

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 9, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Patrice Altenhofen, Walt Beglau, Phil Blea, Alison Kelley, Sam Osborn, Jim Seymour, Shaney Starr, Greg Vesely, and Dick Withnell (by phone)

Members Absent: Dawn Hunter

Staff: Tamra Goettsch and Mary Grim

Foster Parent Champion: Jennifer Barischoff

Guest: Josh Graves, Tanya Hamilton, Heidi????

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

Walt Beglau welcomed members and guests.

Standing Updates

DHS – Sam Osborn

- a. DHS has hired two temporary positions to help with certifications
- b. Oregon State budget
 - i. \$7.7 million for Child Welfare
 - ii. \$4.1 million for Behavioral Health
 - iii. \$7.9 million for foster family care providers - ≈ 40 percent
 - iv. \$6.9 million legal representation for caseworks
- c. Clyde Saiki's vision is a clear sign of direction
- d. District 3 has a great relationship with Marion County. Sam has advocated for it not to change.

Discussion:

- a. The Oregon District Attorneys Association does not support Senate Bill 222, which will shift from the county to the Department of Justice. There is an active workgroup working on this bill. Liberty House is co-chair to the local multi-disciplinary teams. The proposed changes could undermine local efforts and potentially remove the local voice. Oregon budget must identify the funds needed to purchase results. Marion County success has come from the community. There is a need to go to the legislature to keep funding at the local level. Marion County has benefitted from the bottom-up approach versus top down.
- b. There are three funding sources in Marion County: 1) county general fund; 2) intergovernmental agreement with DHS (state general fund); and 3) leverage Title 4E funds to support the district attorney position currently located at the juvenile department. If Senate Bill 222 comes to fruition, juvenile department would lose an FTE. As a result, juvenile would be unable to deliver the current level of services provided to families. Oregon District Attorneys Association (Dave Wilson and Brendon Murphy) will be hosting a walk-through with Governor's staff and policy makers at the Marion County Juvenile Department. *Note: Walt will invite Brendon Murphy to the 3/13/2017 FPAT meeting.*
- c. Oregon CASA Network supports Senate Bill 222. Shaney feels legal funding has been dedicated to CASA could be used in a more efficient manner. Shaney sits on the legislative committee for the Oregon CASA Network, and will share the local impact of Senate Bill 222. DHS is trying to achieve state-wide

consistency; consistency will make things better for children throughout the state and supports not changing areas that are working well - collaboration make things better for children and once that is done, determine what else needs to be achieved.

Court Appointed Special Advocates – CASA – Shaney Starr

- a. Advocate training: 25 new advocates
 - i. 50-75 additional children served
- b. Remodeling new building. Scheduled to be finished on April 3, 2017.
- c. November – 152 children were served
- d. Needs an additional 50 volunteer advocates by June 30, 2017. Successfully recruiting from:
 - i. Retired Educators
 - ii. Faith community
 - iii. State employees
 - iv. AmeriTitle offering employees a flexible work schedule to serve as a CASA.

Visitation Work Team Update – Phil Blea

- a. Approximately two years ago, the courts asked DHS and community members to come together to determine how they might increase visitations and improve the quality of visitations. For now, the community members have stepped aside while DHS explores how they problem solve.
- b. Currently DHS has shown an increase in visitations and improved how they engage foster families. A foster family workgroup came together in August 2016, who offered feedback of what would be helpful in visitation and how DHS and community members may support them.
- c. One of the most pressing issues for foster families that have multiple children in their care is the number of visitations they have to coordinate and overall transportation needs. The work team discussed community-based visitation and the need for volunteers to help with that. That would require funding for a volunteer coordinator. Currently DHS has a volunteer coordinator that supports DHS only.

Discussion:

- a. When asking the community for volunteers and other assistance, it is important to have a coordinated ask with a cafeteria plan of ways to get involved. A coordinated asks would allow FPAT to identify the highest priorities. We should consider including this in the Foster Parent Champion strategic plan. Greg agreed that the faith community is ready for a coordinated asks.
- b. San Diego County's supervised visitation model. Depending on the severity of the case, the foster parents and bio parents would meet at the park; then the foster parents would report back to DHS. Meeting in a casual environment helped foster parents to build a relationship with the bio parents.
- c. DHS currently offers a similar option called an ice-breaker. DHS supervises the first ice-breaker and provides a format that can be used outside the DHS containment area. It would be beneficial to see what is being done outside of Marion County and Oregon. And, it would be good to poll foster parents to see who might be interested in the ice-breaker model.
- d. DHS family resource manager position has not been filled in Marion County due to current resource levels. This position could be a companion piece for the volunteer coordinator and could possibly be funded by a Coordinated Care Organization. The family resource manager position is needed to assist caseworkers in knowing what supports are available to them.
 - i. There might be possible grant suited to fund a position designated as a family resource manager position. This could help foster parents sign up for OHP.
- e. DHS office is set up with separate entrances for foster parents and biological parents, which creates a sense of segregation. By having a "community feel," it offers a way for ice breakers to take place naturally. In addition, the environment is cold and sterile. It would be good to make the space more comfortable and inviting.

- f. When considering next steps, some thought it would be important to bring together a small group (DHS must be included) to develop a 1-2 page visitation concept paper: a DHS family resource manager and a volunteer coordinator. Others thought there were many irons already in the fire with the foster parent champion strategic plan and to wait until we have a full plan. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Foster Parent Champion Strategic Plan

Jennifer Barischoff, Foster Parent Champion

- a. Reviewed strategic plan

General comments:

- a. Include a dashboard broken down by agency to identify the need and the unserved. NOTE: the dashboard could serve as a visual scorecard to present at every FPAT meeting to measure success or the need to make adjustments. In addition, the scorecard could be used to recruit volunteers, solicit financial contributions, etc.
- b. What is the specific need?
 - i. Do the objectives of this plan meet that need?
 - ii. Change “closing the gap” to “eliminating the gap” (page 6, first bullet)
 - iii. Need for consistent data and data sources – 2 to3 years
 - iv. Survey – stay interview and exit interview – 2 to 3 years
 - i. Foster Parent Association
 - 1. Why did a foster parent stay?
 - a. Strength based factors
 - 2. How many and why did a foster parent leave?
 - a. What are the factors for leaving
 - i. Burn out factors
 - ii. Lack of support
- c. Vision statement
 - i. Header on each page and focus on what we are trying to accomplish
- d. Page 7 – who are we serving the most?
 - i. What are the children saying (CCS Youth Council)
 - ii. Memorandum of Understanding – Leverage relationships between community partners
 - i. Money is not exchanged
 - 1. Shared collaboration between partners
 - 2. Increase the number of partners to commit to work together
 - 3. Money or services are exchanged
 - iii. Marketing and communication plan
 - i. Add to objectives
 - ii. Improve and increase the message to recruit foster parents
 - iii. Reward versus risk ratio – we are a community who will support persons who choose to be foster parents
 - iv. Action plan – helpful to see in a Gantt chart
 - i. How many actions overlap
 - ii. How many take place each quarter
 - v. Use the term “foster parent/family” consistently
 - i. Not “partner family” at this time.
 - ii. Include in executive summary a statement like: “We respect people who become foster parents. We recognize that the work is hard. The vision of FPAT is for foster parents to be utilized as partners; in return, foster parents will come to feel that they are partners.”

- iii. “Nothing about me without me.” What do foster parents see themselves as? How do they want to be seen?
- e. The strategic plan has two phases
 - i. Phase one – strategic plan development
 - i. Funded by DHS, CCS, Salem Leadership Foundation, Family Building Blocks, and Marion County Community Services
 - ii. The plan will be a living document and adjusted as needed
 - ii. Phase two – strategic plan implementation
 - i. Unfunded – identify funding
 - ii. Hire someone to implement the plan (with the help of partners)
- f. Enhanced Support for Foster Parents
 - i. Catholic Community Services is ready to move forward immediately
 - i. Annual cost: \$322,980 (\$50,000 outstanding – anticipate within two months)
 - ii. Would like FPAT to approve moving forward immediately with the Enhanced Support for Foster Parents (FPAT would serve as the steering committee)
 - ii. Behavioral support could possibly be funded by the Behavioral Care Network (BCN)
 - i. Place this discussion on the March 13, 2017 agenda
 - iii. Grants will be submitted by CCS to the Collins Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation. Both are interested in providing top-off funding.
 - i. Would FPAT be willing to endorse submission of the Collins and the Oregon Community Foundation grant?
 - iv. Request that FPAT serve as the steering committee
 - v. FPAT supports CCS moving forward with the Enhanced Support for Foster Parents
- g. Some felt plan is too much and needs to be prioritized. FPAT needs to focus on the highest priorities. Suggested that 3-4 team members review and prioritize before the end of January? The recommendations could then go before FPAT.
- h. Next steps
 - i. Present a draft at the January 19, 2017, CCF meeting
 - ii. Tamra and Mary will prioritize and include FPAT feedback
 - iii. FPAT prioritize plan objectives at March 13, 2017, FPAT meeting
 - iv. Present final plan to CCF on March 16, 2017
 - v. Develop a budget
 - vi. Determine funding for the position

March 13, 2017 – Agenda

1. Strategic Planning (top of agenda for all 2017 meetings)
 - a. Update
 - b. Enhanced Support for Foster Parents
 - i. Update
 - ii. Behavioral support CCO funding – to Commissioner Carlson
 - iii. Invite other interested parties to be a part of the Enhanced Support for Foster Parents

Invite to March 13, 2017, meeting:

- Embrace Oregon – Sam Osborn to explore invitation.
- Brendan Murphy