

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, October 10, 2017**

BOARD BRIEFING

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. with Commissioner Sharon Meieran present. Commissioner Loretta Smith arrived at 10:19 a.m. Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioner Lori Stegmann were excused.

Also attending were Jenny Madkour, County Attorney, and Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

Commissioner Vega Pederson: GOOD MORNING. TODAY IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, AND WE'RE HERE FOR A BOARD BRIEFING. WE'RE AN ABBREVIATED GROUP. STRONG BUT POWERFUL. SMALL BUT POWERFUL. WE'RE HERE FOR A BRIEFING ON YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION. WELCOME, YOU GUYS, LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS.

B.1 Board Briefing on the Youth and Family Services Division. Presenters: Peggy Samolinski & Rose Bak, Co-Directors, Youth & Family Services Division.

Ms. Bak: GOOD MORNING. I'M ROSE BAK, CO-DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION, JOINED BY PEGGY SAMOLINSKI, THE OTHER CO-DIRECTOR. WE'RE HERE TO BRIEF YOU. PEGGY AND I ARE CO-DIRECTORS AND WE USE AN INNOVATIVE TWO IN THE BOX. AS YOU'LL HEAR OUR WORK IS VARIED. FOR EXAMPLE JUST YESTERDAY I WAS IN MEETINGS ABOUT CHILDREN'S SEX TRAFFICKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES, WEATHERIZATION AND JOB CREATION. IN ONE DAY. BUT WHAT TIES ALL OF OUR WORK TOGETHER IS STABILITY. YOU'LL HEAR THAT A LOT TODAY. AS ONE OF OUR STAFF LIKES TO SAY IN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES STABILITY IS OUR SUPERPOWER. SO WHY DO WE FOCUS ON STABILITY? WE KNOW THAT POVERTY AND VIOLENCE ARE INCREDIBLY DESTABILIZING FOR A FAMILY. WHEN THERE'S ONE CRISIS AFTER ANOTHER IT'S HARD TO MAKE PROGRESS ON GOALS AND CREATE A LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE ALSO KNOW FAMILIES ARE NOT ISSUES. PEOPLE ARE NOT JUST IN POVERTY OR JUST WORRIED ABOUT ADDICTION OR EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE OR WORRIED ABOUT THEIR KIDS' SUCCESS IN SCHOOL.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE ARE VARIED LIKE ALL OF US. THE BEST SUCCESS COMES WHEN WE LOOK AT FAMILIES AS A WHOLE AND CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO THRIVE. YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES SAYS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN THE LEVEL AND DEPTH OF SERVICES TO THRIVE. PEGGY WILL TALK ABOUT

FORMATION OF THE YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION LAST YEAR. A LARGE PART OF THE CREATION OF OUR DIVISION WAS RECOGNIZING WE WERE SERVING A LOT OF THE SAME FAMILIES IN ALL THREE FORMER DIVISIONS BUT WITHOUT THE HOLISTIC APPROACH. WE DECIDED TO BRING THESE DIVISIONS TOGETHER.

Ms. Bak: LOOKING AT THE PROGRAMS WE ADMINISTER IN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WE GENERALLY CATEGORIZE THEM IN FIVE MAJOR FOCUS AREAS THAT ARE ESSENTIALLY FOR THE PATH. THE PATH IS NOT STRAIGHT. IT'S CONSERVED LIKE ALL OUR EXPERIENCES. THEY ARE HOUSING, SAFETY, YOUTH EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME, INCOME AND ASSETS AND QUALITY OF LIFE. YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES ALSO SERVES SEVERAL ROLES IN THE COMMUNITY. OUR PARTNERS AND THE PEOPLE WE SERVE NEED US TO SERVE DIFFERENT ROLES. THEY NEED DIRECT SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT THEY CAN WORK WITH WHO COME FROM THEIR COMMUNITY WITH EXPERTISE APPEARED UNIQUE EXPERIENCES. THEY NEED SYSTEMS THAT ARE COORDINATED AND CAN WORK TOGETHER. THEY NEED STAFF AND PROGRAMMING THAT INCORPORATE CURRENT RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES. THEY NEED PROGRAMS THAT FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE AND THEY NEED PROGRAMS THAT ARE FUNDED AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND PROVIDE THE TYPE OF INTERVENTION CUSTOMIZED FOR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL CORE BELIEFS AND VALUES INTERWOVEN. EQUITY, CONTINUOUS QUALITY, USE OF CLIENT VOICE IN OUR WORK, APPROPRIATE ACCESS AND PARTNERSHIP AND LEVERAGE. I HAVE ONE STORY TO TALK ABOUT HOW THIS WORKS IN PRACTICE. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WE BRIEFED YOU ON OUR STABILITY INITIATIVE AND THE PROCEEDS WE WENT THROUGH TO CREATE THAT PROGRAM BASED ON FAMILY STRENGTHS, CURRENT RESEARCH AND LEARNING FROM PREVIOUS PROGRAMS. RECENTLY WE HAD A FAMILY COME INTO OUR PROGRAM AND BECAUSE THEY WERE AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR HOUSING THEY HAD QUIT THEIR JOBS AND THEIR KIDS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL AND THERE WAS A LOT OF CHALLENGES. THE CLIENT MET WITH THEIR STABILITY CASE WORKER AND THAT PERSON USED AN APPROACH TO FIND OUT WHY THIS FAMILY WAS IN CRISIS. WE LEARNED THE PARTICIPANT WAS SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION DUES TO THE DEATH OF HER MOTHER. WHILE SHE HAD A FULL-TIME JOB PAYING THE BILLS IT WAS NOT SATISFYING AND SHE WAS LIVING PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK.

WE HELPED HER ACCESS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDED SERVICES FOR THEIR CHILDREN. NOW INSTEAD OF LOSING HER HOUSING SHE IS WORKING ON A NEW CAREER, SHE'S SUCCESSFULLY MANAGING HER DEPRESSION, HER KIDS ARE DOING WELL IN SCHOOL AND THE FAMILY IS FROM STILL SAFELY HOUSED. NEXT WE WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT BARRIERS PEOPLE FACE. THESE ARE NOT SURPRISING. FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING EVERYTHING FROM HIGH ENERGY COSTS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, LOW GRADUATION RATES, DISCRIMINATION, HUNGER AND FOOD

INSECURITY. THIS IMPACTS THE HOUSING MARKET AND LIVING WAGE JOBS. HERE'S JUST A FEW STATISTICS FROM OUR COMMUNITY. MANY OF THE HOUSEHOLDS WE SERVE ARE PAYING ENERGY COSTS SUCH AS HEATING AND ELECTRICITY THAT ARE AS HIGH AS 35% OF THEIR INCOME PARTICULARLY THIS YEAR WITH EXTREME HEAT AND COLD.

Ms. Bak: MOST OF THE FAMILIES THAT WE MEET ARE SPENDING FROM 50 TO 80% OF THEIR INCOME ON THE RENT AND CONSTANTLY WORRIED ABOUT NO-CAUSE EVICTION. WE'RE THE SECOND HIGHEST STATE IN THE NATION FOR INSTANCE DENTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND 25% OF HOMICIDES IN THE COUNTY ARE FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCLUDING ONE THAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK. WE HAVE THE LOWEST UTILIZATION OF EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT LEAVING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON THE TABLE AND WE RANK MON AMONG THE HIGHEST IN HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY. OBVIOUSLY THESE ARE A LOT OF CHALLENGES BUT WILDFIRE WE TALK MORE ABOUT OUR WORK PEGGY IS GOING TO GIVE YOU A HIGHER LEVEL OVERVIEW OF THE SYSTEM.

Ms. Samolinski: THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN, PEGGY SAMOLINSKI. THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MORNING. ROSE HAS OFFERED YOU A NET SHELL VERSION OF OUR CORE MISSION AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO. WE'LL BE GOING INTO MORE DETAIL IN A MINUTE. FIRST I WANT TO JUST GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF OUR HISTORY. IT'S LONG AND VARIED AND MUCH OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING TODAY IS BASED ON WORK THAT BEGAN MANY YEARS AGO THAT PRECEDED BOTH ROSE AND I. SINCE THE LATE '90S, AS FAR BACK AS I WENT IN THIS HISTORY, WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS KINDS OF WORK ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE PROGRAMS CHANGED, AND METHOD HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME. BUT IN THE LATE '90S ALL OF THIS WORK WAS PART OF A DEPARTMENT CALLED THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY FAMILY SERVICES. WHEN I JOINED THE COUNTY IN THE LATE '90S LORENZO PO WAS DIRECTOR OF THAT DIVISION. OUR DEPARTMENT. AGING AND DISABILITIES WAS ITS OWN DEPARTMENT.

IN 2003 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS WAS FORMED. THAT PULLED OUT THE ANTI-POVERTY AND SCHOOL RELATED SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT INTO THE OFFICE. LINDA PO BECAME DIRECTOR OF THAT AS WELL. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATION OFFICE WAS PART AND PART OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES. IN 2007 WHEN CHAIR WHEELER CAME ON BOARD AND JOANNE FULLER BECAME DIRECTOR THEY BROUGHT THOSE THREE DIVISIONS AS DISTINCT WORK UNITS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES. IT BECAME THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION, SUN SERVICE SYSTEM AND DOMESTIC VIOLINS COORDINATION OFFICE. JUST OVER A YEAR AGO IN 2016 IN JULY WE BECAME THE YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION. SO AGAIN, THE THREADS OF THE WORK TRACE BACK PROBABLY WAY BEFORE THE '90S. BUT CONTINUE TO THIS DAY. SO OVER ALL WE HAVE FIVE GOAL AREAS AND THEY ALL FIT UNDER BROAD HEADINGS.

Ms. Samolinski: WE ARE THE COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM OFFICE, A FEDERALLY DESIGNATED TITLE THAT WE CARRY IN THE COMMUNITY. WE OPERATE THE SUN SERVICE SYSTEM WITH AN ARRAY OF CONTRACTED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY. WE PROVIDE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE FUNDING COORDINATION. WE HAVE THREE PROGRAM AREAS WHERE WE ARE DELIVERING DIRECT SERVICES. WE CONTRACT OUT MOST SERVICES BUT WE HAVE THREE AREAS WHERE PROVIDING THEM. WE MANAGE A GENERAL AWAY ARE FUND INVESTMENTS YOU BESTOW UPON US. OUR BUDGET IS JUST UNDER \$51 MILLION A YEAR. OVER HALF OF THAT 54% IS COUNTY GENERAL FUND. THE REST IS STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL DOLLARS. WE CONTRACT OUT 81% OF OUR FUNDING TO NONPROFITS IN THE COMMUNITY. WE HAVE 70 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES IN OUR FY-18 BUDGET. SO THIS SLIDE IS INTENDED TO CAPTURE SORT OF AS ROSE TALKED ABOUT THE FIVE GOAL AREAS WHAT THEY ARE IN TERMS OF HOUSING STABILITY, IMPROVED SAFETY, YOUTH EDUCATIONAL OUT COMES, INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSETS AND QUALITY OF LIFE AND INCLUSION. ALSO CAPTURE BOTH IN THE CENTER COLUMN SOME OF THE WAYS WE ACHIEVE THOSE THROUGH INITIATIVES AND SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND ON THE RIGHT SIDE WE WENT THROUGH OUR PROGRAM OFFERS AND SLOTTED THEM INTO ONE OF THE GOAL AREAS WHICH AS WE DID IT WE KNEW WAS ARTIFICIAL.

MANY OF THE PROGRAMS WE'RE FUNDING, MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, MANY OF OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS, THEY DON'T FIT THEMSELVES TIGHTLY INTO ONE BUCKET BUT FOR THIS PURPOSE. YOU CAN TRACE IT BACK TO THE BUDGET AS WELL AS UNDERSTAND WHAT SOME OF THE PROGRAMS ARE THAT WE'RE FUNDING. FOR EXAMPLE IN-HOUSING STABILITY WE HAVE RENT ASSISTANCE. WE'RE PART OF THE SHORT TERM RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT HOME FORWARD FUNDS. THAT'S A MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP THERE. INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSETS WE HAVE OUR INCOME AND BENEFITS ACQUISITION PROGRAM. OUR EARNED INCOME TAX BENEFIT. WE DO A LOT OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICE. WE SUPPORTING ENGAGEMENT, APPROACHES AND TRAUMA INFORMED CARE WITH ALL OUR CONTRACTORS AND STAFF. THERE'S A LOT OF WAYS WE'RE CARRYING OUT MANY OF THESE GOALS. I'M GOING TO TURN IT BACK TO ROSE.

Ms. Bak: THIS SLIDE SHOWS SOME OF THE STAFF ROLES IN FAMILY STABILITY. WE PROVIDE A ROLE IN DIRECT SERVICE ENGAGING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS. WE BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO MAXIMIZE RESOURCES. WE PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING INCLUDING SUBJECT EXPERTS ON TRAINING AND SUPPORT OUR PARTNERS SUCCESS NOT ONLY LOCALLY BUT AROUND THE STATE. WE DO PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INCLUDING DATA ANALYSIS AND PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ACT AS A FUNDER. WE PASS THROUGH FEDERAL, STATE FUNDS AND MANAGE GENERAL CONTRACTS. NEXT WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT A CUP 8 OF THE SPECIFIC

GOAL AREAS. THE WAY WE SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY. THE FIRST GOAL AREA IS FAMILY STABILITY.

Ms. Bak: THAT GIVES YOU AN IDEA HOW WE SERVE THOSE FIVE ROLES I MENTIONED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE AREA OF HOUSING STABILITY WE HAVE A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS. MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE, RUNAWAY YOUTH, SHORT TERM RENT ASSISTANCE, AS A LEADER AND CONVENER, WE CONVENE OUR MULTNOMAH STABILITY CASE MANAGEMENT STAFF FROM THE AGENCIES TO STAFF CASES, PROBLEM SOLVE, PROVIDE RESOURCES, ENSURE BEST PRACTICES AND WE HAVE OUR NEWLY CREATED HOUSING STABILITY TEAM THAT LOOKS AT HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE COUNTY IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND PROVIDES WRAP-AROUND SERVICES WHEN THEIR HOUSING IS IN JEOPARDY SO WE CAN STABILIZE THEM AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS. WE PROVIDE TRAINING LIKE ASSERTIVENESS AND HOUSING. WE PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES THROUGH PROGRAMS LIKE FAMILIA, OUR SERVICE CENTER IN CULLY AND OUR WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM. HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE WORK WITH OUR HOUSING STABILITY TEAM.

WE LOOK AT COUNTY CLIENTS WHERE WE WERE ALREADY INVESTING SERVICES BUT FAMILIES WERE AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR HOUSING, OR INDIVIDUALS WERE. AN AGING DISABILITY SERVICES WORKER WHO BELONGS TO THE TEAM BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION AN 80-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WHO WAS ALSO A VETERAN AND SUFFERED FROM DEMENTIA LIVING IN A HOUSE WHERE HER ONLY BATHROOM WAS INOPERABLE AND THE DAMAGED FLOORING. SHE WAS AT RISK OF LOSING HER HOME AND BEING PLACED INTO A CARE FACILITY AND NEITHER SHE NOR HER FAMILY WANTED. THAT OUR VETERANS SERVICES STAFF HELPED HER GET HER DAUGHTER TO MOVE IN AND BE A PAID CARE-GIVER. WE USED OUR HOUSING AND STABILIZATION FUNDS TO REPAIR HER BATHROOM AND DO OTHER MODIFICATIONS. WE USED AN ASSERTIVE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM TO TALK WITH THEM ABOUT WHAT THEY WANTED AND STAFF FROM MULTIPLE COUNTY PROGRAMS CAME TOGETHER TO HELP MAKE THIS A SUCCESS STORY. THAT'S A NEW THING WE HAVE BEEN DOING.

IT'S REALLY BRINGING IN OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS WITHIN YOUTH AND FAMILY TO TAG TEAM TO HELP FAMILIES BE SUCCESSFUL. THE NEXT SLIDE TALKS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PATH IN OUR MULTNOMAH STABILITY PROGRAM WHICH IS ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS. OUR PARTNERS AT THE MOBILE HOUSING TEAM FROM THE JOINT OFFICE, PEOPLE ARE MATCHED WITH A SPECIALIST. WE COMMUNICATE, COLLABORATE AND SEE THEIR NEEDS THEN HELP IDENTIFY SERVICES NOT JUST COUNTY SERVICES BUT SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT WILL HELP THEM REACH THEIR GOALS. LAST YEAR WE SERVED 874 FAMILIES THROUGH OUR STABILITY INITIATIVE AND HELPED THEM MOVE TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF STABILITY. A SECOND GOAL AREA IS AROUND SAFETY. AS YOU CAN SEE WE FUND A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS IN THE AREA FROM OUR COMMUNITY

SERVICES BLOCK GRANT TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COORDINATION TO WORKING TO PREVENT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING. OUR FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Ms. Bak: WE'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK. WE DO QUITE A BIT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT TRAINING ACROSS THE STATE AND IN SOME CASES AT NATIONAL VENUES. WE ALSO SERVE TO CONVENE SMALL CITIES IN OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKED GRAN TO IMPROVE NEIGHBORHOODS AND INCREASE SAFETY THROUGH THINGS LIKE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS AND FIRE HYDRANTS AND OTHER SAFETY MODIFICATIONS AND WE PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES THROUGH OUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE ADVOCATE TEAM. THE NEXT SLIDE SHOWS A COUPLE OF OUR ADVOCATES AND PARTNERS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT. YOU MAY REMEMBER WE BROUGHT THIS PROGRAM IN-HOUSE WITH A NEW BUDGET HERE SO THAT OUR ADVOCATES COULD BECOME COUNTY STAFF AND WE COULD IMPROVE RESPONSE AVAILABILITY AND CONSISTENCY.

WE HAVE A TEAM OF EIGHT ADVOCATES AVAILABLE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK INCLUDING NIGHTS, WEEKEND AND HOLIDAYS. WE'RE EXCITED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXTEND COVERAGE. IN THIS PROGRAM WE ASSIST WHERE THERE ARE CASES OF HIGHS LETHALITY. REFERRALS COME FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES WE WORK WITH THEM ON SAFETY PLANNING AND PROVIDE THEM WITH RESOURCES THAT CAN SAVE THEIR LIVES. THE STAFF IS HOUSED WITH POLICE. THEY ATTEND CALLS AND GO ON SITE ONCE IT'S DEEMED SAFE TO WORK WITH PEOPLE TO HELP THEM IDENTIFY WHAT THEY NEED TO DO. THE WORK IS VERY, VERY HARD PARTICULARLY LAST WEEK WITH THE FATALITY WE EXPERIENCED BUT IT'S ALSO QUITE IMPORTANT. WHEN THERE IS A FATALITY WE WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS TO EXAMINE CASES AND WHAT HAPPENED AND TRY TO DETERMINE IF THERE'S THINGS WE COULD DO TO PREVENT DEATHS IN THE FUTURE. NOW PEGGY HAS OTHER GOAL AREAS.

Ms. Samolinski: THE THIRD GOAL AREA THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IS EDUCATION AND FAMILY STABILITY. OUR DIVISION INVESTS QUITE HEAVILY IN EDUCATION, SUPPORT, NOT EDUCATION ITSELF BUT THE WRAP-AROUND SOCIAL SERVICES THAT FAMILIES AND STUDENTS NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. YOU CAN SEE AS A FUNDER, SUN SERVICE SYSTEM WE'RE FUNDING 86 SITES THIS YEAR. WE HAVE SUN YOUTH ADVOCACY OUR MORE IN DEPTH CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM THAT ENGAGES WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES ON A ONE-ON-ONE BASIS. WE HAVE EARLY LEARNING SERVICES. AS LEADER AND CONVENER, WE'RE BRINGING FOLKS TOGETHER THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR TO NETWORK, TO TRAIN, TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND SHARING INFORMATION.

Ms. Samolinski: AS ROSE MENTIONED, WITH THE MULTNOMAH STABILITY INITIATIVE WE BRING DIRECT SERVICE STAFF TOGETHER IN A MONTH THEN SUBSEQUENT MONTH WE BRING THE SUPERVISORS TOGETHER SO WE'RE CONSTANTLY ENGAGING WITH OUR AGENCIES AROUND THE WORK WE'RE DOING WITH THEM AND THAT THEY ARE DOING TOGETHER SO PEOPLE ARE STAYING UP TO SPEED ON CURRENT NEW BEST PRACTICES AND GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER SO THEY CAN MAKE REFERRALS.

WE KNOW THOSE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER WHEN FOLKS ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO ACCESS SERVICES. WE DO A VARIETY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING. WE STAY UP ON BEST PRACTICES TO THE EXTENT WE CAN TO BRING NEW AND EXCITING EFFORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. ONE OF OUR MOST RECENT IS THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER HOME VISIT APPROACH WHERE WE WORK WITH KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS BRINGING THE TRAINING TO THEM TO TRY TO SPARK INTEREST WITHIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND WITHIN BUILDINGS AND HOPEFULLY TAKE OFF ON ITS OWN OVER TIME BUT IT'S A ROLE WE PLAY IN TERMS OF INCENTIVIZING AND INCITING NEW IDEAS. ENGAGEMENT AND TRAUMA AND INFORMED PRACTICE IS AT THE CORE OF WHAT WE TRAIN OUR CONTRACTORS IN HOW TO DELIVER SERVICES THEN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT WE DO A VARIETY OF WORK AROUND PROGRAM OUT PUTS AND OUT COMES FOR OUR CONTRACTS AND OUR INTERNAL SERVICES. WE DO LOTS OF SURVEYS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION WELL AS DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.

ONE STORY I WANT TO TELL IS QUICKLY ABOUT THE YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM. WE HEARD FROM A YOUTH ADVOCATE AT IRCO, IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ORGANIZATION WHO WORKS WITH IMMIGRANT FAMILIES. LAST YEAR THEY ACCOMPANIED THEIR PARENTS TO THE PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE BECAUSE PARENTS DIDN'T KNOW THE SYSTEM AND OFTEN TELL WHAT WAS BEING TALKED ABOUT SO THEY INTERPRETED FOR THEM. THEY INTERPRETED THE GRADE RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE ISSUES IN LANGUAGES THAT THE PARENTS COULD UNDERSTAND. THIS STAFF REPORTED THAT 70% OF PARENTS THEY WORKED WITH ATTENDED PARENTS TEACHER CONFERENCES IN THE SPRING. THAT WAS A HUGE IMPROVEMENT OVER WHAT IT'S BEEN LIKE IN THE PAST. IN ONE OTHER SCHOOL SITE THE STAFF REPORTED THAT MORE PARENTS STARTED VOLUNTEERING IN SCHOOL EVENTS AND MULTI-CULTURAL NIGHT ACTIVITIES. HAVING SOMEONE THAT LOOKED LIKE THEM, SPOKE THEIR LANGUAGE, COULD HELP THEM NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM WAS CRITICAL TO GET INVOLVED IN THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE WE'RE SHOWING IN THIS SLIDE IS JUST SORT OF THE FLOW OF FUNDING AND SERVICES IN THE SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOL. IT COMES THROUGH THE COUNTY AND OUR PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICTS. WE CONTRACT WITH THE LEAD AGENCY NONPROFIT WHO OPERATES THAT SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOL. THEY HIRE A SITE MANAGER WHO WEAR ABOUT THAT

MANY HATS (18) IN THE COURSE OF A DAY. THEY ARE MOBILIZING, ORGANIZING, BRINGING IN PARTNERS, OFFERING PROGRAMS, COLLABORATING, SITTING DOWN WITH FAMILIES. THEY ARE WEARING ANY ONE OF THOSE HATS AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT, SOMETIMES MORE THAN ONE AT A TIME. THEY ARE ORGANIZING A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES IN A GIVEN SCHOOL. OFTENTIMES THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MODEL IS INTENDED TO MILK IT A HUB WHERE PEOPLE COMFORTABLE AND WANT TO COME TO THAT SCHOOL TO GET SOME SUPPORT AS NEEDED.

Ms. Samolinski: I HAVE A LITTLE STORY. IT SPEAKS TO THE WRAP-AROUND NATURE OF WHAT SUN CAN DO. CHERRY PARK SUN SCOOT IN THE DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS OFTEN BEEN AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS WHO NEED A STABLE, SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO LEADERSHIP, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS AND MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES. THE MANAGER AND PRINCIPAL HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH A HOMELESS FAMILY TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEEDED, ROLLING THE CHILDREN IN AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES ONCE THEY FOUND OUT THE FAMILY WAS HOMELESS. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES A WARM MEAL FOR THE STUDENTS EACH EVENING AND PROVIDES A SAFE, WARM ENVIRONMENT TO LEARN AND PLAY. SINCE LAST FALL THE SCHOOL HAS GIVEN THE FAMILY ACCESS TO THE WASHING MACHINES LOCATED ON CAMPUS. THE FAMILY IS WELCOME TO REQUEST ITEMS FROM THE CLOTHING CLOSET WHENEVER THEY NEED ADDITIONAL GARMENTS.

THE SUN SITE MANAGER IS WORKING TO SECURE A LOCATION FOR THE FAMILY TO LIVE THIS. HAVE ACCESS TO A MOBILE HOME TRAILER BUT NO LEGAL PLACE TO PARK IT. THE FAMILY MUST MOVE THE VEHICLE AROUND PERIODICALLY TO AVOID BEING REPORTED. THE FAMILY HAS TOLD THE SUN SITE MANAGER IT'S DIFFICULT TO PARK IN SOME AREAS OF PORTLAND DUE TO VIOLENT CRIME. THE SUN MANAGER RECENTLY CONTRACTED A FEW R.V. PARKS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF FINDING THEM A STABLE PLACE TO LIVE UNTIL THEY CAN FIND AN APARTMENT. THE SITE MANAGER DROPPED OFF CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MULTIPLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE AGENCIES AT THE MOBILE HOME. THE STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BE IN SUN UNTIL THE FAMILY FOUND PERMANENT HOUSING. SO THE NEXT AREA, THIS IS OUR FOURTH ONE, IS ECONOMIC ASSETS AND FAMILY STABILITY.

AS WE MENTIONED SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THAT WE SUPPORT ARE HELPING FAMILIES GAIN SKILLS, SOME ARE HELPING THEM GAIN ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT THEY QUALIFY FOR, AND SOME ARE HELPING THEM TO HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR COMMUNITY SUCH AS ROCKWOOD INITIATIVE, ROCKWOOD, ROSEWOOD INITIATIVE, EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AS ROSE MENTIONED, ONE OF THOSE THAT A LOT OF MONEY SITS ON THE TABLE SO BY CONDUCTING OUTREACH WE HELP FAMILIES LEARN ABOUT IT AND GAIN ACCESS TO THOSE RESOURCES. THIS SLIDE SHOWS AN EXAMPLE OF THE BENEFITS ACQUISITION PROGRAM. WE CONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT

PARTNER WHO HAS STAFF WHO WORK CLOSELY WITH FOLKS TO ACCESS SSI AND SSDI BENEFITS, A VERY COMPLICATED PROCESS WITH A LOT OF PAPERWORK AND MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO DO THIS INDEPENDENTLY SIMPLY STOP BUT THIS EXPERT ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND COACHING MAKES IT A FASTER PROCESS FOR FOLKS AND BENEFITS ARE RECEIVED OFTEN AND GET MONEY INTO THE COMMUNITY AND STABILIZE HOUSEHOLDS.

Ms. Samolinski: IN FACT LAST YEAR 71% OF THE PEOPLE THAT THEY WERE WORKING WITH WERE APPROVED FOR SSI OR SSDI BENEFITS BY THE TIME THEY EXITED, THREE TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. 71% MEANS SOME WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL BUT BY AND LARGE PEOPLE ARE. IT'S OVER THREE TIMES THE LIKELIHOOD OF FOLKS WHO ARE TRYING TO DO IT ON THEIR OWN. ANOTHER AREA WHERE A ROLE AS LEADER OR CONVENER AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT HAS BEEN IN THE AREA OF CHILD HUNGER RELIEF. WE HAVE A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OREGON FOOD BANK AND WE HAVE 20 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRIES AND SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. WE HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND WE CONDUCT SNAP OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT FOR FAMILIES. LATE FALL SUMMER WE GOT INVOLVED WITH PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN CENTENNIAL TO GET THE WORD OUT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS WHERE THE SCHOOL SITE WAS LOSING ITS DIRECT CERTIFICATION.

IT MEANT ALL STUDENTS IN THAT GIVEN SCHOOL WERE ABLE TO GET A FREE MEAL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. THAT WAS ENDING FOR SEVERAL SCHOOLS IN PORTLAND PUBLIC AS WELL AS CENTENNIAL. WE WORKED WITH ALL OF THEM FACING THE MOST CHANGES IN THIS TO DEVELOP A VARIETY OF COMMUNICATION MATERIALS AND MULTIPLE FORMATS, VIDEOS, HANDOUTS, WEBSITE, FACEBOOK. MATT, OUR SLIDE PERSON TODAY, WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN CREATING THOSE MATERIALS TO GET THE WORD OUT THAT FREE MEALS ARE AVAILABLE BUT THEY HAVE TO APPLY. STILL AVAILABLE AND MANY THOUGHT IT WAS JUST GOING AWAY COMPLETELY. THAT WASN'T THE CASE. OUR MEDIA CAMPAIGN HELPED THEM UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS. WE'LL KNOW AT THE END OF OCTOBER WHEN THEY DO NUMBERS FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS HOW SUCCESSFUL THAT WAS AT THAT TIME. THANKS. BACK TO ROSE.

Ms. Bak: THE FINAL GOAL AREA IS QUALITY OF LIFE INCLUSION AND FAMILY STABILITY. THERE'S A VARIETY OF THINGS WE FUND INCLUDING SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY YOUTH PROGRAMS, ADAPT A HOME AND MEND A HOME WHICH DOES IMPORTANT REPAIRS AND MODIFICATIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO STAY IN THEIR HOME. THE OPEN DOORS COLLABORATIVE IS LOOKING AT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DISABILITIES TO SERVE OUR JOINT CLIENTS. WE SERVE AS LEADER AND CONVENER IN THE CHILD HUNGER COALITION AND OPEN DOOR COLLABORATIVE AND WE DO A LOT OF WORK AROUND TRAUMA

INFORMED PRACTICES, ASSERTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND SAFE AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES. THE THEME IN COMMON IS REALLY A LOT OF WORK AROUND BRINGING BEST PRACTICES AND HOW TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE, HOW TO HELP THEM FIND AND IDENTIFY AND MEET GOALS AND HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE IN A WAY THAT'S CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND TRAUMA INFORMED.

Ms. Bak: THE NEXT SLIDE IS A LITTLE PICTURE OF ONE OF OUR QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS. THERE WAS A PLACE IN WOOD VILLAGE THAT WAS DECREPIT. THE HOOPS WERE TORN DOWN, THE PLAY STRUCTURE WAS DATED. WE NOTICED KIDS WERE PLAYING SOCCER IN A FIELD WITH ANKLE DEEP MUD. WE USED SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO FIX IT BUT THERE'S A LOT OF RED TAPE. THEY WERE INFORMING US THE PARK WAS NOT IN LOW ENOUGH INCOME AREA SO WE SERVED AS A CONVENER AND ADVOCATE WITH SMALL CITY OF WOOD VILLAGE TO PETITION THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DID A SURVEY OF THE AREA TO PROVE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS WRONG, THAT IS THIS IS A LOW INCOME AREA. WE UNLOCKED SOME FEDERAL FUNDS AND FIXED THE SOCCER FIELD SO THE KIDS HAVE A NICE GRASSY AREA. WE REPLACED THE BASKETBALL HOOPS AND REPLACED THE PLAY STRUCTURE. THAT WAS A SUCCESS.

TO SUMMARIZE, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PROVIDES A LOT OF STABILITY IN THOSE GOAL AREAS, HOUSING, SAFETY, EDUCATION, INCOME, ASSETS AND WELL-BEING. BEFORE WE OPEN FOR QUESTIONS WE WANTED TO END WITH ONE FINAL STORY. THIS IS FROM OUR WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM. LAST YEAR WE WEATHERIZED 271 HOMES. IF YOU HAVE NEVER DONE IT I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO WITH ONE OF OUR INSPECTORS AND DO AN INSPECTION. IT'S SUPER FUN. SO EARLIER THIS YEAR WE DID AN ENERGY AUDIT FOR AN 85-YEAR-OLD MAN LIVING IN A HOUSE OVER 100 YEARS OLD. WE IDENTIFIED PLACES WHERE WE COULD DO SERVICES TO REDUCE ENERGY USE BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL MAJOR ISSUES INCLUDING ELECTRICAL AND ROOFING ISSUES. THIS MAN WHO WAS A VETERAN HAD RESOLVED HIMSELF TO LIVING THERE BECAUSE HE COULDN'T AFFORD ANYTHING ELSE.

MANY ISSUES WERE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE FIXED WITH WEATHERIZATION BUT BECAUSE OF THE APPROACH WE HAVE WE WERE ABLE TO BRAID TOGETHER FUNDING AND SERVICES FROM SEVERAL YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS. WE REPLACED HIS ROOF, UPGRADED HIS ELECTRICAL WIRING AND CONNECTED HIM WITH ADDITIONAL SERVICES. HE WROTE US A LETTER AFTER HIS HOUSE WAS FIXED EXPRESSING SHOCK AND GRATITUDE AT THE WORK WE DID SAYING HOW GRATEFUL HE WAS TO LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE MULTNOMAH COUNTY. HE WAS SO HAPPY WITH WHAT HAPPENED HE SAID HE WOULD LEAVE US IN HIS WILL SO HE COULD PAY FORWARD TO FUTURE PEOPLE. STORIES LIKE THAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW WE HELP CREATE STABILITY IN THE COUNTY. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION THAT YOU'D LIKE FROM US NOW.

Commissioner Meieran: I HAVE A QUESTION. THANK YOU, ROSE AND PEGGY, THAT WAS A GREAT DESCRIPTION OF SO MUCH WORK THAT YOU DO AND APPRECIATE HEARING THE STORIES. I DID HAVE ONE QUESTION, AND IT'S RELATED TO SORT OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND OUT COMES MEASUREMENTS. I KNOW OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY BECAUSE WE'RE THE MOST URBAN COUNTY IN THE STATE, BUT I WAS CONCERNED HEARING SOME OF THOSE STATISTICS LIKE THAT WE ARE AT OR CLOSE TO THE LOWEST AND WORST OR HOVER YOU WANT TO SAY IT IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OUR GRADUATION RATES, HOMICIDES RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. THOSE KINDS OF ISSUES. AND THAT IS VERY CONCERNING TO ME.

I WAS WONDERING, EACH OF THESE INDEPENDENT PROGRAMS ARE WONDERFUL, BUT HOW DO WE KNOW FROM THAT BIG PICTURE HOW WE AND OUR CONTRACTORS ARE ACTUALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE AND MOVING THE NEEDLE ON THE MAJOR CHALLENGES THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY FACING IN THESE AREAS. IN TERMS OF DATA, DO WE HAVE DATA OR EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT OUR EFFORTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE? IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE AT THE LOW END. SO HOW ARE WE MEASURING THAT? HOW ARE WE HOLDING OUR CONTRACTORS AND OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE IS GUESS IS MY QUESTION?

Ms. Samolinski: VERY GOOD QUESTION. I'M NOT SURPRISED. I THINK WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT THE FOLKS ENGAGED IN THE PROGRAMS THAT WE FUND ARE IMPROVING. WE KNOW THAT FOR KIDS WHO ENGAGE IN SOME LONG TERM THEIR ARE GRADUATING AT GREATER RATES THAN THEY'RE PEERS. YOUTHS WHO ENGAGE IN THIS ADVOCACY ARE IMPROVING ATTENDANCE. WE KNOW WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARE SAFE. WE KNOW FOR FOLKS THAT PARTICIPATE WHETHER IT'S MOVING THE BIGGER NEEDLE IS A MUCH MORE COMPLICATED QUESTION. WE KNOW ALSO THE THINGS WE'RE DOING ARE NOT NECESSARILY CONTRIBUTING TO IT. THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS THAT GO INTO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, RIGHT? SO I THINK THE OTHER ISSUE IS THAT SOMETIMES OUR SERVICES ARE A SMALL PORTION AND SO MOVING A NEEDLE LIKE WHAT WAS ONE OF THEM THAT ROSE CITED? THAT WE'RE LEAVING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON THE TABLE. IF WE CAN REACH 2,000 PEOPLE THAT'S SUPER HELPFUL BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF A DENT WE HAVE MADE. WE HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THE LARGER MEASURE YET BUT KNOWING WHAT WE'RE DOING FOR THE FOLKS WE ENGAGE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Ms. Bak: WE TRY TO STAY ABREAST ON NATIONAL RESEARCH. WE KNOW NATIONAL RESEARCH SAYS FAMILIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM HAVE BETTER HOUSEHOLD INCOMES, LESS INCIDENTS OF DIABETES, HEART DISEASE AND OTHER PROBLEMS. THERE'S BEEN RESEARCH THAT SHOWED US THAT. OTHER RESEARCH SHOWS FAMILIES THAT LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE THERE'S NO FOOD DESERT, ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION HAS A LOT

OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH OUT COMES AS WELL AS ECONOMIC OUT COMES. WE TRY TO USE WHAT WE HEAR FROM THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AS WELL TO INFORM WHEN WE'RE DOING CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN OUR PROGRAMS.

Commissioner Smith: THANK YOU FOR ROSE AND EVERYBODY FOR COMING UP. THIS IS REALLY GOOD. ONE OF THE QUESTIONS I ASKED WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE WAS HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE SUN SCHOOL PROGRAMS BECAUSE PEOPLE JUST THINK THAT SUN IS JUST ALL ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS. BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT IT'S ADULT EDUCATION, IT'S USING THE SCHOOL BEFORE THE SCHOOL STARTS SO THAT PEOPLE CAN BE INVOLVED. I THINK A LOT OF WHAT WE DO IN TERMS OF SUN IS THE SCHOOL PIECE. BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY CONGRATULATIONS BECAUSE WE KNOW WHEN WE SAW THAT REPORT THAT CAME FROM THE URBAN LEAGUE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, UNSETTLING PROFILES, THAT IS WHAT GOT ME STARTED ON THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD. OBVIOUSLY WE SAW THE DATA THAT THEY HAD DONE THAT SAID, LOOK, WHEN KIDS ARE IN SUN SCHOOLS THEY GRADUATE AT A HIGHER RATE. THEY COME TO SCHOOL AT A GREATER RATE. SOME OF THE RESOURCES WE HAVE USED I THINK HAVE BEEN REALLY EFFECTIVE. IN PROFILES IT ALSO SAID THAT KIDS OF COLOR WHO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, THEY GRADUATE AT EVEN A HIGHER RATE.

SO FOR ME NOT GETTING SO MUCH CAUGHT UP IN I DON'T WANT TO BE A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I JUST WANT TO BE A HELPER. GIVE THEM SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THEY CAN'T DO OUT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE MOVING THE DIAL. I DO AGREE WITH SOME OF THE POINTS THAT COMMISSIONER MYRON TALKED ABOUT. ALL SUN SCHOOLS ARE NOT EQUAL SO THEY DON'T DO THE SAME THINGS. SOME SUN SCHOOLS ARE REALLY GOOD. THEY HAVE THIS SUPER SUPPORT SYSTEM. THEN YOU HAVE SUN SCHOOLS WHO HAVE JUST THE MATCH FROM THE SCHOOL AND THEY DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT SYSTEM.

I WANT TO SAY I HAVE BEEN WATCHING THIS FOR SOME YEARS NOW, AND I THINK YOU ALL DO GREAT WORK, IN WORKING WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE KIDS IN OUR COUNTY. THAT THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT I THINK NEED TO STAY AND SOMETIMES WE NEED TO EXPAND UPON THESE PROGRAMS AND I THINK WE HAVE DONE THAT THROUGH THE HOUSING PIECE, HOUSING AFFORD AND HOMELESS THAT WE HAVE KEPT FOLKS IN THEIR HOMES AND THEY STAY STABLE WITH FAMILIES THAT THEY HAVE. KUDOS TO YOU. THE FIRST QUESTION IS, I'M KIND OF WORRIED ABOUT OUR WINTER. ARE WE PREPARED FOR HAVING A REALLY ROUGH WINTER KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR? ARE WE TRYING TO GEAR UP FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR? WE MAY JUST HAVE A MILD WINTER AND EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY.

Ms. Bak: WE WORK CLOSELY WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR THE COUNTY AND THE JOINT OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES TO PLAN FOR WINTER AS WE DO EVERY YEAR. THIS YEAR WE JUST MET LAST WEEK SOME OF OUR PLANNING TO MAKE SURE OUR PROTOCOLS WERE STILL EFFECTIVE BASED ON EVALUATIONS WE DID AFTER. ONE OF THE THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR AND WILL DO THIS YEAR WE SAVED SOME OF OUR RENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR EMERGENCIES. SO LAST YEAR A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE OFF WORK FOR WEEKS AT A TIME DUE TO WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE WEATHER OR SOME PEOPLE WERE OFF THE SUMMER DUE TO THE FIRES, THEIR WORKPLACES BEING SIT DOWN DUE TO FIRE RESPONSE. WE TRY TO SAVE A LITTLE SO WE CAN HELP PEOPLE NOT LOSE THEIR HOUSING DUE TO NOT GETTING PAID FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS OF NOT WORKING AND WE CONTINUED TO WORK ACROSS THE COUNTY TO BE PREPARED FOR ANY CONTINGENCY, WHETHER IT'S WEATHER OR FIRES OR ANY OTHER SITUATION THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

Commissioner Smith: DO WE HAVE THOSE WINTER SHELTERS BUILT UP IN TERMS OF WE NEED MORE SHELTERS? I KNOW THAT WE HAD SOME PROBLEMS -- NOT THE SHELTERS BUT THE WARMING CENTERS. DO WE HAVE ENOUGH OF THOSE PLACES?

Ms. Bak: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, COMMISSIONER, BECAUSE THAT'S MANAGED THROUGH THE JOINT OFFICE. I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN PROTOCOLS TO SAY IF WE RUN OUT OF SPACE WE GO TO THE NEXT SPACE. WE HAVE BACKUP CHURCHES BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE THEY ARE THIS YEAR. I CAN ASK MARK TO TOUCH BACK WITH YOU.

Commissioner Smith: THAT WOULD BE GREAT. THE LAST QUESTION I HAVE IS CAN I GO ON ONE OF THOSE ENERGY AUDITS?

Ms. Bak: YOU'D LOVE IT. IT'S FUN. BUT YOU HAVE TO WEAR A LITTLE HAZMAT SUIT.

Commissioner Smith: I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT. I GOT A HAT FOR THAT AND EVERYTHING. [LAUGHTER]

Ms. Samolinski: THEY WILL GIVE YOU A CUTE WHITE SUIT AND BOOTIES. YES, DEFINITELY WE'LL GET BACK WITH OUR STAFF.

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT PRESENTATION. THAT WAS A LOT OF INFORMATION IN 30 MINUTES. BUT IT WAS REALLY GOOD. YOU GUYS PROVIDE SOME OF THE MOST CRITICAL SERVICES THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY PROVIDES AS A GOVERNMENT AND I THINK IT EXEMPLIFIES THE GOOD GOVERNMENT CAN DO FOR A COMMUNITY AND FOLKS. I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL THAT ALL THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN

TAKEN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE DELIVERING THE SERVICES IN A WAY THAT BEST REACHES PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AND DOING IT IN A WAY THAT MAKES SURE WE'RE CONNECTED ACROSS OUR ORGANIZATION AS WELL. I HAVE JUST A FEW QUESTIONS. YOU SAID THAT WE HAVE A FEDERALLY GRANTED TITLE IN TERMS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. ARE THERE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES THAT CAME WITH HAVING THAT TITLE LIKE WHICH OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT WE DO ARE BASED ON HAVING THAT FEDERALLY GRANTED TITLE?

Ms. Bak: WE'RE A FEDERALLY DESIGNATED ACTION I'M THE COMMUNITY ACTION DIRECTOR. I WORK WITH COMMUNITY ACTION DIRECTORS AROUND THE STATE. WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTERING A VARIETY OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THINGS LIKE POVERTY SERVICES, WEATHERIZATION, ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND A MYRIAD OF REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES THAT GO WITH THAT. THEN WE ALSO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITY ACTION DIRECTORS IN THE STATE TO MAKE SURE FOR EXAMPLE LAST YEAR ONE OF THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES THE ROOF COLLAPSED DUE TO SNOW SO WE ALL BANDED TOGETHER TO HELP GET EXTRA FUNDING TO THAT PARTICULAR AREA. WE TRY TO KEEP THE FUNDS IN THE STATE AND HELP EACH OTHER BUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE REALLY AROUND ADMINISTERING THOSE FUNDS.

ALSO WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AROUND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN TERMS OF TALKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR NEEDS AND WHAT PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITY ARE EXPERIENCING. ALSO WE HAVE OBLIGATION TO AT LEAST EVERY FIVE YEARS DO A FULL REPORT ON POVERTY IN THE COUNTY. WE DID THAT LAST REPORT ACTUALLY ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO. WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY DATA TO BE ISSUED IN DECEMBER AND WE'LL START WORKING ON THE NEXT REPORT TO GIVE THE SNAPSHOT PICTURE OF WHAT PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING BEYOND THE NUMBERS.

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson: I ALSO HAD JUST A QUESTION ABOUT THE SUN SCHOOL PROGRAMS TOO. COUPLE DIFFERENT THINGS. ONE IS I VISITED DIFFERENT SCHOOLS THAT ARE SUN SCHOOLS AND LIKE COMMISSIONER SMITH SAID THERE'S DIFFERENT LEVELS OF WHAT THAT MEANS TO BE A SUN SCHOOL. MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS IN DIFFERENT PLACES BUT ONE THING I HAVE HEARD A COUPLE TIMES IS THAT HOW WE HAVE PROBABLY MORE OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH WHAT HAPPENS DURING SCHOOL HOURS DURING THE DAYS WITH THE KIDS' EXPERIENCE AND CONNECT THAT TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE SUN PROGRAMS THAT WE DO AND I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH THE NEW PPS SUPERINTENDENT AND MENTIONED THAT, SOMETHING THAT AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY AS A MAJOR FUNDER THIS WE WANT GOOD OUT COMES FOR KIDS, MAKING SURE WE'RE ABLE TO MOVE THAT DIAL TRYING TO WORK WITH PPS ON THAT TOO.

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson: THAT'S SOMETHING HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO MORE OF GOING FORWARD. SOME OF THE THINGS LIKE THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER HOME VISITING TRAINING, IT SEEMS LIKE IN SOME CASE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE END INTENTION OF THIS BUT WE'RE DOING SOME THINGS THAT EVENTUALLY MAY BE TAKEN UP BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS THEMSELVES, SO POSSIBLY WE'RE PILOTING OR STARTING PROGRAMS AND I'M JUST CURIOUS ABOUT THAT FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE IF THERE'S BEEN OTHER THINGS WE STARTED AND THEY HAVE TAKEN ON OR WHERE IT'S A GRAY AREA WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY.

Ms. Samolinski: THAT IS A REALLY GOOD QUESTION. I THINK THERE'S A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHERE SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ARE ONE EXAMPLE. WHERE WHEN IT STARTED IN 1999 THERE WERE EIGHT SCHOOLS ALL CITY-COUNTY MONEY, SOME GRANTS AND OVER THE YEARS IT BECAME PRETTY HEAVILY COUNTY AND NOW IT'S STILL RAE HEAVILY COUNTY AND CITY BUT THE DISTRICTS SINCE ABOUT 2007 HAVE OFFERED MORE AND MORE. IN FACT THE GROWTH OF SUN SCHOOLS IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN LARGELY RESULT OF DISTRICTS STEPPING FORWARD TO SAY WE WOULD LIKE ONE. RUSSELL IS A REALLY GOOD EXAMPLE HAVING THEIR EVENT TONE WHERE THE DISTRICT SAID WE WANT ONE WILL YOU HELP US. THEY HAVE COME TO THE COUNTY MOSTLY AND SOMETIMES THE CITY OR THE LEVY, THE CHILDREN'S LEVY, AND SAID WE HAVE SOME OF THE MONEY, CAN YOU HELP WITH THE REST. THAT'S ONE EXAMPLE.

I DON'T KNOW THAT WE'LL EVER MOVE OUT OF BEING THE LION'S SHARE OF FUNDING BUT IT'S SHIFTING. A SIGN OF SEEING THE VALUE AND EXPERIENCING THE VALUE OF WHAT THAT CAN BRING TO YOUR SCHOOL EVEN IF IT IS DIFFERENT IN EVERY SCHOOL. EARLY KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE WHERE ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO WITH LARGELY SOME SOCIAL PARTNER MONEY A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTY MONEY AND PORTLAND PUBLIC HAD BEEN DOING IT ALREADY AND IT'S BLOSSOMED. IT WAS 42 SCHOOLS THIS LAST YEAR. THAT IS MORE DISTRICT MONEY THAN COUNTY MONEY AT THIS POINT. OURS IS A LITTLE BIT OF THE FOUNDATION AND SOMETIMES WE'RE FILLING SOME GAPS IN DISTRICTS BUT GENERALLY THEY ARE TAKING IT OVER. THEY GET THE VALUE OF THAT THREE WEEK SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM. IT'S IN EVERY SCHOOL EVERY SUN COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN EAST COUNTY AT THIS POINT. SO WE HAVE SATURATED THAT MARKET IF YOU WILL.

I THINK THE TEACHER HOME VISIT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE WHERE WE ARE HOPING OVER TIME THAT BLOSSOMS IN THE SAME WAY. IT REQUIRES SOME DELICATE CONVERSATIONS WITH UNIONS ABOUT TEACHER TIME, ABOUT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS. SOME OF THOSE ARE NOT AS EASY TO HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS. IT'S SOMETHING WE TALK ABOUT BOTH WITH OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISONS ON A REGULAR BASIS AS WELL AS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENTS ABOUT WHEN

DO WE MAKE THAT HANDOFF. IN THE CASE OF SUN SCHOOLS FOR EXAMPLE WE PLAY A KEY ROLE BECAUSE THERE'S 86 OF THEM TRYING TO KEEP ALL THAT MOVING IN ONE GENERAL DIRECTION ANY ONE DISTRICT WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT. THOSE ARE EXAMPLES OF WHERE IT'S HAPPENED AND WHERE WE HOPE IT WILL HAPPEN.

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson: MY LAST QUESTION HAS TO DO WITH THE EITC, I KNOW THERE'S ALSO STATE FUNDING THAT CAN HELP SUPPLEMENT WHAT HAPPENS FEDERALLY AND IT'S ALWAYS A MEASURE OF TRYING TO NICK THAT NUMBER AND MAKE EVERYONE WHO IS ELIGIBLE BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SOMETHING WHICH IS SOMETIMES A STRUGGLE. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO -- MAYBE THIS IS A CONVERSATION WE CAN FOLLOW UP ON AFTER THIS. SOME THINGS WE CAN DO TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION. SOUND LIKE THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF SUCCESS WITH THE SSI AND SSDI. I THINK IT CAN BE BENEFIT TO GET SOME MONEY ON THE TABLE. WE SHOULD BE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE FEDERAL HELP THAT THERE IS IN THIS AREA.

Ms. Bak: GLAD TO TALK TO YOU MORE. COUPLE THINGS, JUST A PREVIEW, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS TO DO A PUSH WITH GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE TAKING CARE OF THEIR KIDS WHO DON'T REALIZE THEY COULD QUALIFY FOR EITC. WORKING TO FIND WAYS TO ACCESS PLACES WHERE DOMESTIC SURVIVORS ARE GOING TO HELP THEM ACCESS THIS AS THEY START TO FILE TAXES ON THEIR OWN. ALSO LOOKING CLOSELY HOW TO INCREASE SUN SCHOOLS, CAPTIVE AUDIENCE SO TO SPEAK. WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR PERSONS AND EXPERIENCE.

Vice-Chair Vega Pederson: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS PRESENTATION. REALLY APPRECIATE IT. THAT WAS OUR ONLY BRIEFING FOR THIS MORNING SO WE ARE DONE, UNLESS ANYONE ELSE HAS ANYTHING, WE'RE ADJOURNED. [GAVEL]

ADJOURNMENT – 10:55 a.m.

[CAPTIONS PROVIDED BY LNS CAPTIONING AND MAY INCLUDE INACCURATE WORDS OR PHRASES DUE TO SOUND QUALITY, OTHER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES AND/OR SOFTWARE ERRORS.]

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Submitted by:
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Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County, Oregon