

Marion County Children & Families Commission

January 16, 2020

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Grant Room, Broadway Commons

Commission Members Present: Patrice Altenhofen, Phil Blea, Sue Bloom, George Burke, Paige Clarkson, Jayne Downing, Troy Gregg, Lisa Harnisch, Sheriff Joe Kast, Levi Herrera Lopez, Stacy Lake, Kimberly Lemman, Pete McCallum (via phone), Honorable Judge Pellegrini (via phone), Allan Pollock, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr, Commissioner Colm Willis

Guests: Josh Graves, Catholic Community Services; Chris Pineda, Mountain West; Rob Bennett, Peoples Church; Kevin Karvandi, Marion County Sheriff's Office; Tricia Ratliff, Community Action Agency; Michelle Halter, Hayesville Elementary; David Wood, Stephens Middle School; Salam Noor, Mountain West; Debra Garvey, Boys and Girls Club; Tonya Johnson, OSU Extension; Kendall Schultz, OSU Extension; Ron Rufener, Jeannette and Larry Epping Family Foundation; Gary Epping, Jeannette and Larry Epping Family Foundation; Shawn Epping Engelberg, Jeannette and Larry Epping Family Foundation

Honorary Members: Carla Munns, C Suite; Chuck Lee, Mountain West

Staff: Tamra Goettsch, Melinda Hautala, Heather Johnson

Meeting Summary Notes by Melinda Hautala

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am. Welcome and introductions were made.

Approval of December 19 Meeting Summary Notes

Eric motioned to approve the meeting summary notes. Sue seconded the motion. All were in favor of accepting the meeting summary notes. **Motion:** Approved

Recommendation of Josh Graves for CFC Membership

Josh Graves has attended several CFC meetings, and is the new director of Catholic Community Services. After reviewing Josh's application, the Steering Committee recommended that the CFC ask the Board of Commissioners to appoint Josh Graves to the Children and Families Commission. Patrice motioned to accept the Steering Committee's recommendation. Jayne seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Motion: Approved

HOPE ALIVE

Outward Mindset Exercise

Chris talked about "Idea Validation", a tool used in business, especially for startups. He explained that if one tries to go straight from an idea to a product, the venture will almost surely fail. Instead, entrepreneurs go through a process of testing the idea to see whether there is in fact a market that

makes it worth developing. The CFC is not looking to start a business, but any project they undertake in Northeast Salem (or anywhere) must take a similar approach to learning about and understanding the “market” for services. They are currently in the “idea” phase, and should not try to jump to developing and offering a “product” without thoroughly validating or invalidating the idea. The Outward Mindset “outside triangle” work is part of this process: identifying everyone who will affect the product and everyone who will be affected by the product, and gathering information from them.

East Salem Project

Guests from the Community: Gary Epping, Shawn Epping Engelberg, and Ron Rufener from the Jeannette and Larry Epping Family Foundation

The Epping Family Foundation wish to develop a facility that would serve as a hub for various organizations to provide wraparound services to residents in Northeast Salem. The CFC is hoping to participate in this project, which they believe could be a catalyst for wider permanent change throughout the neighborhood. Gary Epping and Shawn Epping Engelberg described how the land that the Foundation wishes to develop was their family’s homestead, and they would like to create a community like the one they knew, so that children in the neighborhood could grow up happy and healthy with a feeling that the neighborhood is their home. They spoke about the foundation and its commitment to the area, and assured the commission members that the CFC’s collaboration will be invaluable.

Sue shared that the City of Salem Comprehensive Plan has completed its “listening” phase and in March will be holding meetings to share what they’ve learned so far. She said that the CFC should observe this process, to get a preliminary sense of what people have said they would like to see in Northeast Salem, and also to learn about other projects and opportunities that might be on the horizon. Sam pointed out that there are multiple parcels that are currently vacant, and a new Boys and Girls Club could help kickstart a period of growth in the area. Gary Epping said that he had in fact seen this happen when he has been involved with building other Boys and Girls Clubs. Chuck Lee also pointed out the improvements along Portland Road that followed the development of CTEC.

Shawn noted that **safe outdoor space for kids** is desperately needed in this area. One thing the Foundation hopes can be developed is park space that would be enclosed and monitored so that kids could play soccer or just run around in fresh air and sunlight, without fear of being approached or attacked. Such a space could also be available for other community organizations to use for sports or other activities.

Commissioner Willis suggested that development be culturally appropriate for the neighborhood, to help people feel connected to it, and flexibility that would allow the center to continue to be meaningful for generations.

Michelle Halter, Principal of Hayesville Elementary, said that she and the other principals in the area share a deep enthusiasm for the impending project. She urged the group to **make an extra effort to ensure that any feedback gathered from the community is authentic**. Families in this neighborhood live under a cloud of fear, which can make them reluctant to leave their homes for meetings, or reluctant to speak freely with entities that they view as possible threats. She and her staff have been going to where families live to meet with them, rather than asking them to come to the school. Sometimes parents are in crisis and need immediate help—but other parents who might watch out the window also need reassurance about the nature of the home visit. This allows Principal Halter to build trust and have a relationship with these families. She said the district has been planning “Empathy Visits”, where they would meet with families in their own homes and ask what they really need.

Salam Noor described that **Mountain West has partnered with the Salem-Keizer School District** to work specifically to help kids in Northeast Salem overcome barriers to success and graduate from school. They have created systems that identify kids early in their school years, so they can get help and be guided in the right direction long before they are in high school. Some of these have included everything from getting kids caught up with reading proficiency by third grade to training in personal financial literacy.

Tamra said that the commission should **consider how to measure success in this project**, and reminded everyone about Hope as a goal, and the Hope Scale as a tool. If services are provided but people don't use them, then their value is diminished. Tamra referenced Dr. Chan Hellman, who worked with the CFC in the past, and his model of building hope by helping people see both goals and pathways to those goals. If people have hope that they can change their lives, and they understand ways to do it, this will drive them to seek out the help that is available. She noted that Levi has been using the Hope Scale at Mano a Mano, and suggested that he could speak about it at the next CFC meeting.

Shawn agreed, adding that in a community with finite resources, it is imperative to do innovative work that has measurable outcomes, and to track every step. Collect data even if there is not yet a use for it, and make systems efficient and easy to use.

Next Steps

Shaney and Paige met with Josh to talk about the **Community Café model** and whether that could be a way to get authentic feedback from families in the East Salem community. Josh explained that one benefit of the Community Café is that it engages participants who may not usually speak up, and shared a handout that describes the process (attached).

Sue said that she and Patrice are on an advisory board for the Boys and Girls Club project, and she asked who on the CFC would like to participate in a **task force to help plan an event to gather community feedback**. Tamra said that members of this task force would not have to be CFC members, and Gary said that he has worked with neighborhood associations in the area to get feedback, as well. Principal Halter and Principal Wolf said they would like to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.