

## 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

May 8, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Commissioners Board Room, Courthouse Square  
Meeting Summary Notes

**Members Present:** Patrice Altenhofen, Walt Beglau (chair), Phil Blea, Ormond Fredericks, Dawn Hunter, Alison Kelley, Sam Osborn, Jim Seymour, Greg Vesely, and Dick Withnell

**Members Absent:** Sam Skillern and Shaney Starr

**Staff:** Tamra Goettsch and Mary Grim

**Guest:** Josh Graves, Raquel Moore-Green, and Gwen Slippy

#### Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Walt Beglau welcomed members and guests.

#### Information

##### National Foster Care Month

- DHS Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner – May 12, 2017, at 5:30-8:00 p.m. – Keizer Civic Center
  - 100 RSVPs
  - FPAT members are invited to attend to welcome foster parents.
- CCS Empowering Foster Families Community Celebration – May 30, 5:30- 7:30 p.m. – Kroc Center
  - CFC and FPAT members are invited. CCS Youth Council will thank FPAT for listening to their thoughts/concerns, and FPAT's commitment to the creation of the Eliminate the Gap – Foster Parent Retention and Recruitment plan.
  - A coin will be distributed to participants
  - Audience: Marion County Board of Commissioners, Children and Families Commission, and FPAT members
- May is National Foster Care month banner across Liberty Street May 1-14, 2017

##### Every Child

- Staff Position Status: Sam Skillern and the Salem Leadership Foundation board of directors are exploring if SLF is willing/able to expand its boundary beyond Salem-Keizer (the Every Child staff position will serve all of Marion County).
- Clarity on FPAT's role: per Marion County Legal Counsel, FPAT is unable to serve in a governing capacity, i.e. advisory board or steering committee. However, Every Child is a partner and may participate in the FPAT meetings. FPAT may provide input, suggestions, and support to Every Child.
  - Every Child should be presented to the Board of Commissioners at a Management Update session.

##### Every Child Discussion:

- Every Child should showcase Marion County to the rest of the state. Its work should be packaged to show how all organizations are working together. Have one message that offers the community multiple ways to become involved.

## General Discussion

- A collective approach and ongoing measurement is needed to ensure that Marion County has the services needed to support children and families. What is the return on investment, i.e. if an organization is expanded? Does that increase the number of children they are able to serve?
- Agencies need to have a clear and common message to help donors and partners understand Marion County's direction and the needs of children and families.
- Alison volunteered to create a pictogram flowchart that takes the lay viewer through the prevention and response process. The purpose of the pictogram flowchart is to demonstrate that this is a community problem, and that agencies are working together. Brendan Murphy, DA's office, can help (per Walt Beglau).
  - Include prevention (Family Building Blocks) and mental health (Behavioral Care Network).
  - Include the neighborhoods that are at high risk for children to enter foster care (PSU study) – children in specific neighborhoods are 10x more likely to enter foster care than other neighborhoods.
  - Include the five types of adversity that parents are experiencing that increase the risk of children entering foster care.
- FPAT has key people missing on the team. Potential team members: Lisa Harnisch, Early Learning Hub, and Cindy Becker, Behavioral Care Network.
- Request to include Family Building Blocks in the standing updates. Prevention plays an integral role in family preservation.

## Eliminate the Gap – Strategic Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Parents

- Building safe and strong children, you, families, and communities' handout (attached) – a reminder that CFC, FPAT, and YRAT are catalysts for change. CFC, FPAT, and YRAT's strength is increased through leadership and sharing knowledge.
- Foster Parent Champion is needed to move the plan forward
  - Could the Foster Parent Champion position and the Every Child position be combined?
    - SLF and Every Child to determine the duties of the position that will be made possible through Every Child partnership. If there is overlap between the Every Child and the Foster Parent Champion position, then a larger conversation about duplication of services or how to merge the two interests would be warranted.
  - Possible MOU for organizations to commit to working together to achieve a collective impact.
  - CCS and DHS could provide funding for the Foster Parent Champion position.
- Community Services will act as a convener for these exploratory meetings, but does not have the capacity to take on the role of Foster Parent Champion. Mary will begin having 1:1 meetings to review the plan to confirm priorities and begin moving the plan forward. Any FPAT member may join Mary in the meetings with the different agencies. DHS is interested in participating in the 1:1 meetings.
  - Meetings: Every Child, DHS, Catholic Community Services, CASA, Salem Leadership Foundation, Family Building Blocks, and Liberty House
    - Prioritize tasks
    - Confirm who is responsible for different tasks/activities
    - Report back on 1:1 at the July FPAT meeting
  - Every Child:
    - First 1:1 meeting needs to be with Every Child – include SLF in the discussion.
      - What will the agreement between SLF and Every Child look like?
      - What is needed from FPAT?
    - What is Every Child planning to do with the strategic plan?

- Are they willing to include the role of the Foster Parent Champion in the Every Child position?
  - Are they willing to support local agencies (beyond DHS) and the model laid out in the plan? Local agencies want to be at the table and involved in Every Child's work.
  - FPAT wants to be involved
- Update plan to include measurements of success

General Discussion regarding organizational involvement:

- Funding is not an issue for the individual organizations to be involved or engaged. In other words, those present agreed that it's important to continue to use the assets and talent that are currently available.
  - Agencies have strong boards.
  - Board of Commissioners and the DA are committed.
  - Bring the lay community together. They are willing to invest in a solution.
  - United Way is going through a transition, which will be significant.
  - Bring together a strategy counsel to help DHS.
- Next FPAT agenda (July) should be focused on Every Child and what it should look like in Marion County.
- Create a one-page document about FPAT that will be used in the discussion with SLF and Every Child so the message is consistent.
  - Value of FPAT:
    - Collaboration
    - Diversity of approaches in recruiting and supporting foster parents
    - Bring children into loving and caring environments that help them thrive
- Every Child will most likely invite the members of FPAT to serve on a separate advisory committee.

Visitation Workgroup

- Purpose of the Visitation Workgroup: increase the number of child/biological parent visitation.
  - Visitation Workgroup was started by FPAT five years ago.
  - Courts are mandating increased visitation; however, transportation and time are barriers.
  - Should the workgroup continue or sunset?
- Discussion:
  - Currently DHS does not have the capacity to provide the number of visitation sessions that the families are court ordered to attend. Many children are required to have multiple weekly visits, but the foster parents may be working which makes it difficult for them to take the foster children to all bio family visitations. DHS has lost three Social Service Assistants (SSA) over the three months. Progress achieved:
    - An offsite visitation center for group visitation.
    - Increased evening and weekend visitation.
    - Recruited volunteer drivers to provide transportation to visitation.
    - Foster parents are encouraged to participate in the icebreaker model.
  - FPAT created the workgroup approximately five years ago.
  - What will Every Child's role be in relation to visitation?
    - Every Child is focused on recruitment, not visitation.
  - Foster Parent Retention and Recruitment strategic plan
    - What is needed to support foster parents?
  - It was agreed that the workgroup should not sunset. They may take a hiatus until the role of Every Child is and how/if they will include providing support for visitation.
  - If the workgroup stays focused, it is an easy addition to the plan.
    - The workgroup could identify a few ideas that might be incorporated into the plan.
    - The workgroup could draft a proposal to bring to FPAT.

## Standing Updates

### Family Building Blocks – Patrice Altenhofen

- 2016 – served 1,300 children and 780 families
  - One family out of every four that are interested in FBB services
  - 160 families on the unserved list. Staff calls families once a month to see if risk factors have changed.
- Part-time home visitor grant for North Marion/Woodburn
- Grant from Salem Health for tablet computers for home visitors. Efficiency of home visitors has increased due to the tablets, so they may be able to increase the number of families they serve.
- Current staffing: almost 100 FTE

### Liberty House – Alison Kelley

- 2016 – served 600 children in clinic (not mental health)
- 2017 – will serve more than 1,000 children in the clinic and mental health
- Hired four mental health therapists. One more will be hired in July.
- Offices are available in new building for the DA and law enforcement.

### Court Appointed Special Advocates – CASA – Dick Withnell

- 23 new CASAs sworn in
- 370 unserved, which is down from more than 400
- May 23, 2017 – Open House for new location: 3530 River Rd N, Keizer, OR
- Additional board members are needed

### Catholic Community Services

- CCS board has agreed to accept the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel: St. Joseph's Shelter, Mission Benedict, and Casa Adele.
- Enhancing Support for Foster Parents
  - Questions from the Behavioral Care Network
    - Is it enhanced support for foster parents, why is focused behavioral support for foster children?
    - What is happening with the Behavioral Rehabilitation Services?
    - How does this coordinate with the New Solutions Program?

### DHS – Sam Osborn

- Data Sheet – attached
- Change in leadership
  - The application process for the Oregon Health Plan has transferred back to DHS.
  - Sam Osborn is transitioning out of the role of District Manager to OHP.
  - Currently five program managers. Two new program managers will be added.
  - Ormond will lead Child Welfare and the Early Learning Hub. He will also represent DHS on the CFC and FPAT.
  - Self-sufficiency – DHS has placed three family coaches in the following schools: Auburn, Hoover, and Washington Elementary Schools. These coaches are at the schools before and after school to interact with the parents and sign them up for services when appropriate.

### Other

- Tamra to have a conversation with Sam Skillern about Salem Leadership Foundation and Every Child. Report back to FPAT at the July 10, 2017 meeting.

Next meeting: July 10, 2017