

Marion County Children & Families Commission
March 16, 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 Goettsch, Mary Grim, and Krista Ulm

Guests Present: George Burke, Salem Police Department Deputy Chief; Ormond Fredericks, Department of Human Services; Julie Hilty, Family Building Blocks; Jessica Rivera, *Every Child Oregon*; Gwen Shippy, DHS Child Welfare; Heidi Strauch, Judicial Department; Shelly Winterberg, *Every Child Oregon* Director

Approval of January 19, 2017 Meeting Summary Notes- No Quorum

Membership Nomination of Judge Cheryl Pelligrini- Cheryl's name is being brought forth to fill Judge Prall's vacated position. (No quorum present to vote.) The CFC Steering Committee supports her nomination. Tamra suggested that the new member appointment order be changed in order to move forward. The recommendation of appointment will first go to the BOC (Board of Commissioners) and then be brought back to the next CFC meeting for approval. Jayne made a motion to move forward with Cheryl's appointment in this recommended manner; Randy seconded. Recommendation approved.

Presentations

Julie Hilty- Family Building Blocks:

- April is Child abuse Prevention Month. This year's focus- "Everyone has a role in preventing child abuse."
- All of the month's events activities can be found at Parentforthefuture.org
- 10,402 children were abused/neglected in Oregon in 2015
- 823 children were abused/neglected in Marion County
- 94% of abuse is perpetrated by someone in the home
- "I will" statement cards are available; Marion County Sheriff's department's "I Will" video was shown.
- Ribbons will be hung at the state capitol on Wednesday, April 5 at 10 AM
- *Pinwheel for Prevention* pins being worn represent the ideal childhood. (For bulk purchasing, see Shaney Starr.)

Sam Skillern- Introduction of *Every Child Oregon*:

- In our area, the previous methamphetamine crises generated the need for more foster care homes.
- Only 560 kids are currently in the system, down from a high of 800. Intervention strategies have been working.
- In recruiting, the faith community homes were not all as successful as hoped. More education to the groups supporting the families would have been beneficial. (Would like to re-engage the faith community.)
- In Portland the same crisis was happening. Work was done on new and improved training methods and it was all captured (written down.)

Shelly Winterberg- *Every Child Oregon*:

Every Child began with a foster adoptive mom who created a welcome box (or launch box) full of treats and activities that would occupy a child while they awaited placement in a DHS office. It launched additional foster activities for the community.

Embrace Oregon launched in 2013 and has the following components:

- Tangible needs- a launch box
- Creating a network in which a need can be communicated to the community, then someone steps up to fill the need
- Volunteer “on-ramps” (opportunities other than being a foster parent)
 - Provide transportation
 - Be an office parent (sitting with the child at the DHS office) while waiting for placement
 - Wrap around support for foster families. Adopt a foster family- provide food and date nights, mow lawns, etc.
- Relentless recruitment of foster families; 45 inquiries a month coming in from people offering to foster.
- Expansion to other communities prompted by the request of DHS. Use the successful model across the state. *Every Child* wants to support the local community with what they are already doing.
- Currently a consultant is looking at their program to see if they are reaching their objectives. They are updating their website. Marion County, and its resources, will be listed on the site.
- A point person is assigned to the individual counties to support them.
- “How to” documents and videos are available.
- Bring representatives together, tailored for the individual communities, making “a state-wide learning community.”
- *Every Child* provides the service level support empowering local organizations.
- *Embrace Oregon* is the implementing organization. *Every Child* is the service center at the Portland level.

Updates

Walt Beglau indicated that the “ask”- Does this body endorse the *Every Child* concept with Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT) being the steering committee? The goal is to align and integrate *Every Child* with what is already being done in Marion County.

Jim Seymour feels that this will complement what is already being done in our area; this is not a “diversion.” A steering committee is needed to integrate all of the organizations. Catholic Community Services would be the one to accept the request from *Every Child* via FPAT.

Sam Osborn noted that this seems to be a good fit with the strategic plan and FPAT. Enhanced support for foster parents also meshes well with this. Need *Every Child* to keep everyone together and moving forward.

Cyndi Leinassar indicated that an endorsement from this body would allow for “taking the next step;” also, need to capitalize on new partners coming forward. The CFC should have a voice to help guide the process.

Jim Seymour made a recommendation endorsing that FPAT be the steering committee for the *Every Child* partnership. Randy Franke seconded the recommendation. Recommendation approved.

Tamra cautioned that these bodies (CFC & FPAT) are under the county's authority. The CFC could agree to "partner and align" efforts with *Every Child*. However, the CFC can't be an advisory to a non-county organization, nor can it be *Every Child's* subcommittee. It is important to work within the county's structure.

Jim Seymour:

- "Mockingbird" is a branded approach to supporting foster parents. This is "enhanced support for foster parents." There are experienced foster parents that don't currently have kids in their home that provide respite care for operating foster homes.
- CCS is adding a community resource specialist for reaching out to the broader community in meeting special needs.
- DHS and CCS is developing an MOU in order that their roles are clear. They have raised 75% of the needed funding. The goal is to be sustainable once the grant funds are expended.

Tamra reminded everyone to encourage their staff to sign up for the CRN (Community Resources Network). Once 100 people are registered it can go live; 88 are registered so far. Many of the needs presented today could be met by that program.

Sam Skillern:

Service Integration Teams (SIT) are coming to this community. These are professionals from agencies that provide direct resources to families. They gather to discuss any gaps in services available. There is money available to help meet those needs. They are not in competition with the CPT (Community Progress Team) of which there are four still operating. He would like to see these two organizations (SIT and CPT) align. Salem Health is leading this effort.

Cyndi announced that the next Community Connect is March 28 at the First Baptist Church. Also their annual Super Hero Dash fund raiser is May 6th.

Shaney announced that CASA is also having a super hero race next month. CASA is in the process of moving offices. They have 20 new volunteers in training for a total of 72 volunteers. They received a \$89,000 national grant to launch their recruitment campaign. National CASA is planning on using Marion County's model of recruitment to roll out a nationwide "best practices". She thanked Kaiser Permanente for letting her "poach" their idea of sponsored content in the newspaper.

Tamra noted that she spoke to Dick Withnell about "rallying the troops" to again address the need for more foster parents in Marion County. Dick agrees that something needs to be done. They will be working with FPAT for a big roll-out event in May (Foster Parent month.)

Meeting Adjourned: 1:03 PM