

Marion County Children and Families Commission

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the Marion County Children and Families
Commission and the Early Childhood Consortium
(for Commission deliberation on November 17, 2003)**

Synopsis: The Early Childhood Consortium in Marion County has operated as an **(#1)** autonomous coalition of early childhood professionals since 1998; before 1998, the Early Childhood Consortium acted as a committee of the Marion County Children and Families Commission for five years. During the early development of the “Coordinated Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families in Marion County,” the Early Childhood Consortium played a leadership role in defining the needs and opportunities in the early childhood system in Marion County. Since that time, the Early Childhood Consortium has **(#2)** advised the Marion County Children and Families Commission on policies, priorities, and strategies for its comprehensive plan. The Early Childhood Consortium is **(#3)** in the lead role on the comprehensive plan’s goal #2: *Healthy, Thriving Children (ages 0-8)*. With this agreement the Early Childhood Consortium would continue its role in professional networking and development, and would formalize its commitment to the Marion County Children and Families Commission for #2 and #3 above.

Mission

To provide a forum for professional networking and development; to recommend policies, priorities, strategies, and evidence-based practices to the Marion County Children and Families Commission; to provide guidance for the implementation of goal #2 of the “Coordinated Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families in Marion County:” *Healthy, Thriving Children (0-8)*

Responsibilities

1. Serve as a networking and development forum for professionals in the Marion County early childhood system.
2. Play a leadership role in defining and advocating for the needs and opportunities in the early childhood system in Marion County.

3. Advise the Marion County Children and Families Commission on policies, priorities, strategies, and evidence-based practices for supporting families with young children (i.e., ages 0-8).
4. Support priorities and strategies in goal #2 of the “Coordinated Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families in Marion County.”
5. Identify a liaison to serve on the Marion County Children and Families Commission’s Coordinating Committee and the Children and Families Commission; the role of this representative is to help to shape Children and Families Commission meeting agendas and to take interim action as appointed by the Children and Families Commission.
6. Participate actively in the Children and Families Commission’s annual “Advance,” a venue for review of accomplishments and current conditions and for developing future approaches to supporting children and families in Marion County.
7. Respond to the request of the Children and Families Commission, to provide testimony at public forums (including the Oregon Legislature) on issues pertaining to the well-being of families with young children in Marion County.
8. Identify a liaison to serve on the Marion County Healthy Start Advisory Committee

Membership

Management-level representatives of any agency or organization in the early childhood system in Marion County, as well as “lay” people and community leaders with an interest in fostering the well-being of families with young children.

Commitment of the Marion County Children and Families Commission (CFC)

Responsibilities

1. Provide staff support to the Early Childhood Consortium, including note-taking and distribution of meeting agendas and minutes.
2. Involve the Early Childhood Consortium in the annual “Advance,” incorporating their leadership in planning and development for families with young children in Marion County.

3. Engage the Early Childhood Consortium in setting directions and agendas for Children and Families Commission meetings through liaison representation on the Children and Families Commission's Coordinating Committee.
4. Carefully deliberate on the Early Childhood Consortium's recommendations on policies, priorities, strategies, and evidenced-based practices for supporting families with young children.
5. Recognize and honor the Early Childhood Consortium's leadership on the advisement of goal #2 of the "Coordinated Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families in Marion County:" *Healthy, Thriving Children (0-8)*.
6. Communicate openly, honestly, and regularly.
7. Nominate a representative of the Early Childhood Consortium, as identified by the Early Childhood Consortium, to the Marion County Children and Families Commission for approval by the Board of Commissioners.
8. A Children and Families Commission member will serve on the Early Childhood Consortium.

The Marion County Children and Families Commission will review this Memorandum for updates and amendments as needed; it will be officially renewed [biennially] in September 2005.

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