

Marion County Children & Families Commission

January 21, 2021

11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Online Virtual Meeting

Commission Members Present: ~~Patrice Altenhofen~~, Phil Blea, Sue Bloom, ~~George Burke~~, Paige Clarkson, Jayne Downing, Melissa Glover, ~~Josh Graves~~, Troy Gregg, ~~Lisa Harnisch~~, Jimmy Jones, ~~Sheriff Joe Kast~~, Levi Herrera Lopez, Stacy Lake, Kimberly Lemman, Pete McCallum, ~~Honorable Judge Cheryl Pellegrini~~, Chris Pineda, ~~Allan Pollock~~, ~~Sam Skillern~~, Shaney Starr, Commissioner Danielle Bethell

Guests: Rob Bennett, People's Church; Mark Chien, OSU Extension; Tricia Frizzell, Community Action HOME Youth Services; Kevin Karvandi, MCSO

Staff: Tamra Goettsch, Melinda Hautala, Heather Johnson

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am. Welcome and introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Summary Notes

There were not enough appointed members to fill a quorum, so this vote was not taken.

2020 Timeline Summary of CFC Discussions

Melinda shared a timeline summarizing highlights from all of the CFC and Steering Committee meetings throughout 2020, to help everyone follow the progress after a year with so many unexpected events. She asked the CFC to consider what has been accomplished so far, and whether they feel that the CFC is still on the right track.

Sue said that the Boys and Girls Club project that sparked the CFC's focus on East Salem has been named the Epping Homestead Club. They hope to break ground in April and open in spring 2022. Once they have completed their capital campaign for this project, they will begin fundraising for the South Parcel project. During a site visit, she noted that there is already a great deal of excitement about the club's construction.

➡ **Construction for the new Epping Homestead Club will begin in April, with a goal of opening in spring 2022.**

HOPE ALIVE

Phase One Action Plan

The task group that was formed to plan community meetings participated in a Community Café host workshop in October, along with some staff from other organizations, some parents, and some school staff. They have met a couple of times since then, to continue planning the Community Cafes that will be held in East Salem, but requested some guidance from the CFC before compiling an invitation list. There had previously been some discussion about inviting only parents to the first meeting, and looping in business partners and other community stakeholders after that. Maureen Casey from Fostering Hope Initiative organized the Café workshop and had invited a lot of parents; the Café model suggests that at least some of the co-hosts of any Café should be peers of the invited attendees, and the hope is that parents and other residents will learn to conduct their own Community Cafes in future. Shaney recalled that the original intent of the community meetings is to listen to residents about what they would like to see develop in their neighborhood, so anyone who has a connection to East Salem and is invested in what happens there should be included. Tricia pointed out that youth should also be included in these meetings, and Melinda agreed that the Café model does suggest including kids.

Tamra has reconnected with Dr Chan Hellman about conducting a virtual conference about Hope Theory and the Hope Scale, and proposed that this could serve as a “kick-off” event that would lead to additional Community Café meetings to follow. She suggested that this would bring focus to the CFC’s meeting as an action in the neighborhood that would distinguish it from other meetings and Community Cafes that other groups have conducted. The structure would still be similar to the Community Café model, in that there would be breakout groups and discussion facilitators to ensure participation from invitees, and we can enlist the help of some of the folks who attended the Café training in October.

Tamra added that the role of the CFC is to build and support the “infrastructure” of this community meetings project: they can bring in a nationally-recognized speaker to teach about Hope, and also coordinate bringing people from the neighborhood – those who have had the Café training, and those for whom this is new information – to get things started and keep everything moving forward. Melinda asked if Tamra could attend the next Task Group meeting to share what she has discussed with Dr Hellman, and help guide them in planning this event. Updates on this planning and on the event itself will be included in each month’s CFC agenda going forward.

- ➡ **The CFC recommends that the task group invite varied representation from the neighborhood to the first Community Café.**
- ➡ **Tamra will propose to the task group that the first meeting could be a virtual conference about Hope with Dr Chan Hellman, which would be a great kick-off event to get the Cafes started.**

Phase Two Action Plan

Although Phase One has not been completed, its progress is on track, and there is other work that could be completed concurrently. Phase Two was drafted from discussions at CFC meetings over the previous year; Melinda looked at patterns that emerged, and grouped them under a goal of Fulfilling Basic Needs.

The first goal proposed in Phase Two is completing the map of assets and resources in East Salem. This was begun early in last year, but was interrupted by the pandemic and the fires. Melinda suggested that this goal aligns with the Phase One goal of holding community meetings, because both involve gathering information that is needed to guide next actions.

The second goal involves expanding the Community Resource Network and connecting service providers in East Salem with it, to provide a network for finding goods that families need. Melinda said that she is building a list of referral organizations for times when she receives requests for items that do not fit the CRN's guidelines, and would be asking the CFC to help complete that list. Sue mentioned an app called Unite Us, which is being used by Kaiser Permanente. Through this app, a service provider can directly refer clients to other agencies, and there are several CFC member organizations already connected to the network. Sue added that this service would not serve the same function as the CRN, but could definitely be connected. Stacy offered to share some information that she had received about it, as well.

Melinda said that the CRN is a project of the CFC, so going forward, there will be more CRN business included in the CFC's agendas. This might include help with fulfilling requests, but could also include advisory guidance on the CRN's operations and any changes to its terms and protocols. Tamra said that since the CRN's beginning, web development services have been provided by Galaxux to the county at no cost, but this will be changing soon. Also, one of the original roles of the CFC with regard to the CRN was to use its connections and influence to help find solutions for requests that go unfulfilled on the network. Tamra suggested that this could be its own discussion on the next meeting's agenda.

Stacy and Tamra mentioned that they were still working with several agencies to help families displaced by the canyon fires, and Tamra offered to bring a status report to the next CFC meeting. Tamra also shared that Marion County is hiring for a new Recovery Coordinator position.

- **A Phase Two Action Plan was proposed with a goal of Fulfilling Basic Needs, via completing a map of existing resources in East Salem, as well as reconnecting the CFC with the Community Resource Network. The Steering Committee will discuss this proposal further and present a revised version at the next CFC meeting.**
- **Melinda will draft a proposal for the CFC to discuss at the next meeting, regarding actions and decisions related to the CRN expansion and the CFC's role in its operation.**
- **Tamra will share a status report of work being done in other groups to assist families displaced by the canyon fires.**

Additional Updates

Stacy has sent everyone the Vision for Transformation that DHS Child Welfare has put together, and she offered to discuss anything in it that might be of particular interest with CFC member organizations, especially regarding policy and infrastructure changes.

Tricia shared that CAA would be participating in the annual national count of unhoused residents of the community, and that there are opportunities for volunteering with this project.

Melissa shared that the school district released new guidelines for in-person education during the pandemic, so there have been a lot of discussions about how to do this in the safest way. She indicated that changes are coming rapidly, and Tamra let her know that any time that she or any CFC member needs to get information out to the commission between meetings, this information can be sent to Melinda, who will distribute it to the group.

Troy said that the Juvenile Department has received a grant from YED to help them address racial and ethnic disparities. They are partnering with Morpheus Youth Project in Portland, which helps devise culturally-responsive activities for youth development. <https://www.morpheusyouth.org/>

Commissioner Bethell commented that she grew up in East Salem, and is eager to support the CFC's work in that community.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm