

## **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**

September 11, 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, Phil Blea, Dawn Hunter, Jim Seymour, Shaney Starr, and Dick Withnell

**Members Absent:** Ormond Fredericks, Alison Kelley, and Sam Skillern

**Staff:** Tamra Goettsch and Mary Grim

**Guests:** Paige Clarkson, Raquel Moore-Green, and Gwen Slippy

#### **Welcome, Introductions, Announcements**

- Walt welcomed members and guests.

#### **Every Child**

- Every Child RFI distributed for review.
  - No changes were suggested. Okay to let the RFI.
- FPAT is not a steering committee or governing body; however, FPAT may provide feedback and suggestions to the Every Child efforts in Marion County.
- Embrace Oregon will hold a licensing agreement between them and the backbone organization. The backbone organization is responsible to fund the Every Child coordinator position, as well as, an annual \$1,000 fee to Embrace Oregon.
- RFI to be let by the end of September
  - Mission Fellowship is interested in serving as the backbone organization. They are currently providing support to Every Child and DHS until a backbone organization has been identified.
  - Catholic Community Services – not interested, but they are willing to help with grant writing and mentoring.

#### **General Discussion**

- Dashboard/Scoreboard – Metrics – for the next few months Mary will meet with Ormond to gather statistics for the scoreboard, which will help to show the need
  - Small group meet face-to-face to compile and review the data (below)
  - How many children/youth:
    - Have entered foster care?
    - Have been placed with a relative foster parent guardian?
    - Have exited foster care?
    - Have achieved permanency?
    - Have had disrupted placement? Why?
    - Have aged out?
    - Are not placed with their siblings?
    - Sibling set placements have more than one sibling set placed in one foster home?
    - Are in one foster home? (i.e., four foster homes have three foster children or five foster homes have two foster children)
    - Are staying in hotels waiting for placement? How long?

- Have CASAs? How many more CASAs are needed?
- Average foster children/youth age
- Foster Parents
  - How many foster parents?
  - How many new foster parents?
  - Why do foster parents continue?
  - How many foster parents resigned? Why?
  - How many foster parents were let go? Why?

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

- Foster Parent Champion
  - Should FPAT be the Foster Parent Champion, or is it an individual? It was agreed that the Foster Parent Champion should be an individual (contractor or dedicated employee).
  - Which agency should “house” the Foster Parent Champion?
    - Catholic Community Services is willing to be the fiscal agent, prepare a scope of work, recruit, and house the position. Catholic Community Services would also provide day-to-day supervision.
    - The position would provide reports to FPAT and receive feedback and suggestions.
  - Funding needed: \$20,000 for one year at approximately 8 hours/week
    - Catholic Community Services committed \$5,000
    - Marion County Community Services committed \$2,000
      - NOTE: it is cost prohibitive for Community Services to hire someone. Community Services could hold a contract, but a management team would be needed to provide direction.
  - Some of the work is already being done by various organizations. How do we fold in what is already being done and stand in the gap?
    - Gap plan will be adjusted and updated as needs change.
- **Motion:** Patrice moved that Catholic Community Services be the fiscal agent and FPAT will provide feedback/suggestions to the Foster Parent Champion.
  - Second: Phil
  - Passed unanimously by voice vote
- Next steps:
  - Jim will develop scope of work
  - Distribute scope of work to FPAT for feedback
  - Recruit and hire Foster Parent Champion by end of October
    - Potential recruits:
      - Jackie Franke
      - Maureen Casey
      - Mickey Lansing
  - Send a letter to DHS central office to request funding. Tamra will take the lead.

### **Standing Updates**

- DHS – Gwen Slippy
  - New DHS Representatives
    - Fariborz Pakseresht, DHS Director
    - Ormond Fredericks, District 3 Manager
    - Shannon Biteng, Program Manager
    - Lori Price, Interim Child Welfare Director
  - Current: 576 children/youth in foster care; 176 relative placements; 219 foster parents

- DHS – Dawn Hunter
  - Collaborative project for coordinated effort for child abuse assessments.
    - DHS, Deputy DA's (criminal and juvenile), Liberty House, Salem Police Department meets daily to review what has come in during the previous 24-hours and determine how they should proceed with an assessment. Note: hopeful to have all law enforcement working on this project to have shared office space at the facility by the end of the year.
- Family Building Blocks – Patrice Altenhofen
  - Awarded a two-year pilot program to provide court community care for children in Polk County while parents are attending court proceedings or mental health appointments.
  - FBB was awarded the COPE Class contract and will provide parenting classes for parents going through divorce proceedings.
  - Twentieth Anniversary Luncheon on October 19, 2017.
- CASA – Shaney Starr
  - July 2016 thru July 2017 – 246 children/youth served and 71 new advocates
  - Unserved approximately 250 children/youth
  - Marion County Dependency Court is encouraging children/youth to attend court proceedings.
    - Teddy bear program – children/youth are given teddy bears to hold while in court. 1,300 dependency hearings were held in one month.
- Enhanced Support for Foster Parents – Jim Seymour
  - Goal is to have the first “Array Home” in place by November 2017
  - Positions confirmed: Behavioral Support Specialist, Resource Coordinator, and Project Director
- Visitation Workgroup – Phil Blea
  - Metrics will be available after the next visitation workgroup meeting
- Marion County Youth and Family Crisis Services – Phil Blea
  - This new program has launched and offers:
    - In-home triage and services
    - Prevention supports that are aimed at diverting emergency room visits
    - Early intervention for behavioral health supports and services
  - Brochures to be distributed via email
- Miscellaneous
  - Scholarships available at St. Joseph Schools – 40 available for Kindergarten through sixth grade.
  - Santa in the Bag, Putnum Studio Theatre at Willamette University – 65 available seats for the Saturday, December 23, 2017 performances have been secured for foster children and their families to attend.