

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

January 8, 2018 - 10:00-11:30 a.m.

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

Members Present: Ormond Fredericks, Dawn Hunter, Alison Kelley, Jim Seymour, Shaney Starr, and Dick Withnell

Members Absent: Patrice Altenhofen, Walt Beglau, Phil Blea, and Sam Skillern

Staff: Tamra Goetsch and Mary Grim

Guests: Paige Clarkson, Josh Graves, Brooke Gray, Todd Kwapisz, Raquel Moore-Green, and Shelly Winterberg

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

- Jim welcomed members and guests.

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

- Reviewed Status Report and Questions
 - Obtain agreement on the role of the Foster Parent Champion, including issues/tasks that are not the responsibility of the Foster Parent Champion.
 - Correction in strategic plan – DHS hired 2 temporary positions (correct 10 positions to 2 temporary positions).
 - Action Item: Increase the number of foster parents/homes. Is this action item focused on general recruitment or recruitment of foster parents that can provide specialized care?
 - Current action item language was approved as part of the strategic plan. Postpone making changes until the Foster Parent Champion has been hired.
 - Recruitment of foster parents is a long process that begins with cultivating interest and understanding prior to a person becoming a foster parent.
 - Current recruiters: Every Child, Gwen Slippy from DHS, and CASA
 - Obtain agreement on the role of the Foster Parent Champion. Job description needs to be clear and should be reviewed and updated by the Foster Parent Champion committee.
 - Skills needed: conflict management and a working knowledge of the foster care system in Marion County.
 - Metrics to measure progress/success (return on investment).
 - Metrics are required if DHS funding is to be secured.
 - The Foster Parent Champion focus to fill the gap: 1) target business community; 2) expanded role in the future; and 3) Enhanced Support for Foster Parents.
 - Position tasks to be driven by a sense of urgency.
 - Increase number of foster parents and CASAs.
 - Need to identify the current number of foster parents and the ideal number of foster parents needed.
 - Host/coordinate recruitment events (2-3 times per year).
 - In the plan, update 'TBD' with 'take direction from FPAT.'
 - Work between meetings to move the action items forward.
 - Alison requested that the status report be updated to reflect the items discussed; and, to review and update the status report on a regular basis. Those present agreed.

- Recruitment
 - Include required skills in the job description: conflict management and a working knowledge of the foster care system in Marion County.
- Foster Parent Champion Recruitment Update.
 - Interview panel: Walt, Jim, Ormond, Sam, Tamra, and Mary

Standing Updates

- Every Child – Shelly
 - Steering Committee recruitment in process.
 - Steering Committee will begin meeting in February.
 - Will develop a key stakeholders contact list to include in meeting announcements and other communication.
 - Siletz Tribe to recommend a representative to serve on the steering committee member
 - A representative from Woodburn will be identified to serve on the steering committee, too.
- Schematic – Alison – attached w/updates from 1/8/2018 FPAT meeting.
 - Developed in response to discussion in a previous FPAT meeting.
 - Purpose – how to communicate with lay people about the system?
 - Pictograph that shows the flow of children and families as they are touched by the various system organizations. The touchpoints of services are: intervention and investigation; helping children and families to be safe and ensuring justice; and, engaging positively in life.
 - Suggestion:
 - Prevention; Helping Child and Family to be Safe and Ensuring Justice; and, Engaging Positively in Life.
 - DHS Self-Sufficiency Program: many families receive TANF, SNAP, and WIC benefits. DHS is increasing its presence in schools to ensure service for children and families. Focus on increasing stability to move families to move out of poverty.
 - Distinguish between Self-Sufficiency and Child Protective Services.
 - Post schematic cycle online with links to the various steps/agencies/roles.
- DHS – Ormond
 - DHS is experiencing high staff turnover and vacancies..
 - 8 months to fill positions and train staff.
- CASA – Shaney Starr
 - Program Manager position – three applicants.
 - Donor database.
 - Successful “We are for the Children” luncheon – met match funding.
 - Scheduled meeting with Chan Hellman – February 12, 2018.
 - Need 75 more CASAs to serve all children in foster care (In 2016, 200 were needed).
 - 23 new CASAs are scheduled for the next CASA training.
 - 20 people to be sworn in (May or June).
 - Comfort dog training begins on January 24, 2018, and will be sworn in at a later date.

- Liberty House – Alison Kelley
 - Currently recruiting additional staff
 - Multi-disciplinary Team
 - Coordinate Services
 - Primary Care Provider
 - Child Abuse Response Team: decreases time spent to determine services needed
 - 3 offices
 - Received a grant from Salem Health to provide Karly's Law examinations in Polk County
 - Facility dog named Eli a black lab
 - Social media – law enforcement update
 - Increase in bullying
 - Middle and high school students are posting nude photos
 - Youth suicide has increased

- Catholic Community Services – Jim Seymour and Josh Graves
 - Catholic Community Services is celebrating their 80th anniversary
 - 31,000 nights/year of affordable housing
 - Serve 4,000 people per day
 - Enhanced Support for Foster Care
 - Final negotiations for two central home parents
 - Contract versus employees
 - Contractor insurance requirements
 - Next phase: identify homes in proximity and ask if they would like to be engaged
 - Geographic location for central homes: one in central home in south Salem and one in central home in northeast Salem

- Visitation Workgroup – Todd Kwapisz
 - Purpose: enhance the visitation experience for parents and children
 - Identify how to get the community involved
 - Increase the number of SSAs and provide them with training
 - Determine how to increase visitation capacity
 - Visitation rooms need makeovers – 15-20 rooms
 - Subgroup create a timeline
 - What is needed?
 - Identify potential partners, i.e. Home Depot or local interior designers
 - Create themes
 - Include a play area
 - Create a flyer to solicit organizations to complete room makeovers

- Dick Withnell
 - Foster Parent Champion suggestions: schedule presentations and meetings
 - Chamber of Commerce forum panel discussion
 - Civic Organizations: city clubs, Rotary, etc.
 - Ormond will be speaking at the Downtown Rotary club on January 31, 2018.
Topic: The State of Foster Care

Next meeting: March 12, 2018