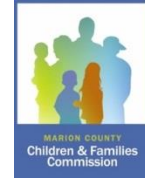




Marion County Community Services  
Marion County Children and Families Commission



**Issue Brief**

**HOPE ALIVE**

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**Background:**

In early 2017, the Children and Families Commission hosted its annual Together Toward Tomorrow (T3) event and secured Dr. Chan Hellman, University of Oklahoma, as the event's keynote presenter. His presentation focused on his work around hope and the importance of hope. The information was well received by attendees and those that viewed the presentation later online. In February 2018, the Commission's Steering Committee asked Dr. Chan Hellman to present his message on hope again at the T3 event and also secured Schelli Slaughter from Washington to present information on applied hope. Following the 2018 T3 event, the excitement for launching a hope initiative in Marion County was reconfirmed and Tamra Goettsch, director, was asked to pursue options, gain commission member feedback, and present back to the Children and Families Commission. Discussions with nearly 20 commission members have been completed.

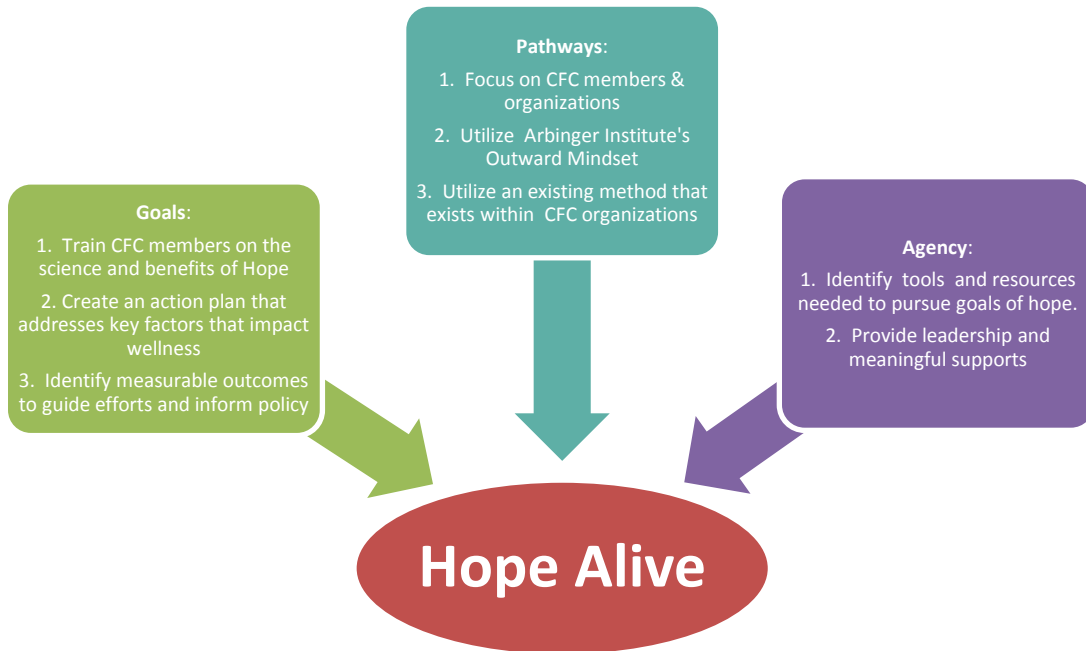
Themes shared during CFC membership conversations were:

- a. Inspiring hope on purpose has power; it's a movement, not a program.
- b. Need to leverage research to inform our path.
- c. Develop a road map that focuses on prevention.
- d. The use of hope and resilience tools can help staff handle vicarious trauma.
- e. Metrics will be important, both collective and independent – how will data be captures/tracked.
- f. Identify "what's in it for me."
- g. Need a steering team to focus on the concept.
- h. Use the Hope Survey.
- i. Hope language creates a common language across organizations and our community.
- j. Incorporate a hope into the CFC meetings.
- k. Staff support is needed.
- l. Tap into existing talents are partnerships.
- m. Treat this as a case study; track our actions from the beginning.
- n. Build relationships with each other and discover how to effectively share our collective abundance.
- o. Marketing and messaging will matter.
- p. Hope crosses all communities.

**Proposal:**

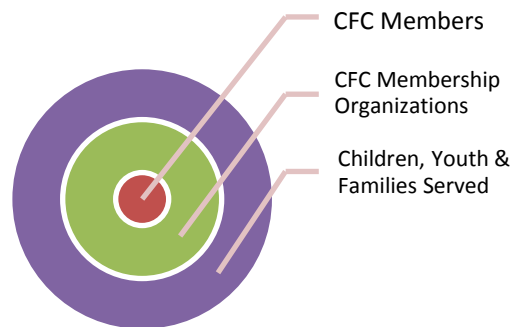
The following proposed design is a *discussion starting place* and takes into account the various comments and themes heard during commission member interviews. To effectively launch a hope initiative, Commission members will need to balance discussion with action and determine how to collectively use its catalytic leadership to leverage resources, influence hope amongst CFC members and organizations, and identify additional needs.

As a part of the design, the commission needs to gain a deeper understanding of hope and what is important to one another. Depending on our long and short term goals, we will need to determine the types of influence needed to reach our desired outcome: political, legislative, or consumer power; articulate issues and messaging; involve other people; and more. This process should be grassroots, meaning we need to get excited about the promise of hope and using that energy to create change in each other, within our partnering organizations, and to those served.



**Basic Design Outline:**

1. Start with ourselves
2. Roll out to early adopter organizations
3. Influence hope in those served through goals, pathways, and agency



**Infrastructure Needed:**

1. Hire a consultant to support consistency and follow through.
2. Contract with Chan Hellman to increase CFC's understanding of hope, link research to our efforts, and assist us with metrics.
3. Develop a strategic plan and time line, as well as a structure to support desired progress.
4. Train CFC members in Outward Mindset.
5. Secure the rights to the Resilience film.
6. Develop/Identify needed tools and resources.
7. Assign a steering committee.
8. Identify early adopters.
9. Seek future financial support.

**Recommendation:**

Our community is consistently faced with challenges and crises that affect the wellbeing of our children, youth and families. Though extremely important, programs and organizations alone can't address all the needs. The CFC's support of HOPE ALIVE would be a collaborative effort between commission members and organizations to increase our individual and collective understanding of hope, develop practical strategies to inspire hope, and produce measurable outcomes.

I recommend the Commission support Hope Alive in concept and authorize further development of the design with commission leadership, consultants, and staff members.