

Marion County Children and Families Commission
November 9, 2017 Meeting Summary Notes
11:30 AM
Grant Room, Broadway Commons

Commission Members: Jaime Arredondo, Walt Beglau, ~~Sue Bloom~~, Carla Bennett, Deputy Chief George Burke, Gladys Blum, ~~Gayle Caldarazzo Doty~~, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Jayne Downing, ~~Ormond Fredericks~~, Levi Herrera Lopez, Chuck Lee, Krina Lee, Cyndi Leinassar, Pete McCallum (by phone), Cary Moller, Chief Jerry Moore, ~~Honorable Cheryl Pellegrini~~, Allan Pollock, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, and Shaney Starr

Staff: Denise Clark, Tamra Goettsch, Krista Ulm

Guests: Patrice Altenhofen, Family Building Blocks; Sam Carroll, YMCA; Natasha Cronin, YMCA; Collin Willis (guest of Jim Seymour)

Welcome & Introductions- Jim Seymour

Jim asked everyone to introduce themselves and share what they were thankful for this season.

Approval of Meeting Summary Notes- Sam made a motion to approve the September 21, 2017 Meeting Summary Notes; Shaney seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Update- Tamra

Conversations are underway with members about their attendance at Children and Families (CFC) meetings. There are six meetings per year; a member only needs to attend 5 to meet the attendance criteria. Some people are choosing to move from being a vote casting member to an honorary member. An honorary member receives meeting information, attends meetings, and gives input; however, they cannot vote. Attendance of honorary members is not a requirement and does not impact a quorum.

New members:

- Carla Bennett, Willamette Valley Community Health
- Deputy Chief George Burke, Salem Police Department

New honorary members

- Ron Hays, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley
- Chief Jerry Moore, Salem Police Department
- Sheriff Jason Myers, Marion County Sheriff's Office – waiting on BOC action
- Marilyn Dedrick – waiting on BOC action

Pending appointments:

- Patrice Altenhofen, Family Building Blocks
- Undersheriff Troy Clausen, Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Troy Gregg, Marion County Juvenile Department

Remaining vacant positions- five

Randy Franke has resigned; he feels connected to the 0-5 years age group and is going to focus his energies there. Randy was a “founding member” of the commission. He advocated for the establishment of this commission and others statewide; he was a “visionary.”

Presentation- Mid Valley Court Care, Sam Carrol

Background: For years, there were challenges and barriers for families who had children, no child care options, and who needed to attend family court. Many times this meant that families brought their children into court with them; the result was children being exposed to things they shouldn't. Single mothers were impacted mostly and had to bring their children with them because they did not have other viable options. The court was concerned about this, too, and approached the YMCA to help them figure out how to change the situation. Out of these conversations, and many others, resulted in Mid Valley Court Care.

Natasha Cronin, YMCA, oversees the Marion County court care program and reported that they are working with other partners, such as Polk County. The program recognizes how difficult it is for a mom to participate in the court process when her child is at her side. With the YMCA's close proximity to the courthouse, it makes it easier for children to be cared for at the YMCA Mid Valley Court Care and it's a safe place for parents to leave their children. The program has educational opportunities built into its programming, such as STEM activities, and each child is sent home with a book. A steering committee is being established and a subcommittee is raising money to support the program to be open 4 days a week. People can register or make an appointment on-line, or they can just show up.

Patrice Altenhofen, Family Building Blocks (FBB), is the court care provider for Polk County and they are happy to be a part of this program. She appreciates the cooperation between the providers. There is work going on with the legislature to receive funding.

Jayne Downing, Center for Hope and Safety, reported that before the program existed, her organization would receive calls from the court saying that they needed kids taken out of the court room and were looking for someone to care for them. Last year they had 22,000+ contacts through their program. The number of women of color seeking services, especially the Latino community, has dropped due to fear. Based on the Center's past experience, when outside factors (such as unrest in the community) are present or unknown, women don't seek outside help; they just “knuckle down” and stay in the bad situation. The Center for Hope and Safety offers training for the court care staff to know how to handle all situations, including the horrific stories they are going to hear.

Mid Valley Court Care's greatest need is to get the word out in the community. They want to provide consistent information between Polk and Marion counties. Flyers are being mailed out and CCTV is doing a spotlight on the program. The program is not able to serve the current need.

It was suggested to utilize social media; they do have a Facebook page.

Walt indicated that it's an access to justice. He asked if the Oregon State Bar has helped get the word out; the answer was yes.

Updates

Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT)- Walt

Jim reminded those present about the kids who serve on Catholic Community's Forever Home Youth Council who came to the commission and asked that it take on the foster care problem. The council is thankful that their voices were heard and that the strategic plan continues to focus on recruiting and retaining foster parents. FPAT hired a consultant to develop the plan. The consultant met with kids and foster parents to help identify foster care needs and possible solutions. FPAT is now looking for someone to coordinate and champion this next phase, one who can ensure action happens. The next meeting is at 10:00 AM Monday, November 13 at Courthouse Square.

- FPAT is using the Foster Care Gap Strategic Plan to guide its development of a champion position. The team is looking for a spokesperson within the community that can help FPAT and others "move the dial."
- Currently identifying the "ask" and deliverables; as well as addressing the financial needs.
 - Approached the Department of Human Services and asked for a \$20,000 investment to help hire a champion to help with the foster care issue.

Carla Bennett noted that the Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) decided they wanted to put some energy into the foster kids' issue. They are sending a person (Lisa Harnisch) to the next FPAT meeting to represent them, listen, and see where the CCO can integrate with this effort. They endeavor to see that the kids get the care needed concerning their behavioral health.

Together Toward Tomorrow- Tamra

The CFC Steering Committee has agreed to bring Chan Hellman to the 2018 breakfast event scheduled on February 13, 2018 from 7:30- 10:00 AM. The plan is to continue the conversation around hope in the community; these type of conversations can be difficult or hard for folks to understand. The goal is to go deeper into the subject this time; perhaps there will be a panel on how to deliberately infuse hope into an organization. Dr. Hellman wants to be "put to work" while he is here and is willing to do whatever he can to help move the conversation along. He's willing to speak to various organizations, talk about how hope is not an outcome, but rather a journey or process; talk about how hope is involved in recovery; how hope is the foundation for those experiencing trauma informed care; and more.

Tamra will be connecting with a person in Olympia, Washington who has been successfully applying hope theories into an organization.

Ideas for the event:

- Breakout sessions 101 and 102
- Shaney would like to have some time with Dr. Hellman. Perhaps have a dinner giving information on how to imbed this in an organization's everyday work life.
- Engage youth right at the beginning of the event.
- Have a short Hope motivational video.

- Some youth in the health department partners are “phenomenal” speakers around recovery; they use high tech presentations.
 - Have Chan do something separate for the recovery partners.
 - The 12 step program works hand-in-hand with the Hope perspective.
- Provide concrete steps for incorporating into an organization. Have an action team “train the trainer.” Give examples of people who’ve done it.
- Articulate a few of the possibilities that can be implemented into the community, what partners are currently working on together. Example, showcase foster parents, an organizational success story, or how hope is incorporated into helping every third grader read at grade level.
- Put a lens on what is being done. People wearing pins that remind each other of the project they are working on. Have a mantra, “We can, if...”
- Within the medical system transition from trauma informed to hope filled.
- Discuss how “the root cause (of issues)” and “hope” interplay.

If anyone wants a group to have access to Dr. Hellman, let Tamra know.

Announcements:

Shaney announced the 2nd annual “We are for the Children” luncheon being held December 14 at the Red Lion. Last year’s event really helped in re-building the CASA program. She welcomes commission members attending; she’s not necessarily recruiting table captains from this group, she just would appreciate members’ presence. They are reaching their goal of 200 new CASA Volunteers; they are down to only needing 75 volunteers to serve all of the kids in foster care.

Walt noted the increase in child abuse reporting. It stems from the school district’s efforts in training its staff. He welcomes everyone’s input and involvement as they strive for a positive outcome in seeing that the children are being taken care of, but also know they are following the law.

Patricia announced that FBB is hosting parenting classes for Marion County Family Law. These classes are mandated through the courts. It was suggested that Mid Valley Court Care be promoted at these meetings. The classes are being hosted at Chelsea’s Place. A person can sign up at the website. They are also partnering on the Gala of Trees event on December 8.

Jayne announced that the Center for Hope and Safety opened a new shelter this year with animal kennels built on the side of the building. It is called “Safe Paws.” There will be a separate side of the complex for those who own pets as they can now accommodate them. This is removing one more barrier that prevents women from coming to the shelter.

Sam made note of the grass roots after school soccer program that that is now up and running. It is a free, school based, program that is now in 10 schools. It entails both a homework club and soccer practice. It helps kids in their transition from elementary to middle school. An extra benefit is it is engaging parents and grandparents.

Deputy Chief Burke told of the development of the proposed new police facility and how the community was involved in the process. There have been lots of good conversations and he thanks the community for making this happen. They are currently working on the design of the building.

Alan Pollock noted that there is a Cherriots survey that he'd like to get out to all parties; it asks what bus services the community would like provided. There will be no new services until January of 2019.

The new Children in Crisis Service had a successful open house; it was a soft roll out. It's really going to make a difference in the community. In-home services have already been provided.

Catholic Community Services is opening up its shelter for homeless families. They are looking for folks that would like to be a family friend. St. Joseph's Family Shelter is located in Mt. Angel.

Willamette Valley Community Health has moved to 3025 Ryan Street. They are under construction doing some building improvements. Dr. Filetti will not be coming; he has canceled. The opioid work group has Jim Farraris, Woodburn Police Department, coming to make a presentation on November 15 from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. The medical community and law enforcement are doing some cross work.

The question was raised as to what happened to DrxugSafe. Tamra indicated that when the CFC started DrxugSafe, it was ahead of the times. Though there were many problems due to opioid use, the community was not ready to talk about it. The website created was transferred to the Health Department. Cary responded that the local alcohol and drug committee is doing an analysis of the program to determine how to integrate it in with some other things they are doing. They are looking at some timely things that can be brought forward; staff training is occurring.

Chief Moore indicated that the community goes through cycles; in the past it was the meth epidemic. The leaders in the community need to "stay on top of it." Many of those struggling with the opioid problem are the "accidental addicts;" those that were in a car accident or the dental patient who had molars removed and accidentally became addicted. He reminded everyone that there are still drop boxes in front of the police departments for dispensing of old, unused drugs.

Dental care providers are being targeted for receiving educational information about this problem. The highest numbers of opioid prescriptions are being written in Silverton, Stayton, and Dallas.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:24 PM