

Marion County Children & Families Commission

July 18, 2019 Meeting

11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Keizer Room, Broadway Commons

Commission Members Present: Patrice Altenhofen, ~~Phil Blea~~, Sue Bloom, George Burke, Paige Clarkson, Jayne Downing, Troy Gregg, ~~Lisa Harnisch~~, ~~Levi Herrera Lopez~~, Stacy Lake, ~~Kim Lemman~~, Pete McCallum, Honorable Cheryl Pellegrini, Allan Pollock, Eric Richards, Jim Seymour, ~~Sam Skillern~~, Shaney Starr, Commissioner Colm Willis

Guests- Chris Pineda (Mountain West), Sheriff Joe Kast, Undersheriff Jeff Wood, Eileen Casey-White (Connections Consulting), Jan Calvin

Staff Present: Tamra Goettsch

Meeting Summary Notes by Melinda Hautala

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am. Welcome and introductions were made. Shaney introduced Chris Pineda and suggested that he begin the meeting since he had to leave early.

Further Discussion of Outward Mindset Training

Chris began by asking the CFC members to express any thoughts they had about the Outward Mindset training from June 14 and especially how it relates to the future direction of the CFC.

Sue Bloom stated that she and Troy Gregg had talked many times about collaborating more, and the training spurred them to pick a date for a meeting together so that they could better understand what each other's organization is doing. Members of Boys & Girls Club staff and Juvenile Department staff met on July 16 and had a great conversation about some "broader brush" areas where they can work together to support youth, whether they are already in the system or not. Troy added that this meeting was directly influenced by the Outward Mindset training, because the focus was not about "what can we get from you" but on "what can we do for each other" and "how can we support each other." They also agreed that they should include Eric Richards and his SKSD staff in future discussions, and that the OM training helped them realize what kinds of collaborations could happen between them all going forward.

Troy noted that he is sending 30 staff members from the Juvenile Department to the July Outward Mindset training, as well.

Patrice appreciated the follow-up conversation at the June 20 CFC meeting, and is hoping that Chris could help the CFC continue moving forward with next steps. She mentioned specifically some comments from Josh about Navigators who could help those seeking services to know what agencies are available with what kinds of assistance.

Chris reminded commission members of “red charts” that were discussed at the June 2019 Outward Mindset training. Not being afraid to show each other their “red charts” helps to transform a group culture and when others know what is not going well, it allows others to help solve issues.

Outward Mindset “Meet to Learn” Exercise

Those present participated in a “Meet to Learn” exercise from the Outward Mindset training. Members were reminded of the CFC mission and were asked to “get curious, ask questions, and listen to others to learn about their current obstacles” with the intent of figuring out possible ways to offer assistance. Attendees were reminded of Outward Mindset’s SAM model (See others—Adjust efforts—Measure impact.)

Discussion from “Meet to Learn” Exercise

Patrice spoke to the uncertainty about legislation and funding and how that affects how everyone plans their work. Paige agreed, and added that there also seemed to be uncertainty about how to measure success, and how you know whether you are on the right track. She elaborated by explaining that, for example, the work that Patrice does is preventative, whereas the work she does is more reactive, so what can Paige do to support the work that Patrice does, since there are clearly connections between them?

Shaney expressed similar frustrations, with a particular focus on statewide programs that are measured by the success/failure of other counties. It’s difficult to make Legislators understand that the program works, even if their experience in another county doesn’t have positive outcomes. This impacts funding and program success.

Stacy said that she feels that she is still in the learning stage, finding out ways that she can help and support the other CFC members, since she is still relatively new to the commission.

Judge Pellegrini said that she heard Troy list three challenges that he sees in the Juvenile Department:

- How can we better support kids in the child welfare system to reduce how many cross over to the delinquency system?
- How can the Juvenile Department continue to move the Outward Mindset conversation within their department, between staff, to change the way they talk about the youth they serve and the way they present cases in court.
- How can we understand why there is an inordinate representation of minority youth in the juvenile system? Is there some extra support that these youth need? Are there situations where minority youth are being charged more harshly than other youth for the same actions?

Judge Pellegrini also said that the thing that struck her most about listening to Eric talk about issues within the school district (SKSD) was that the school counseling resources have seen an increase in the amount of kids experiencing acute emotional states and/or suicidal thoughts, and that according to an assessment that SKSD did last year, the population with the greatest increase in this area is elementary school kids.

Additionally, a lot of kids show up to school with various learning barriers that the school system has limited resources to address, particularly family issues. Troy added that a lot of SKSD kids face stressors that are particularly difficult, but are too unique or emerging that there are not systems in place to help kids with them,

e.g., many Latinx kids are especially worried about ICE and whether they or their parents could be picked up without warning.

Troy stated that Judge Pellegrini is very concerned that the Court Care bill did not pass, which stops this program in Marion County.

Jim spoke to Allan's concerns about Cherrlots a new board configuration. Also, despite the good news that Cherrlots received funding to start Saturday service in September, this does add the challenge of finding enough qualified drivers, and getting them all sufficiently trained in time.

From Jayne, Jim said he heard that she felt that Center for Hope and Safety could serve probably 3 times as many women and children as they do now if they had a better system in place for both transitional and long-term stable housing after exiting the shelter. Jim added that Jayne was also concerned that she could see how the Center's plan for their housing development and job training programs should work, but it is very difficult to figure out how to actually put everything in place.

Jayne reflected on Jim's vision for this community; however it's more complex than just saying "let's make this happen."

Patrice mentioned that a common issue in her group is just lack of resources to accomplish all of the projects they want to do, both in funds and staff.

The Boys and Girls Club is having difficulties getting older kids, 17 and 18, placed in internships, even when employers want to help.

The Sheriff is having difficulties in hiring enough qualified staff members that meet their rigorous standards.

Pete is having a difficult time knowing how best to use his community influences and connections. Pete also challenged the group to consider: when is it appropriate to "do less with less" versus "doing more with less"? If "more with less" is not sustainable, then whose lives are changed by dropping some things in order to best use available resources?

Shaney spoke to improving relationships among CFC members: professionally and personally. This is a difficult task due to CFC member's busy schedules. She referenced the Outward Mindset "start the right way" idea, and suggested that maybe the CFC just needs to think differently about ways to foster those personal relationships.

Eileen challenged the group to consider how to better collaborate with Chemeketa Community College. Eileen elaborated on how this could include things like the Early Childhood Education program at Chemeketa, or it could include ways to get more foster kids into the higher education system.

Jan Calvin is transitioning into new work with the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative. This will involve Marion and Polk Counties collaborating to try to get some of the federal funding that is available for homelessness programs, but because they are going for federal funding, the timeline is extremely short, which makes the task of creating policy across two counties even more difficult.

When asked to prioritize subject areas discussed for collaborative efforts, it was suggested that more discussion was needed. Therefore, the Steering Committee was asked to distill the discussion a bit before going further with them rather than trying to categorize the discussion. Sue requested a particular focus on equity and inclusion as part of the CFC's values, as well as how that plays out in its actions. Stacy added that if the CFC could become more intentional about its strategy of looking at issues through an equity and inclusion lens, particularly in the area of prevention, it could go a long way toward tackling the issue of minority overrepresentation.

Eric suggested the group look at how civic engagement within service provision could be implemented, so that members of the community feel empowered to participate in improving their own lives.

Continuum of Care – Jan Calvin

Shaney moved that this agenda item be changed from "Presentation" to "Action" so that the CFC could submit a letter of support. Patrice seconded and all voting members were in favor. Jayne abstained from voting, as Center for Hope and Safety receives Continuum of Care funding. **Motion carried:** Change agenda item from Presentation to Action.

Jan Calvin gave a background about the origins of the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative, and the current Continuum of Care situation. [Presentation and additional materials are attached].

When asked if creating a regional Continuum of Care would result in any loss of funding or support. Jan explained that no, it would not.

Sue moved that Marion County Community Services compose a letter of support for the proposed regional Continuum of Care. George seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor; Jayne abstained. **Motion carried.**

HOPE ALIVE Technical Assistance – Eileen Casey White

Tamra distributed a document outlining Eileen's recommendations for the CFC as her contract for HOPE ALIVE technical assistance has come to an end. Because there was no time remaining for discussion of this handout, Tamra asked everyone to please read it. This will be on the August agenda.

Approval of June 20th Meeting Summary Notes

Jayne motioned to approve. Sue seconded the motion. All were in favor to accept the meeting summary notes. **Motion passed.**

Jayne expressed her thanks to Eileen Casey-White for her work on the HOPE ALIVE initiative.

Adjourned at 1:08pm

The next Children and Families Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15th at Broadway Commons in the Grant Room.