



Marion County
OREGON

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Marion County Hires New Director for Department of Children and Families

Alison Kelley has been hired as the director of the Marion County Department of Children and Families. She will begin her employment on May 19.

As director, she will support the Marion County Children and Families Commission. The commission is a 35 member panel appointed by the Marion County Board of Commissioners, mandated to engage citizens, communities, organizations and agencies in a planning and decision making process around the issues, supports and services for children and families. The commission assesses the community's needs, assets and strengths, and builds community capacity to support children, youth, and their families.

"Alison comes to us with a wide array of knowledge, experience and expertise that will be sure to continue the commission's leadership in our community," said Sam Brentano, chair of the Marion County Board of Commissioners and member of the Children and Families Commission. "I speak for all commission members by saying that we believe Alison will be a great addition in helping to make lives better for our children and families in Marion County."

"I am very honored to accept this opportunity to serve in the position of director for the Department of Children and Families," Kelley explained. "The needs of children and families in Marion County are urgent and the commission has been working diligently to address them in a strategic way. Our commission members are deeply committed and represent a wide range of interests. Our staff is highly skilled, experienced, and energetic. We are fortunate to have support and exceptional leadership from our elected officials. I am very excited to work together to engage the community in making lives better for our children and families in Marion County," she said.

Kelley holds a B.A. in history with a minor in political science from Willamette University and a J.D. and Certificate in Dispute Resolution from Willamette University College of Law. Since 1999, she has been an attorney, mediator and facilitator with a regional consulting practice based in Salem. She is also an adjunct associate professor at Portland State University, where she has taught for the Master in Public Administration program.

Kelley's consulting practice included facilitating public-private collaboration, strategic planning, team building and mediation. She has worked with the Oregon Commission on Children & Families, the Marion County Children & Families Commission, the Yamhill County Commission on Children and Families, the Coalition of Local Commissions, and a wide range of municipal, county and state agencies throughout Oregon and Washington. She has also worked with many non-profit organizations.

Prior public policy projects include facilitating the Consensus Committee of the 2006 *ConnectOregon* program and the Final Review Committee of the 2008 *ConnectOregon II* program for the Oregon Department of Transportation, each responsible for the allocation of \$100 million in lottery-backed bond proceeds for non-highway transportation projects.

Kelley is an active member of the Oregon State Bar, the Marion County Bar, the Oregon Mediation Association, and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

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Alison Kelley