going fast.

Jim Seymour said that Catholic Community Services is conducting staff luncheons where staff are being trained on maintaining a positive mindset, financial literacy, mindfulness, stress reduction, and other topics. He suggested that some folks might be interested in presenting information.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)- Shaney Starr**

Shaney Starr is the new CASA director. CASA is in a “super growth mode.” They hope to impact the unserved foster children in the community.

- A new training session starting at the end of the month for 35 new volunteers.
- Received a growth grant which enabled them to create new marketing materials.
- More than 500 children don't have an advocate.
- An average of 2.48 children are involved in each case; need 200 new volunteers to meet the demand.
- By the end of the year, CASA hopes to recruit 100 new volunteers.
- CASA training takes 34 hours; it involves observing a court hearing, meeting case managers and staff; 15 hours of in-person training; and 15 hours of actual course work.
- Experimenting with a new on-line training module to reach more people.
- CASA's new outreach marketing campaign includes on-line articles, print advertising, a Facebook page, and participation in community events. (The Statesman Journal has been very helpful.)
- The program currently has just three staff; looking to hire another full-time staff member. (Sam Skillern has agreed to be on the CASA board.)
- Tuesday, October 25 is a fundraising event, “Dining for a Difference.” Shaney encouraged everyone to go out to dinner that night as there are participants such as Santiam Brewery, Magna Sandwiches, Court Street Dairy, Kitchen on Court, etc. that will donate a portion of its proceeds to CASA. (Go to CASA's website for more information.)
- CASA needs \$180,000 to fully operate for one year. The program received a challenge match offer: if they can raise an additional \$90,000 by the end of the year, they will meet the challenge.

Tamra suggested that Shaney send the information to her for the Community Services Department to email out.

The program is looking for volunteers who have a passion for helping kids. The children in foster care need a consistent person in their life who has their best interests in mind. A volunteer needs to make an 18 month commitment.

### **Membership Review and Bylaws- Tamra Goettsch**

- The Steering Committee met and looked at membership.
- Tamra has been meeting with various members over the last thirty days. Everyone on the roster has committed to continuing. A separate section has been added for “honorary members” who wish to stay connected, but not count against the group's quorum. Donalda Dodson and Steven Thorsett would like to transfer into an honorary

member. Tamra will meet with Steven Thorsett in the months to come regarding a possible replacement from Willamette University.

- Extending an invitation to Liberty House to have a representative on the commission.
- Members are expected to attend 80% of the meetings which is six meetings a year.
- The bylaws change includes a cap on membership- a minimum of 11 members and a maximum of 30. (The cap on membership helps the commission manage its quorum.)
- Currently three positions are open.
- The “Lead, follow, or get out of the way” concept has been included in the bylaws.
- Tamra thanked Mary Grim for preparing the meeting documents.

Lyndon Zaitz made a motion to approve the bylaw changes; Krina seconded. Motion passed as presented.

### Updates

Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT)- Sam Skillern

- This group was formerly called the Foster Care Action Team.
- Foster Care Champion Team is a subcommittee of FPAT.
- The number of children in foster care is down approximately 500 since 2005; however the number of foster homes has also gone down.
- Proposal:
  - Stage one: develop a strategic plan; a contractor has been hired.
  - Stage two: implementation process; still need to recruit a candidate to lead this stage.
  - Funding is secured for stage one, but is needed for stage two.

Tamra indicated that different organizations have come up with funds to pay for the person coordinating stage one. Strategies are needed to determine how to make it sustainable. Stage two will also require funding from an outside source.

Jim Seymour noted that Catholic Community Services recently sought federal funding for foster care. Their first request was denied. There’s now a new request for proposals available through the Oregon Department of Human Services. The money will be divided between rural and urban areas. They have a short timeline to get another proposal submitted. Currently, foster parents tend to discourage others to foster, which makes it harder to find new foster parents. More support is needed for the current foster parents.

Tamra indicated that a team is pursuing the possibility of submitting the grant application, but they are not sure who will be the organization submitting the application. The FPAT team will still be the management group for the grant if awarded.

Further Comments:

- Challenging kids are hard to place.
- Would like to have a list of reserve foster families that could take on challenging children and youth.
- Still need between 300-350 homes. (Sometimes a staff member has to watch children in a hotel room until a foster placement is secured.)

**Youth Resources Action Team (YRAT)- Faye Fagel**

Many local partners attended the Alliance for Hope conference in San Diego in April 2016. The focus was on domestic violence and abuse. One of the presenters, Dr. Vincent Filetti, gave a presentation on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey (ACES). Medical doctors were seeing patients with recurring health issues and wondering why medical strategies weren't successful. Through their research, it was found that adverse childhood experiences carried over and impacted individuals into their adult-hood. Health issues included such things as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and mental health issues. A model and questions were developed resulting in the ACES score. The Marion County Juvenile Department is bringing a host of speakers in to train its staff members and offered to allow the commission to partner by sharing costs and bring the message to the broader community. Dr. Filetti will be presenting the study's findings and discussing ACES at a community forum on November 1, 6:00 PM, Salem Convention Center. The cost is \$10 per individual.

On December 13-14, 2016 the Behavioral Care Network is hosting an event on Trauma-Informed Care, presented by Wendy Davis of Portland State University.

Chan Hellman will be presenting on the Hope Scale in early January 2017. This will be the entire program for the next Together Towards Tomorrow event; more information to follow.

Jayne Downing noted that the Center for Hope and Safety has been working on these things by themselves; she's thrilled to see more people "come to the table."

After attending the trainings, Faye challenged everyone to consider how to utilize the information in their own organizations. Maybe a person has a high ACES score; look on one another more compassionately. This can lead to more authentic conversations.

Walt gave kudos to everyone who spoke at the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned: 1:15 PM**