

Marion County Children & Families Commission
January 19, 2017 Meeting
11:30 AM
Broadway Commons, Salem, Oregon

Meeting Summary Notes by Denise Clark

Commission Members Present: ~~Jaime Arredondo~~, Walt Beglau, Sue Bloom, Gladys Blum, Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Marilyn Dedrick, Jayne Downing, ~~Faye Fagel~~, Randy Franke, ~~Ron Hays~~, ~~Levi Herrera-Lopez~~, ~~Chuck Lee~~, ~~Krina Lee~~, Cyndi Leinassar, Pete McCallum, ~~Chief Jerry Moore~~, Sheriff Jason Myers, Sam Osborn, ~~Allan Pollock~~, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr, and Lyndon Zaitz

Staff Present: Denise Clark, Tamra Goetsch, Mary Grim, and Krista Ulm

Guests Present: David Foster, citizen; Ormond Fredericks, Department of Human Services; Pamala Garrick, Salem Housing Authority; Joshua Graves, Catholic Community Services; Chris Wellert, citizen

Approval of September 15, 2016 Meeting Summary Notes: Lyndon made a motion to approve the notes; Randy seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Review

- **Bylaw Ratification-** Changes include adding Honorary Members and a term limits change. Jayne Downing made a motion to ratify the bylaws; Cyndi Leinassar seconded. Motion passed
- **Commission Leadership-** The bylaws allow for a chair and vice chair of the commission. Sam Skillern made a motion to approve Cyndi Leinassar as the chair of the commission and Jim Seymour as vice chair; Randy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Carlson thanked Tracy Prall and Jason Myers for their excellent work as co-chairs. She also thanked Jim and Cyndi for agreeing to serve as the commission's leadership.

Judge Prall, Terri Frohnmayer and Rod Calkins have all resigned from the commission. In recognition of their service, a plaque was created for each of them and the Community Services staff will ensure the plaques are delivered to each of them.

Community Resource Network (CRN) Presentation:

Mary Grim- The CRN began in 2011; however, it was ceased in 2012 due to changes in the Community Services staffing levels. After months of work and reprogramming, the program is being relaunched. The CRN, an electronic medium, provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to share excess resources to meet the needs presented or to identify items needed.

Tamra noted that it can also be used as a tool for this commission to help identifying un-met needs.

Pamela Garrett, Salem Housing Authority, is a full-time grant writer and shared the following information:

- The Emergency Housing Network meets monthly.
- People can make requests of the homeless voucher lottery.

- The CRN validates the resource needs to service providers.
- She maintains an email group, a resource list that empowers service providers.

Mary Grim-

- Wasi Khan, Galuxux, Inc., has revamped the CRN program.
- The program helps to match goods and services with local need.
- The CRN connects organizations sharing resources and needs; it compliments 211.
- Encourages agency to agency coordination.
- Businesses or organizations can seek resources or share excess resources.
- Simple to use and allows agencies to register on-line.
- A membership drive is underway.
- Recruiting advisory board members; until this is established, the CFC's steering committee will serve in this capacity. Hope to have an advisory committee meet in March.
- Once 100 members are registered, requests will be sent out.
- Anyone interested in a presentation may contact Mary or Krista mgrim@co.marion.or.us or kulm@co.marion.or.us. This is agency driven, it is not for individuals. Case workers may present the needs of an individual through a CRN request.
- Requests for volunteers are appropriate, but not requests for fundraising – this will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- At this time, the CFC steering committee and Community Services staff will be responsible for any financial management needs. They will address unusual needs that require funds. Requests must go through an approval process in order to avoid an inappropriate request going out to a larger audience. The program is designed to be automated as much as possible.
- All agencies have to be licensed organizations.
- This is just one tool, no guarantees that a request will be met; there are additional resource agencies in the county, which should be considered prior to submitting a request.

Wasi was thanked for sharing his expertise and pro-bono work on this project that is valued at over \$100,000.

Krista Ulm was thanked for being the internal advocate for making this happen.

Sue Bloom expressed that she is thrilled that this is coming back; her organization used it in the past when they had an abundance of items.

Any philanthropic funds contributed to this project will be managed through county services and donors will get a report on how the funds were spent. The CRN is designed to complement non-profits, not compete. It was suggested that a general notice of this program be sent to cities and the school districts.

Cyndi suggested that staff and other key individuals connect with businesses, attend chamber meetings to educate the community about the program.

The turn-a-round time for requests entered will depend on available resources; however, once a request is approved by the program administrator, it's instantly disseminated to the appropriate members.

It was suggested that volunteers be used to cover the requests 24/7 and not just during county staff's working hours. This feedback will be taken back to the steering committee. (The first line of defense is to call 211 as that is covered 24/7.)

FPAT Update:

For the development of a foster parent recruitment and retention strategic plan, the county secured an independent contractor. A draft report and plan was received by Community Services, but final edits were still underway. The purpose of the contract was to develop a plan that identifies the next steps for recruitment and retention. This will be brought to the CFC Steering Committee in February; after which it will be brought to the commission.

- The Mocking Bird Model (foster parent support) has been well received by the plan oversight task force.
- The model identifies a "Hub Home" to be a respite provider to nearby foster families; no kids are placed in the Hub Home, but serves as a mentor and positive support for the foster parent homes.
- The model supports paid mentors to support kid who are in foster care.
- There are 500+ kids in foster care in Marion County; only 250 homes available.
- Dick Withnell is expressed interest in coordinating another foster home recruitment event.
- Catholic Community Services submitted a fund request application to DHS based on the Mocking Bird Model; however it wasn't funded.

Sam Osborn remarked that he is excited about the model as it has a lot of merit.

- Portland's *Embrace Oregon*, has selected Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties for its next outreach. It has been successful with recruitment in other counties.
- Embrace Oregon would like FPAT to meet with Marion County to identify how to coordinate.
- There will be a media kickoff on January 27. Invitations will be sent out.

Walt thanked everyone for their efforts. He also noted that Clyde Saiki, DHS Director, complimented Marion County on the work that is being done here. They hope to turn around the whole foster parent certification process. Sam Osborn indicated that the letter from FPAT was very helpful; they were able to get approval for two new foster home certifiers.

Youth Resources Action Team (YRAT)

Cyndi remarked that the YRAT committee has been meeting regularly and that everyone is excited about the work that's being done.

There is a new 2017 Scope of Work for this committee. Jayne Downing made a motion to authorize YRAT to continue its efforts until January of 2018; Sue Bloom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Community Education Update: Walt expressed his appreciation for the two community education presentations shared on adverse childhood experiences and hope; both were "remarkable" and he had his staff attended them.

Shaney noted that CASA volunteers could never have afforded to attend a Dr. Felitti or Dr. Hellman type of event; she thanked organizers for making it possible. For CASA volunteers it meant participating in something bigger than is usually made available.

Jim Seymour noted that Dr. Hellman made the comment that we need to move beyond trauma informed care, to hope for communities; it's the un-resolved trauma. Healing comes from hope informed communities. More discussion is needed on what that might mean.

Family Check-Up Update: Over 60 individuals from various organizations have been trained in the “Family check-up” events. The next steps are to hold more conversations regarding effective impact and sustainability of the program training within the community.

Other: On December 13, 2016 the Behavioral Care Network sponsored a trauma informed care presentation. Trauma Informed Care Oregon is interested in offering another one of these events.

Sam Skillern noted that Sally Cook, a new City Council member, is interested in trauma informed care and would like to be involved.

Joshua Graves remarked that there is a dis-appropriate number of Hispanic youth in the criminal justice system. He feels that there needs to be a lot more conversation around that. He appreciates having a county focus group looking at the youth of our community.

Focus on the Future

Mary Grim conducted a survey asking what commission members would like to focus on for the coming year. The greatest areas of interest included community awareness on children and families issues; youth employment barriers/opportunities; and foster care issues. There is still time to give input.

Cyndi encouraged everyone to “tell our story.” Through community events, the CFC is getting the word out.

Sue Bloom expressed that she is pleased how youth employment and development is improving and how organizations are working together better to serve kids. This will be shared with YRAT.

Sam Osborn suggested addressing mental health issues.

Announcements:

Cyndi announced that Wednesday, January 25th is the HUDs (Federal Housing and Urban Development) homeless count. They are looking for volunteers; on-line registration is available.

During the month of December, the warming centers were very active. Last year they opened 4 days, this year 17 days; housing 169 people every night. They need 60 volunteers a night to operate. Cyndi expressed thanks to the First Christian Church, the city of Salem who provided facilities, and to the many volunteers. The structure of the hours was aligned with the UGM (Union Gospel Mission) food service hours. There was a deliberate choice to not provide food at the warming centers, which proved to be a challenge. The goal of the center was to just provide warm sleeping hours. Sam Skillern noted that Cyndi’s team really “took a lot of hits” from the community and the media; it was unfair criticism. However, he observed that Cyndi and her team didn’t get defensive; they just carried on their work.

The CASA program received 28 new applications to serve as a CASA.

Walt noted that he and Sheriff Myers have been trying to map out the mental health assets in the community. They would like to change the culture regarding mental health. He hopes the CFC can help with this.

Sam Skillern remarked that good things are happening out at Cascade Gateway Park, including people getting married and getting jobs. His organization participated in the first homeless count in Polk and Marion counties; this made a difference in Salem Leadership Foundation’s perspective by “going out and touching those folks.”

The Boys and Girls Club downtown chapter is hosting an open house on January 27, 2017; information will be shared about local and state activities.

The Center for Hope and Safety met its \$100,000 challenge and will be able to open a new shelter. She thanked everyone for their help and support.

Flyers about the Marion County Fair's public competitions were shared. Anyone that serves children and families was encouraged to share information about how to participate. Also, the STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Arts, Agriculture and Math) program is looking for partners to join in creating hands-on activities for Sunday (July 9) at the fair. The goal of STEAM is to connect how STEAM relates to real life situations and future employment. Studies have shown that youth involved in 4H/FFA seem to have a higher level of resiliency; it's a component for positive youth development. Sam Skillern agreed that the county fair, compared to the state fair, is a more child-friendly environment for families.

Gayle expressed, "It is an honor to be a part of this group and seeing all of the wonderful things that are going on."

Meeting adjourned: 1:19 PM.