

# Marion County Children and Families Commission Meeting



**DATE:** May 14, 2015

**TIME:** 12:00 – 1:00PM



**Location:** Broadway Commons  
1300 Broadway Street NE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Grant Room  
Salem, Oregon

## 12:00 Welcome & Introductions

- Public Comment
- Consent

## Information and Action

**Co-chairs**  
Sheriff Myers  
Judge Prall  
Tamra Goettsch

- *Approve the 4/9/15 Summary Notes*

## Action

**CFC Members**

## 12:05 Barrier Buster- EcoFit Presentation

## Information and Action

Faye Fagel, Juvenile Dept  
Comm. Janet Carlson

## 12:40 CFC Update and Next Steps

- August 5<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 am, Courthouse Square

## Information

Judge Prall  
Sheriff Myers

## 1:00 Adjourn

**Judge Prall**

### Handouts:

- Agenda
- 4/9/15 CFC summary notes
- Barrier Busters Issue Brief- EcoFIT
- August 5<sup>th</sup> Invitation

*NOTE: Meetings are audio taped for the purpose of having a public record of the proceedings.*

**Marion County Children & Families Commission**  
**April 9, 2015 Meeting**  
**12:00 PM Broadway Commons, Salem**  
**Summary Notes**

Summary Notes by Denise Clark

**Commission Members Present:** Jaime Arredondo, Cyndi Astley, Walt Beglau, ~~Gladys Blum~~, Commissioner Sam Brentano, ~~Rick Cagen~~, ~~Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty~~, Rod Calkins, Marilyn Dedrick, ~~Donald Dodson~~, Faye Fagel, ~~Randy Franke~~, Terri Frohnmayer, ~~Ron Hays~~, Levi Herrera-Lopez, ~~Chuck Lee~~, Krina Lee, ~~Matthew Lucas~~, ~~Pete McCallum~~, ~~Chief Jerry Moore~~, Sheriff Jason Myers, Allan Pollock, Judge Tracy Prall, Jim Seymour, ~~Tim Sinatra~~, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr, Stephen Thorsett, Dick Withnell, Lyndon Zaitz

**Staff Present:** Krista Ulm, Tamra Goettsch, Ted Schuster

**Meeting Convened:** 12:08

**Announcements:** April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. There is a tree with 1,000 blue ribbons hanging from its branches, one for every 10 abused children in the state. Walt thought it was a “home run” causing a “buzz” at the Capitol. Tamra said if a person would like a blue ribbon lapel pin, that she can get them one.

Terri Frohnmayer noted that the Liberty House is really close to reaching their financial goal in order to purchase the neighboring building.

Cyndi Astley announced the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Connect, reaching out to the homeless event. The number one service provided was dental care in which they reached 41 people; \$14,000 worth of services was provided. Sam Skillern concurred saying it was an “awesome day” with all of the different partners on-board.

Sam Skillern announced that the CAN Center has a “hub” at Evergreen Presbyterian Church (located on the corner of Cottage and D streets). They are refurbishing bicycles. The clients work, learn, and earn in an atmosphere of great fellowship and friendship. They are developing a retail shop. The organization eventually wants to be able to pay those doing the refurbishing. They take donations of both bikes and cash. Terri Frohnmayer indicated that a benefactor is working on providing the funds to pay the bike shop’s lease for one year. Salem Alliance Church owns the former Honda shop on the corner will be the Hub bicycle shop.

Commissioner Brentano distributed OSU Extension brochures and mentioned the Marion County Extension ballot measure to establish a service district. Marion County has always financially supported OSU Extension, and Polk now has their own service district. He encouraged those present to support it.

Sam Skillern announced that the North Neighborhood Community Partners Committee (a CPT) heard about Parish Middle School’s need for a garden. They had the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students write and submit a grant application. They received the \$500 grant request which was immediately tripled by Country Financial. Krina Lee noted that the project Sam referred to, met the Common Core Standards in the writing of the grant. Because of the success of it, Salem Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF) was approached by NW Honda Association and ABC about using them for their commercial spring marketing; commercials will start with a Public Information notice starting May 20.

Cindy Astley announced that the Home Youth and Resource Center, which is a day drop-in center, has received a grant from the Salem Health Foundation. They can now expand the days and hours the center is open to 7 days a week, 365 days a year, including holidays. It is still just day services; they are working on the greater need of providing emergency shelter after operating hours.

Walt Beglau spoke of the Justice Reinvestment program that involves saving dollars that are collected at a correctional state level and reinvested at a local level. Marion County has some robust programs doing that. A summit was held recently; they are trying to secure the \$58 million that is available. On a local level, this money affects families and children. The grant requesting process is coming up. They are currently looking at changing what happens to “prison bound mothers.”

Judge Prall added that members of the Legislature were transported to the event; the governor spoke as the opening remarks.

Dick Withnell noted that it’s critical to tell the community of all of the opportunities there are to come along side for the community to take ownership.

Shaney Starr said that there is a bill going before the legislature today regarding giving people a second chance. One of their employees is successfully working for them after having felonies on her record.

Walt Beglau made a motion to approve the October, November, and February meeting summary notes; Marilyn Dedrick seconded. Motion passed.

Tamra announced that a form (identifying key priorities for next year) will be emailed out to all members in the near future to give input on what direction the commission should go in the coming year.

#### **Barrier Buster- Volunteerism in the School and Community Presentation- Krina Lee**

This contributes to the economic stability of our community.

Over 12 years ago the Volunteer Director position at SKEF was eliminated and in turn, the schools began losing volunteers. They partnered with other organizations such as Oregon Community Foundation, MAPs, the Children and Families Commission, and other partners to re-create the position. Valerie Steele now holds the position at SKEF.

Volunteer opportunities are both regular and episodic. Examples are volunteering at the Awesome 3000, book sorts and delivery, a school garden, coach or referee, and other special events. There are also regularly scheduled opportunities like mentoring and tutoring, office hours at schools or SKEF, committee and board options, and Adopt a School.

Next fall starts an all-day kindergarten format; they are going to need a lot more volunteers.

A person can get connected by submitting a volunteer form through SKEF, on-line or at the school itself. That is followed by an orientation.

SKEF has recently purchased the Starky McCully building in downtown Salem. They are turning it into a regional college and career center to be named the Mike McClaren Center. In partnership with others, one of the key programs is the *Aspire* site. This is Oregon’s secondary mentoring program. This program elsewhere has proven to increase success rates. Instead of having the site at a school, it will be housed in a separate facility.

*Aspire* mentorship involves an application, criminal background check, standardized trainings, meeting with students on site; and a confidentiality agreement. They will wear ID badges, go through safety training, and there will be mandatory child abuse reporting. There is a Student Tracker making sure everyone stays on task.

Activities a mentor might help with are admission applications, financial aid basics, post-secondary options, assist with school selection, gather tax return estimates, help with FASFA, etc. Students will have access to the CIS (Career Information Systems). 40% of students don't have internet access at home.

The goal is to have 250 trained *Aspire* mentors by Sept. of 2015. For volunteering, contact [skeducationfoundation.org](mailto:skeducationfoundation.org) or [aspire@skeducationfoundation.org](mailto:aspire@skeducationfoundation.org).

Cindy asked how the students are chosen. Answer- All students will know about it (through school counselors) and all are eligible. Cindy indicated that the Community Action Agency is for those kids that aren't connected. Krina said they will set up a special *Aspire* link to CAA's program. They will address those in poverty, at risk, and the homeless, along with those who are home schooled.

Krina said they will also have a day a month in which veterans and reentry folks can come in and have access to the computers.

Dick mentioned that at Parish Middle School they have the most kids with incarcerated parents per capita. They found if they provided mentors for 10 percent of them, it raised everyone's success rate. He asks if *Aspire* is an elitist group that selects who they approach. Answer- no it is not elitist, they are reaching out to all kids including those "at-risk."

Dick indicated that this information needs to reach single parents and be presented annually as a call to action.

Krina indicated that they are also in the process of being an AmeriCorps hub site in which ten of those positions will be *Aspire* focused. They will be liaisons with local and statewide universities.

Shaney feels those in Cyndi's program (CAA) are not interested in this kind of program. Can the program be molded to reach these kids? Answer- yes; they work very closely with the "various pockets of kids." They can provide satellite *Aspire* opportunities, going to where the kids are; it is transferable.

Levi Herrera-Lopez asked about the average number of contacts in a year that a mentor might have with a student. Answer- it depends; maybe meet as little as once or twice a year, or if you have a student that's submitting multiple items that need proofing over the months, it may be more frequently.

Cyndi said that they have a programmatic budget; an example is helping their clients get ID with limited access to documents. She asked how such obstacles will be handled. Answer- they may need to enlist social services partners; it depends on the kid.

Cyndi indicated that the goal is to get kids back into schools and mentors are needed to keep them there.

Action:

- April 16 is a "hard hat" lunch box tour at noon (with lunch provided) at the new facility; remodel starts in June
- 250 mentors are needed by September
- This group (CFC) can be a conduit to finding partners

Marilyn Dedrick observed that it's important to partner with colleges, not just high schools. Students don't always understand the responsibilities of financial aid. Chemeketa has a compliance officer for financial aid.

Krina indicated that both Willamette University and Chemeketa Community College counselors are helping with the program.

Lyndon Zaitz asked who is the target. Answer- high school students first, and then middle school eighth graders.

Lyndon has experience with students not letting others know they need help; he asked how will they be identified? Answer- Counselors and principles at the schools will help identify and recruit.

Judge Prall indicated that Tamra will make sure the information is blasted out to everyone.

Commissioner Brentano feels it's a "wonderful program;" it's been a successful program at Regis High School.

**Other:**

Commissioner Brentano announced that the Big Toy Project (park in Keizer) has sponsorship opportunities. There is a community event on June 10-12. He is going to focus on the special needs aspect of it himself.

**Adjourned:** 1:06 PM.

# **Marion County Children and Families Commission Barrier Busters**

Issue Brief Topic: EcoFIT

Date: 5/14/2015

## **BACKGROUND**

Issue Statement: How to support families with pre-teens and teen-aged children through a coordinated method of supports and services that is delivered in the context of family functioning.

Background Information: In 2011 and 2010, the Children and Families Commission convened partners to explore ways to provide families with pre-teen and teen-aged children with resources that support effective parenting methods, access to services that address juvenile behavioral or mental health issues, family conflict resolution, and individual/family function.

In the proposal, the Youth Resource Action Team recommended using available research to expand the capacity of schools and youth-serving organizations through a supportive, family-centered process, replicating the “family Check Up” model, also known as EcoFIT. The EcoFIT model was developed around parent centers located in middle schools. Parents access the center with concerns about their child. The center conducts a computer-based parent check-up. The approach aimed to enhance positive family supports in selected middle schools and in the greater community through a three-phased plan. The goal was to help families develop skills to improve family functioning, reduce youth antisocial behavior, and improve success in school.

To date, the only organization that we know of that has been trained in the EcoFIT model is the Marion County Juvenile Department, which paid for their staff members to be trained. The original three-phase model anticipated training staff within the Marion County Juvenile and Health Departments, as well as Mid Valley Mentors. Phase 2 of the proposal recommended using a training of the trainer model to expand the model to additional staff from interested community youth-serving organizations, additional middle schools, and additional law enforcement agencies. The final stage anticipated replicating the model in all middle schools within Marion County.

At the May 14, 2015 CFC meeting, staff members from the Juvenile Department are joining us to share how the model has supported the project’s original intent and the outcomes they are seeing through the use of the model. Commissioner Janet Carlson (a co-chair of the Youth Resource Action Team) will also join us to provide additional background and to answer questions.

Impact on Marion County: With the implementation of the proposed model, our community would gain additional capacity within its youth development system that 1) Provides a point of contact for families when they are struggling with difficult teen behaviors; 2) Provides an assessment that considers the family context, not just the problem; and 3) Creates a bridge of access and ongoing support to families and their teens who are in need of services.