

Marion County Children & Families Commission

February 18, 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: Denyc Boles, Salem Health; 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 11:38 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.

Meeting Schedule

- Over the past year, several members have had difficulty attending CFC meetings due to schedule conflicts, so it was proposed to move the recurring date and time.
- Members responded to a poll with some suggested times to spark discussion, and Melinda asked for input from each member regarding best times and times that will not work. This issue was not resolved during the meeting.

Meeting Format

- Melinda shared a draft Meeting Matrix, a tool that was used in the past for long-term CFC agenda planning. This would allow support staff to better focus the content of each meeting toward the commission's goals, and do more "prep work" that gives the commission things to respond to and provide guidance for.
- A couple of years ago, the CFC agreed to do away with having presentations at each meeting, because it took up a lot of time. Melinda suggested that if this format came back, but with carefully chosen presentations relevant to each agenda, it could be a way to link meeting discussions with other work happening in the county.

- Tamra said that the pandemic became a barrier to working with schools in east Salem, as originally planned, but there could be some value in bringing in guests from other entities to see where their work intersects with the CFC's work.
- Before the pandemic, there had been a plan to hold meetings at member organization offices, as a way to strengthen relationships between CFC members. Since that is not currently possible, scheduling some of the presentations as members talking about their current work is another option.

Meeting Content

- Troy said that the value of the CFC and CFC meetings is the opportunity to collaborate and accomplish things as a group. He recalled that a year ago, the commission gained some enthusiasm when committing to work on the Hope Alive pilot project in east Salem, and although the past year has made progress on that work difficult, he does not want to lose focus on that work, which did bring the CFC together.
- George and Sam both suggested that there has been a lot of good work done over the past year as a direct result of relationships built via the CFC and conversations during CFC meetings.
- Troy reiterated that continuing to educate each other about the work they're doing is a crucial function of the CFC, and suggested that Outward Mindset tools could be helpful here.
- Josh said that one way to keep discussions focused is to identify broad "domains" that are important to all CFC organizations, such as Education, Health, Housing, and Equity, for example. With this approach, the CFC can evaluate whatever work they're doing via how it serves these categories. This would also help each CFC organization see how the commission's work is applicable to their own organization's work.
- Allan added that while Cherriots may not be "on the front lines" as some CFC organizations are, when these "domains" are considered, transportation is often one of the biggest issues.
- Levi shared that he has at times been frustrated because he feels that the county should be doing more to support the community that Mano a Mano serves, specifically for needs that are directly COVID-related. He added that while he agrees that relationships are the foundation for effective collaboration, he would like to see more ideas transition to action and outcome.
- Levi also said that he would like for the CFC to use its position as an advisory board to influence county decisions and make specific recommendations. He asked the members to consider how they can support each other to enact systemic change.
- Jayne said that if there is work that can be done better, or specific things that can be addressed immediately, she hoped that the CFC could use its collective strength to solve these problems. She added that many CFC organizations serve the same families, so there should be ways to combine efforts.

- Jimmy agreed, saying that this is a unique moment in history, and an opportunity to communicate to families who are raising children through adversity that they are important to the leaders of social service providers in this community.
- Phil said that each organization and agency has its own efforts around DEI, but there should be more coordination between organizations and county departments to improve DEI efforts countywide. He added that this is an issue that affects everyone, not just Mano a Mano, particularly since the BIPOC community is consistently shown to be high-risk.
- Stacy shared an example that, like Levi also said, the staff in her department are often able to fill gaps when it comes to things like translating important information into languages other than English, but there is more than they can handle, and this is a crucial area where higher-level coordination could improve efficiency.
- Tamra suggested that these issues could be discussed more deeply outside the CFC meeting, either in the Steering Committee, or possibly an ad hoc subcommittee, so that they could bring back findings and recommendations to the CFC meeting.

HOPE ALIVE

Phase One Action Plan

- After Tamra suggested planning a kick-off event to bring attention to the community meetings planned for east Salem, the Task Group met to discuss possible options for such an event. Melinda shared these recommendations via email (see below) and asked the commission for guidance on what direction they would like the Task Group to move forward in planning. Several commission members voiced assent on the idea of a kick-off event, but no preference for any of the proposed formats.
- Several members proposed finding a way to include community voices on a regular basis in the CFC meetings, possibly by having a representative member, possibly including a small stipend or gift card as appreciation for their time. All agreed to begin working on how this can be accomplished, and Tamra reminded everyone that the bylaws can be amended if necessary, and sent to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Community Resource Network

- Melinda shared some reports from the CRN, showing requests fulfilled during January, including what types of things were requested and by whom (see below).
- The CRN Progress Team is working on codifying a procedure for referring unfulfilled requests to an action team, in addition to sharing the statistics at each CFC meeting. This action team may include some CFC members, as well as some service providers from outside the CFC.
- Tamra urged all CFC members to make sure at least one of their staff is an active user of the CRN; Melinda will re-send information about how to set up an account.

Additional Updates

Tamra has been working with the county's emergency response team to interview persons affected by the Beachie Creek wildfires, in an effort to help them find housing and other things they still need. They expect recovery will take about five years.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm