

Marion County Children and Families Commission

To bring together community efforts and resources to ensure an equal opportunity for all children and families in Marion County to attain their full potential.

Marion County Children and Families

Family Preservation Action Team Meeting

March 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

5th Floor Commissioners Board Room, Courthouse Square
Meeting Summary Notes

Members Present: Walt Beglau, Phil Blea, Ormond Fredericks, Alison Kelley, Sam Osborn, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr (by phone), Greg Vesely, and Dick Withnell

Members Absent: Patrice Altenhofen, and Dawn Hunter

Staff: Mary Grim

Guest: Carla Bennett, Paige Clarkson, Josh Graves, Tanya Hamilton, Raquel Moore-Green, Brendan Murphy, Ben Sand, Gwen Slippy, Shelly Winterberg

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Walt Beglau welcomed members and guests.

Presentations

Dependency work in Marion County – Brendan Murphy, Marion County DA's Office

- Dependency Work Group – Senate Bill 222
 - Identified the reasons why DAs must maintain a good working relationship with local DHS.
 - What it means to be an effective prosecutor is changing.
 - Family Sentencing Alternative Program – instead of putting parents in prison and children in foster care, the DAs place them back into the community surrounded with resources to support them to be successful.
 - Agencies collaborate – building relationships.
 - District Attorneys are involved on the front end of dependency work – multidisciplinary team collaborations.
 - System response and how the DA works with caseworkers.
- Discussion
 - How are agencies and the community (faith based, etc.) working together versus working in silos?
 - In some areas there is collaboration. In other areas there is need for improvement.
 - With the initial report of abuse, the law requires agencies work together – DHS, DA, law enforcement, and child abuse center (Liberty House).
 - Due to confidentiality, there is not community involvement in the first response. Where the community can be helpful is to raise funds to support first response coordinated services, i.e., Liberty House.
 - The first response to family: DHS and law enforcement assess the child's needs.
 - Marion County has become a model county – DA and other agencies have a good relationship with DHS.
 - Clyde Saiki listened and appreciated what is happening in Marion County.
 - Work to be done: training (locally and statewide), improve the system response, communication, and how organizations work together.

Every Child – Sam Skillern, Salem Leadership Foundation; Ben Sand, Portland Leadership Foundation; and, Shelly Winterberg, Every Child

- Every Child Implementation Timeline and Work Plan – Initial Draft - attached
- Marion County background: unintended consequences of NO METH – Not In MY Neighborhood. Foster children increased from 300 to 1,200. Outreach to the faith community, and community-at-large, resulted in an increase of foster parents. In addition, there was support provided to DHS and foster families. Currently the number of children in foster care is 564. Lesson learned: 1) the vetting of potential foster parents could have been stronger; and, 2) foster families were not supported consistently. It is important to remember what Marion County service providers and community did well.
- Embrace Oregon/Every Child background:
 - Every Child will come along side what is already taking place within Marion County. Every Child's focus aligns with FPAT's strategic plan.
 - Current statistics in Portland metro area and Oregon at-large
 - 125 faith communities adopted local DHS offices in Portland metro area
 - 469 individuals interested in becoming foster parents in the Portland metro area
 - 1:4 Oregonians are involved with DHS
- Formalized Embrace Oregon/Every Child model in Portland metro area
 - Embrace Oregon contracted with DHS to bring Every Child to scale. DHS is only as strong as the community that supports it
- Every Child will roll-out services to all 36 Oregon counties.
 - Every Child is active in the tri-county/Portland, Lane, Jackson, and Josephine counties. Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties will be the next service areas.
 - Every Child will be led locally. A local organization will be identified to replicate the Portland model by providing a service center
- Portland Leadership Foundation and the Salem Leadership Foundation will work together
 - Roll out program at DHS – no program fees for Marion County. A grant has been secured to cover all costs.
 - Steering committee – which agency will house Every Child (local community committee)
 - What would it look like to replicate Every Child in Marion County? Freedom and flexibility for every community. Each community can choose what works best for their community.
 - Multicultural leadership
 - Welcome boxes – give each child a box while they are waiting for foster placement
 - Encourage community to take a tour of DHS
 - Service Center – identify an organization to house a position. This person would identify current community assets, strengths, and capacity. This would ensure that there will be one point person who knows all the services in the community to provide a cafeteria plan of services.
 - Website will provide service across Oregon, including social media
 - PSA will begin on April 3, 2017
 - Marketing materials
 - Data management and tracking system
 - User Guides: how to coordinate welcome boxes, office moms and dads, etc.
 - Bring representatives from each county together to share lessons learned
- FPAT, or a subgroup of FPAT, should consider serving as the steering committee for Marion County. FPAT meets regularly, so there would not have to be an additional meeting.
 - Integrate Every Child into the foster parent recruitment and retention strategic plan.
 - Select which organization would be best to host an Every Child Service Center.
 - Salem Leadership Foundation has had early conversations with its board to consider housing the service center and staff person. This would be a structural change and require expanding its boundaries outside of Salem-Keizer. In addition, this would

require SLF to raise funds to fund the position. SLF currently has geographic lightning rods. This position would be a lightning rod for foster care.

- Conduct a needs assessment and create a dashboard to determine what we need in our community. FPAT and the community need to focus on purchasing results versus funding programs.
- Fostering Compassion's purpose is to unite the churches to engage as foster parents and to serve DHS and CASA. Fostering Compassion wants to partner with other organizations. Fostering Compassion is under the national umbrella of Heal Our Land and the local umbrella of Salem Leadership Foundation.

FPAT Strategic Plan – Three Action Points

Walt Beglau, DA

1. Strategic Plan
 - a. Integrate Every Child into the strategic plan
 - b. Upgrade the strategic plan
2. FPAT – serve as steering committee for Every Child
3. CFC and BOC – update relationship with Every Child
 - a. Role of CFC
 - b. Role of FPAT
 - c. Role of steering committee

Jim Seymour moved to have FPAT serve as the steering committee for Every Child in Marion County.

- Greg Vesely second the motion
- Discussion
 - FPAT does not have the authority to make the decision to serve as the steering committee. The recommendation needs to be taken before the CFC, and then allow the board of commissioners to provide input and direction, if appropriate.
 - Every Child is presenting at the upcoming CFC meeting (March 16, 2017). Following the presentation, the recommendation for FPAT to serve as the steering committee will be taken before the commission to take action on.

Motion amendment: recommend to the CFC that FPAT serve as the steering committee for Every Child in Marion County

- Greg Vesely second the motion
- Discussion
 - If it is approved by the CFC and county counsel that FPAT will serve as the steering committee for Every Child, FPAT will provide leadership, direction, and evaluation.
 - Presentation to the board of commissioners:
 - By FPAT serving as the steering committee for Every Child, the return on investment would be:
 1. Ensure that Every Child and FPAT are working together;
 2. Build on work that has already been done; and,
 3. Define the outcomes
- Unanimous voice vote to take recommendation before the CFC. Recommendation: FPAT will serve as the steering committee for Every Child in Marion County.
- Walt, Sam S., and Sam O. will take this recommendation before the CFC for action.
- A conversation with Bruce Armstrong, Marion County Legal Counsel has taken place. Staff will continue to work with Bruce to ensure that there is clarity with the role of YRAT.
- Strategic plan includes funding of a Foster Parent Champion. Is that in addition to the Every Child staff position; or, could it be the same position? The options need to be explored. It could be that the Foster Parent Champion reports directly to FPAT, and the Every Child staff person is hired to work specifically with Fostering Compassion with the churches.

Enhanced Support for Foster Parents

Jim Seymour, Catholic Community Services

- Enhanced Support for Foster Parents is ready to roll-out. Memorandum of Agreement with DHS.
- Discuss in a small group, who could be the steering committee – FPAT or the Foster Parent Champion group?

Standing Updates

Agency Dashboard

- Survey FPAT members to determine what will be reported on the agency dashboard.

DHS – Sam Osborn

- Data Sheet – attached
- Approval of state-wide centralized screening unit. Local connection will be maintained.

Court Appointed Special Advocates – CASA – Shaney Starr

- 2/28 – 21 new advocates were sworn in
- Next training: 23 registered
- Serving: 150-160 children; Unserved: 400 – reduced by 100 in the last 6 months
- Awarded a national CASA growth grant \$89, 000
 - Recruitment campaign
 - Scale project – may be recognized as a national model
- Remodeling new building. Scheduled move in the last week of March.

Liberty House – Alison Kelley

- Served: increased from 300 to 600
- Unserved: 200
- Need to raise \$200,000 before the end of April and another \$200,000 by the end of June

Other

Catholic Community Services Update – Infrastructure changes:

- Maureen Casey is retiring, but will serve in an advisory role
- Katie Stubblefield, new Program Director
- Hiring Chief Operating Officer – Adult Programs and Child Youth Programs

Next meeting: May 8, 2017