

**Marion County Children & Families Commission**  
**March 17, 2016 Meeting**  
**11:30 AM Broadway Commons, Salem, Oregon**  
**Summary Notes**

Summary Notes by Denise Clark

**Commission Members Present:** ~~Jaime Arredondo~~, Cyndi Leinassar (formerly Astley), ~~Walt Beglau~~, ~~Glady's Blum~~, Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty, Rod Calkins, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Marilyn Dedrick, ~~Donald Dodson~~, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, ~~Randy Franke~~, Terri-Frohnmayr, Ruth Gelbrich, Ron Hays, ~~Levi Herrera-Lopez~~, Chuck Lee, ~~Krina Lee~~, ~~Matthew Lucas~~, Pete McCallum, ~~Chief Jerry Moore~~, Sheriff Jason Myers, Sam Osborn, ~~Allan Pollock~~, Judge Tracy Prall, ~~Jim Seymour~~, ~~Tim Sinatra~~, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr, ~~Stephen Thorsett~~, ~~Lyndon Zaitz~~

**Staff Present:** Denise Clark (meeting recorder), Cathy Crocker, Tamra Goettsch

**Guests Present:** Troy Clausen, MC Sheriff's Office; Pamala Garrick, Salem Housing Authority; Melissa Kidd, Salem-Keizer Transit; Jon Reeves, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

**Meeting Convened:** 11:55 AM

Meeting minutes- Cyndi made a motion to approve the 1/28/16 Meeting Summary Notes; Sheriff Myers seconded. Motion Passed.

**Family Checkup-** Commissioner Carlson

- 50 people were in attendance at the orientation.
- A transformation grant was written; Willamette Valley Community Health approved the grant (\$97k).
- There will be trainings- 5 cohorts of 12 individuals each.
- The grant will be managed out of the Marion County Community Services office.
- Will work with the Youth Resources Action Team and will bring reports back to this body as needed.

**Together Towards Tomorrow Event-** Tamra

- Another successful event
- Went from 8 speakers last year down to 5 this year, which made it more manageable.
- Thanks to everyone who helped fill the room.
- Hope to bring new people and new organizations next year.
- Need an outreach strategy for next year.
- Marion County Community Services will manage reaching out to the 45 responders wanting to connect to organizations.
- Sam Skillern remarked that he enjoyed hearing from the Deputy District Attorney Brendan Murphy.

**Alliance for Hope International-** Commissioner Carlson

- A report is out on the Marion County findings and published on the Public Safety Coordinating Council web page
- Next step is to address the 28 report recommendations.
- A work group was put together to identify who would be the lead and the time frames for implementing.

Jayne Downing (Center for Hope and Safety) said that the center received Justice Reinvestment dollars. With those dollars they hired a bilingual advocate who's working with the District Attorney Victim Assistance Office.

- The new hire has 100 hours of training.
- The person is present at the court every day for restraining order hearings.
- The advocate helps the person with a safety plan.
- Legal advocacy is a goal down the road.
- Wants to allow victims to appear by video. (Family Justice Centers have this option.) This allows them to not be in the same vicinity of the perpetrator; there are also child care options.

Sheriff Myers said that he appreciated Commissioner Carlson putting this together as the recommendations will help the community.

Commissioner Carlson indicated that the recommendation for the CFC's role is to help youth in the community. The CFC can also help the system by distributing information.

Tamra noted that the report prompted the CFC body to invite Jayne Downing to be on the commission. She noted that it is important to identify how to support each other's work.

#### **April- Child Abuse Prevention Month- Cathy Crocker**

The blue ribbons that will be placed on the tree at the Capitol reflect the 10,010 victims in the state of Oregon; 813 of those victims were in Marion County, with 13 deaths. There will be a pin wheels for prevention garden. An "I Will" pledge card can be found on the "Parent for the Future" website – [parentforthefuture.com](http://parentforthefuture.com) There will be blue lights on the pedestrian bridge crossing to West Salem.

Sam Skillern announced that there will be a Fostering Hope Initiative coming up at the Salem Library. It is a complementary program to the foster program. A flyer can be found on the Catholic Community Services' website.

Chuck Lee recommended that someone come to the next Salem-Keizer School Board meeting to spread the word.

#### **Jail Survey Next Steps – Judge Prall and Faye Fagel**

Judge Prall apologized for not giving the jail survey presentation a proper introduction at the last meeting. She said that its purpose is to highlight the risk factors for kids through adults. If the protective factors aren't present in young people's lives, it increases the likelihood of becoming involved with law enforcement and/or incarcerated. The question is how can the community address these issues?

Commissioner Carlson distributed some handouts. (She indicated that Denise will send out links to the articles after the meeting.) The Fostering Resiliency article impacted her; it's a meta-analysis of what studies have been done on resiliency. "Profile of a Resilient Child" summarized the author's (Bonnie Bernard) findings.

- The "40 Developmental Assets for Youth" provides similar information.
- A lot of concrete things can be done with assets.
- Taking the work to the next level involves developmental relationship building.

Chuck gave an example of how Blanchet School identified kids who fell through the cracks. A student's name was written on a 3x5 card and then placed on a wall. Teachers then put a star on the card if they knew the student. Students

were identified who had no stars. Once it was identified who was falling through the cracks, teachers selected students and developed relationships.

It was asked of Commissioner Carlson if the assets have changed in 20 years? Answer- still real similar. (The different age groups are identified now.)

Faye had her staff pull items out of the jail survey, looking at adolescents.

Pete asked if marijuana use is a factor. Sheriff Myers didn't know; he would have staff review the survey for that information.

Faye noted that this is good information to discuss escalation to the adult system and how you mobilize the community.

Sam Skillern presented a Models of Service outline. He said he's not promoting it, just presenting for feedback and reaction. The intent is to go from "us and them" to "we." Programs aren't the answer; it's people and relationships that are important. The professionals can't do it all. "We become their friend, their buddy, their mentor." The *Hub* bicycle repair is an example of this model working.

Ron would like to see data to support the premise.

Tamra noted its application to the CFC, adding family support to its goals. YRAT (Youth Resources Action Team) can help with implementing the priorities that have been brought forward, as well as draft implementation strategies for the commission to consider.

Sam Skillern believes that the CFC can nurture and encourage things; public/private partnership is working. Identify, encourage, and promote the local programs.

Commissioner Carlson encouraged everyone that each person on the commission represents a sector; they can bring back the message, "infusing it" into their organizations.

Faye identified this model as a developmental asset model.

Ron said that in working on the homeless initiative, interesting data comes out of the federal Housing and Urban Development agency. Example: studies show if you use vouchers with kids under 13, they are more likely to stay in school and have no police involvement. The data can help set policy and direction.

Teri expressed that, personally, starting work as a young child and working for somebody else really impacted her positively.

Pete reflected that at the Public Safety Coordinating Council, three young high school students talked about homelessness. There are a lot of agencies dealing with the problem, but they are not talking to each other. They are also all competing for the same dollars. Collaboration is important; everyone has to give up a little something to truly collaborate.

Marilyn noted that Silverton Together doesn't have the needed funds; however, the service coordinating committee still works.

Discussion was held on collaboration; who steps down and who steps up.

Tamra shared that the question becomes how do you infuse family support? How can we use our energy and give guidance to YRAT for taking the next steps?

Sam Skillern feels that the agencies are talking amongst each other. The value of this group is having the larger conversation between agencies and the community.

Commissioner Carlson reminded the commission that youth employment is on the Youth Resources Action Team priority list and that YRAT can look at the full Search Institute report and come back with concrete strategies. Ideas shared in this meeting about social services and relationships can also be folded into the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative. She observed that staff members from agencies or programs are more likely to refer clients to someone in another program that they know and trust. In large urban areas, agencies tend to specialize and refer clients; where in smaller communities, agencies have fewer resources and have to work together.

Cyndi noted that the Salem-Keizer Connect event has 40 to 50 agencies participate. A mentor walks the person around to the agencies that are located all in the same place for the event. There are multiple connect events. The next one will be held Tuesday, April 22.

Commissioner Carlson said that the homeless task force is putting together an email list. The next meeting will be March 29 at the Keizer Civic Center from 4-6 PM.

Tamra encouraged people to ask themselves, "What can I do?" "What can my organization bring?" "What can be done collectively?" Maybe there is a community level engagement.

Tamra noted that if YRAT has something to bring back, it will be prepared by Community Services staff for a later discussion with the commission.

Commissioner Carlson indicated that Family Preservation Action Team might be able to contribute.

Tamra remarked that EDAB (Economic Development Advisory Board) is looking at youth employment too and having similar conversations; it's important to identify where the opportunities exist versus where the programs exist.

Sam Osborn identified that SNAP is feeding 33,000 families in this county; providing \$9.7 million just in food stamps. He said that a person just needs a physical address. (Community Action Agency helps folks by providing a PO Box.) Sam finds that motivation is the biggest problem; they end up putting restrictions on the participant in order to get them to take action.

Shaney agrees that data is important, and added that the voice of experience is powerful. She encouraged using a couple of people that have pulled themselves out of poverty and are successful today. Data and personal testimony need to go together, providing "true-lived experience."

Cyndi encouraged members to pass the word to community members that energy services money is available; Community Action is actively seeking folks needing help in paying utility bills. Also, the Community Action Agency has an upcoming fundraising run, the "Superhero Dash", on Saturday, May 14. The funds raised will help pay for the purchase of a bus or other mobility resources.

**Meeting Adjourned: 1:21 PM.**