

Marion County Children & Families Commission

July 19, 2018 Meeting Summary Notes

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Grant Room, Broadway Commons

In Attendance

Commission Members Present: ~~Patrice Altenhofen, Jaime Arredondo, Walt Beglau, Carla Munns, Sue Bloom, Gladys Blum, George Burke, Gayle Caldarazzo-Doty, Troy Clausen, Jayne Downing, Ormond Fredericks, Troy Gregg, Levi Herrera-Lopez, Chuck Lee, Krina Lee, Cyndi Leinassar, Pete McCallum, Cary Moller, Honorable Cheryl Pellegrini, Allan Pollock, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, Sam Skillern, Shaney Starr~~

Staff Present: Tamra Goettsch, Judy Christensen, and Krista Ulm

Guests: Bill Weisman and Jimmy Jones

Welcome & Introductions

Jim opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves and to share one thing that gives them hope.

Short a quorum. Therefore, May 17, 2018 summary notes were not approved.

Woodburn Community Center

Bill Weisman, project coordinator for Immanuel Lutheran Church (ILC), shared the church's plans to finish a feasibility study for the Woodburn Opportunity Partnership's proposed multi-cultural, intergenerational spiritual, community services and gather space. ILC is conducting an outreach to determine how the facility should be used. They now have funds to finalize a feasibility study. ILC's goal is to build on resources already in the community. However, Woodburn is unique and needs a resource center that meets the needs of the city's population, including Spanish and Russian spoken services and supports. ILC has donated eight acres for the development of the center and seeks to bring other agencies together to help support the center and leverage resources. ILC visited the Dallas Community Resource Center and was impressed. Bill sought ideas, questions and the participation of commission members.

It was suggested that ILC look at social enterprises like Sparrow Furniture, the Hub, or IKE Box for funding. They are all empowerment-type enterprise businesses that create income.

Tamra supports ILC's efforts and commitment to the community and prepared a letter of endorsement to help aide them in their pursuit of funding.

Pete was pleased for the opportunity to support the center and mentioned that the city of Woodburn has a task force with project funds of a million dollars. He supports the two groups working together and aligning purposes to avoid duplication. Bill further noted that Woodburn lacks a permanent senior center.

Sam inquired whether the center is to be a church or a community center. Bill indicated it is to be both. The group is sensitive to this concern and would design the facility with separate entrances for individuals who wish to bypass the church; two communities can co-exist without church and state violations and the goal is for the facility to be open and inclusive.

Bill also stated that Family Building Blocks (FBB) wants to be actively involved in the project and has offered to host a meeting in the next month or two to further discuss possibilities. Commission members are welcome to attend.

Together Toward Tomorrow: HOPE Alive Initiative

a. The Deepest Well Book Club

Sue is hosting the first lunch and learn for commission members. The location for this will be at the Summer Street Boys & Girls Club in Salem, Monday, August 13th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – bring your own lunch. All commission members have been given a copy of Dr. Burke Harris' book, *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long-Term Effects of Childhood*. This book will be the topic of the lunch and learn and will focus on identifying how the content of the book can help each organization determine how to move forward with the HOPE Alive initiative. Questions will be used to guide the discussion and all commission members will receive a link to Dr. Burke Harris' Ted Talk video on the subject. Sue has a capacity for 34 people and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Jim shared a Mark Twain quote, "If you every really need a friend, it's too late." The HOPE Alive effort reminds commission members to be committed to every child and every family.

b. 2019 Together Toward Tomorrow Event – Keynote Speaker

Following discussions at the commission's steering committee, Tamra has begun seeking outside resources to bring Dr. Nadine Burke Harris in as keynote speaker for the 5th annual Together Tomorrow Event in early 2019. Dr. Burke Harris, the founder of the Center for Youth Wellness, in Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco, has emerged as one of the country's strongest voices calling for a national public health campaign to raise awareness and a sense of urgency about the devastating and potentially lifelong health effects of childhood trauma.

Since the original research on adverse childhood experiences, known as the ACE Study, was published in 1998, a growing body of evidence has indicated that severe or prolonged levels of childhood adversity (often measured in terms of an "ACE score" ranging from 0 to 10) are far more common and harmful than originally anticipated. Dr. Burke Harris has led in developing methods to screen and treat children and families suffering health problems attributable to what is known as toxic stress.

Dr. Burke Harris' speaking fees are about \$15K (plus accommodations); Community Services has some resources available, but not enough to cover the cost of her fee.

Next Steps: Tamra asked for commission members to help raise funds or by sharing names of possible donors.

Subcommittee Updates

a. Family Preservation Action Team (FPAT)

FPAT members met with Jackie and Robert, both Foster Care Champions for FPAT's strategic plan, whose efforts are focused on recruitment and retention of high-quality foster families. Action is targeting: 1) support for the Marion County Foster Parent's Association that will help build relationship with community foster parents, and 2) securing support from businesses in an effort show foster parents that the community appreciates their contributions. Jackie and Robert are seeking things such as gift certificates and in return, a window sticker with the Marion County Foster Parents Association logo will be placed to build awareness in the community. The program is designed to be an affirmation to foster parents. The two are also seeking financial resources to purchase each foster parent a free, one-year membership to Marion County Foster Parents Association. Businesses interested in contributing a gift certificate are to contact DHS.

Commission and Community Events and Announcements

The Honorable Cheryl Pellegrini mentioned that the first Tuesday in August is Model Court Day. This conference brings members of the juvenile court and other agencies together to discuss pertinent topics. This year, foster parents will be present in an effort to find out what they need. Commission members were invited to attend.

Tamra mentioned that the Community Services Department is down three positions and asked for patience during the staff transition. In addition, she has three individuals interested in the consultant position for the HOPE Alive initiative and looks forward to finalizing the contract no later than September.

Jimmy mentioned that Mid-Valley Community Action Agency's Arches Project will be hosting an Open House Monday, July 30th at 10:00 a.m. for the building they renovated at 615 Commercial St. NE. In addition, at a yet to be determined date and time, the agency will be opening "Taylor House," which will provide overnight sheltering for minors.

The Boys and Girls Club of Salem, Marion and Polk Counties will give out book bags with school supplies at its annual health fair and book bag giveaway, August 11th. In addition to the book bag giveaway, there will be 37 family resources from tutoring to vision to dental care, and more.

Ormond said DHS' District 3 mandatory training will focus on gender identity this year. Its Self-sufficiency and Child Welfare staff members will be attending the training.

Sam reported that the Open Streets Salem event will be held Sunday, September 23rd from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event includes the Mayor's Bike Ride, puppet parade, etc.

Deputy Police Chief, George Burke reported that the city is seeking the use of urban renewal funds for the new police facility; asking for \$2+ million.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 20th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.