

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Family Building Blocks
2425 Lancaster Dr NE
Salem, Oregon
June 11, 2013

Attendees: Commissioner Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Mark Caillier, Jayne Downing, Don Frederickson, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Todd McCann, Jerry Moore, Tracy Prall, Bob Royer

Host: Patrice Altenhofen and Heather Hawkins, Family Building Blocks

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action items

At 4:05 pm, Commissioner Patti Milne called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Minutes of the May PSCC meeting were not approved for lack of a quorum.

Commissioner Milne reported that Alison Kelley and she visited Woodburn City Council on June 10 and Salem City Council on May 13 to thank the police departments of each city for their involvement and support of the DrxugSafe program.

She also announced that “Striking Out Meth” is set for July 26, just six weeks away. As the sponsoring entity, PSCC has long played an important role in the event, especially through council members who volunteer to assist in producing the event.

She reviewed three requests for letters of support for grant applications to continue funding for specialty courts of Judge Graves, Judge Prall and Judge Partridge.

Mark Caillier reported on a trip to Medellin, Columbia he is making next week to assist the local police department with technology supporting their 9-1-1 emergency response system.

Family Building Blocks

Patrice Altenhofen was introduced as the executive director of Family Building Blocks. She began her new role in October 2012 after working as an attorney and president of Cascade Employers Association, where she had worked for 19 years. Last year, she said over 1,100 children from over 700 families were served at Family Building Blocks in treating victims of child abuse, trauma and neglect. She introduced Heather Hawkins to describe the services and lead a tour through the facility, which she described as a relief nursery. The model of relief nursery was developed in Eugene and has been replicated in 15 other sites in Oregon. These nonprofit organizations are community based and led by community volunteers.

Research developed in the 1970s showed that a child’s brain is malleable with only 40% developed at birth, but by age 5 as much as 90% of the brain is developed. Early intervention can yield lifelong results, she said. Interaction with others is a major stimulant in brain development, especially from caregivers. The model of relief nurseries is to help parents provide healthy brain stimulation in the early years (newborn to age 5), especially parents with multiple risk factors such as lack of housing, drug or alcohol abuse, and others. The target audience is parents with high levels of risk who have a desire to change and improve. Average length of participation is 18 months.

Ms. Hawkins said programs are growing. Starting July 1, Family Building Blocks will operate Healthy Start programs in Marion County serving over 300 families. A new site has opened in Stayton, in addition to the main center on Lancaster and the center in West Salem. Their greatest successes include 88% of families moving off public assistance within 18 months of service and 95% of families continuing to avoid incidents of trauma or foster care five years after receiving services. She showed a video and continued to answer questions and discuss the program as she led the council on a tour of the facility.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, July 9.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Minutes by Don Russo