



Multnomah County Commission on Children, Families & Community 2010 Biennial Update to the Oregon Commission on Children & Families 2008-2014 Six-Year Community Plan



CCFC PLANNING OVERVIEW

The Multnomah County Commission on Children, Families and Community's (CCFC) mission statement sets the tone for the evidenced-based community planning processes and strategic approaches it uses everyday—past, present and future—to *impact policy, leverage resources and make strategic investments to build a thriving community.*

The CCFC's daily work revolves around working collaboratively with its own community-based councils (and subcommittees): The Poverty Action Council (Senior Hunger Task Force), Multnomah Youth Commission (YouthVote!, Health and Wellness, Education, Sustainability), Early Childhood Council (Early Childhood Care and Education, Social-Emotional Development, Family Support), Foster Care Reduction Steering Committee, and Education and Life Success Workgroup (family engagement and disproportionate suspension and expulsions) to identify not only pressing community issues and the gaps and barriers that impede improvements and/or progress, but also to identify and spearhead evidence-based strategies and activities to improve the overall health and well-being of Multnomah County residents.

As Oregon's smallest yet most densely populated county, Multnomah County continues to change and grow, but the CCFC's focus areas have become more targeted and centered around the Six-year Plan to improve outcomes for Children and Families. Since submitting its current Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) Six-Year Community Plan in January 2008, the CCFC has focused its state reporting and monitoring in two major areas Education and Poverty but has continued working in the areas of early childhood development, positive youth development, and most recently begun work to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in the child welfare system.

During the 2008-2010 biennium, CCFC's community-based planning processes deepened its collaboration with the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) to develop the Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan (JCP), a 2009 OCCF community planning component intended to complement its Six-Year Community Plan. The JCP Plan is approved by the CCFC, the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) and its Juvenile Justice Council, the OCCF, and the Board of County Commissioners.

The 2010 Biennial Update, required by OCCF, is intended to report on the progress and implementation of Six-Year Plan focus areas and strategies, and to capture any needed revisions as well as to strengthen and expand formal and informal partnerships within the community to further strategic development for emerging local issues.

The aim of the 2010 Biennial Update is to advise Boards of County Commissioners, State agencies, the Legislative Assembly, and the Governor concerning possible solutions to problems facing children; measurable progress of plans in meeting community intermediate outcomes; the development of innovative projects or practices that benefit children and families; the integration of services; assisting agencies to design future economic resources and services, and in the coordination of services; and providing information and policy advice on current research and proven practices of effectiveness, including local strategies.

The 2010 Biennial Update is approved by the CCFC Board of Commissioners and the Board of County Commissioners and its adoption is required by Senate Bill 555 (1999 legislation governing OCCF and the local county commissions).

ANALYSIS

The planning process for the 2008-2010 biennium included four critical components:

- Collaborative, community-informed process to update the Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan that informed multiple pieces of the Biennial Community Plan update related to juvenile crime, emerging community needs, gaps and barriers as well as educational issues and racial justice considerations.
- The CCFC board met and discussed changes in community conditions, emerging issues and needs as well as future concerns or areas of interest.
- DHS, Multnomah County Family Courts, Department of Community Justice, the CCFC, and community partners engaged in a year of work to determine the most pressing needs of children and families in the child welfare system. This included community forums with over 400 community members.
- Review and analysis of a demographic report recently released by the Coalition of Communities of Color, *Communities of Color in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*, which adds community-validated population counts and reporting of needs and barriers from 6 culturally specific communities of Multnomah County.

Highlights of key Multnomah County analysis points in the aforementioned areas include:

Foster Care Reduction

- 15.2 of every 1,000 children in Multnomah County are placed in foster care
- 4.7 of every 1,000 Asian children are in foster care
- 7.4 of every 1,000 Hispanic children are in foster care
- 32 of every 1,000 African American children are in foster care
- 218 of every 1000 Native American are in foster care

Juvenile Crime Prevention

- Overall, crime and recidivism continue to trend downward in Multnomah County
- Of youth screened by the juvenile justice system:
 - 1 in 4 youth had a school failure or disconnection problem
 - 5 in 8 youth had peer relationship problems
 - 2 in 5 youth had substance use beyond experimental stage
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STRATEGIC THEMES

Since the submission of the Six-Year Plan, several key shifts have occurred in Multnomah County. The collaboration with DHS, the courts, and the CCFC to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in the child welfare system has become a critical and central focus of the work of the CCFC and the increasingly the community. Our focus on disproportional involvement of youth of color in the child welfare system has brought to our attention the disproportionality in the juvenile justice system, suspension and expulsions from school, poor health outcomes, income and wealth of families of color and almost every area which we study. The CCFC is focused on ensuring that Multnomah County is a great place for EVERYONE to grow up and live but we have become more aware that if we don't focus our attentions on those most at-risk in our community our efforts often fail to improve their lives. In Multnomah County, the data is clear our central work should be on racial and economic justice. Children and families of color and low-income children and families fare the worst on multiple measures and have the most barriers to success; not the least of which is institutional racism and classism.

COMMUNITY ISSUES, GAPS, BARRIERS, STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

The planning process identified community issues and gaps and barriers within the issue areas. It became clear that many of the gaps and barriers identified were related to ineffective collaboration with families and community and between the organizations serving them.

Participants proposed strategies and activities to address the gaps and barriers. Many current activities will continue into the next biennium, thus rounding out comprehensive strategies to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in the child welfare system; continue the allocation of JCP Prevention funds to outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment as well as cognitive behavioral skill development courses with DCJ; and identify how to best address the racial and ethnic inequalities and injustices highlighted in the Communities of Color report.

Following are lists of community issues with proposed strategies and activities prioritized in the planning process in the areas of foster care and juvenile crime prevention:

Foster Care

Community Issue—Reducing Number of Children in Foster Care

- **Strategy—Increase Relative Placements by 50%**
 - Developing a new protocol for requiring relative searches at various points throughout the life of a case.
- **Strategy—Reduce Children entering care by 10%**
 - Increase dependency alternatives- promote and expand upfront in-home services for families to prevent out of home placement
- **Strategy—Increase foster care exits by 20%**
 - Collaborate with businesses and faith communities to address the concrete needs that are preventing children from finding permanent placements
 - Reviewing all APPLA cases to determine if there are more permanent options for those children
- **Strategy—Reduce the disproportionality index for Native and African American children**
 - Host community forums to illicit the participation and wisdom of community leaders in the Native American and African American Communities
 - Develop strategic plans to prevent dependency for African American and Native American children at risk of entering the system.
- **Strategy- Maintain or reduce current child abuse/neglect recurrence rate**

Juvenile Crime Prevention

Community Issue—Systemic Improvements

- **Strategy—Overall Quality Improvement:**
 - Implement an evidence-based case management system
 - Develop an action plan to improve outcomes for African American and Latino youth in the justice system.
 - Develop an action plan to prevent delinquency for African American and Latino youth at risk of entering the system.
- **Strategy—Developing Culturally Competent Services**
 - Address needs of other youth populations experiencing over-representation in the juvenile justice system.
- **Strategy—Multi-Agency Networking**
 - Continue existing collaborations and partnerships to specifically address resource gaps in East county (e.g., David Douglas neighborhood) and ser and research target outcomes.
- **Strategy—Building Capacity**
 - Increase detention alternatives: Community detention/electronic monitoring, and shelter beds.

Community Issue—System Review of Measure 11 on Youth and Public Safety

- **Strategy—Engaging Individuals and Organizations:**
 - Convene a cross-system local M-11 policy group with broad community involvement focused on optimizing community safety outcomes.

Community Issue—School Discipline

- **Strategy—Develop a Program:**
 - Through collaboration with education stakeholders to develop consistent discipline policies aimed at correcting racial and ethnic disparity in school discipline.
 - Expand suspension alternatives programming for youth, and expand restorative justice programming in other area schools.

Community Issue—Career and Vocational Supports

- **Strategy—Develop a Program:**
 - Increase GED/vocational program capacity with a focus on maximum academic achievement for increased educational opportunities and earning capacity.
 - Develop community service experiences with real-world partners
 - Increase vocational and peer mentorship programs to enhance employment skills including real-world work experience.

Community Issue—Community/Environmental Factors

- **Strategy—Alter or New Practices, Approaches, Methods:**
 - Utilize community project model similar to Harlem Children’s Zone to develop block by block outreach in targeted area(s), and build community projects with all ages involved.

Community Issue—Resources and Relationships

- **Strategy—Building Advocacy:**
 - Provide education and cultural-responsive training and information to help families navigate complicated systems (e.g., school, justice, etc.) and effectively advocate for their children.
 - Strengthen and expand the network of support for youth and increased access to services for high-risk youth. Work with partners in the community to reflect all areas: schools, extra-curricular, volunteering, community service, mentoring, after school, sports, work experience, faith-based, and so forth.
- **Strategy—Develop or Alter an Activity:**
 - Implement a parent/family mentorship program focusing on parents of high-risk, African American and Latino gang-affected youth.
 - Enhance partnership with schools and districts to provide training in juvenile justice systems and approaches.
- **Strategy—Developing Culturally Competent Services:**
 - Increase multi-systemic training and education around racism, implicit bias, prejudice, systemic exclusion, equity and disproportionality. Work with system partners to develop accountability measures.

PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Engaged in CCFC Planning

Board of CCFC Commissioners 2008-2010

Current Commissioners

Carla Piluso – Chair

Rob Abrams – Project Director, Wraparound Oregon: Early Childhood,
Multnomah Education Service District

Diane Cohen Alpert – Community Member, CCFC Poverty Action Council

Ernesto Dominguez – Community Member, Multnomah Youth Commission

Chris Edmonds – Community Member, Multnomah Youth Commission

Carolyn Graf – State of Oregon, Department of Human Services

Nay'Chelle Harris – Community Member

Deborah Kafoury – Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1

Olga Kaganova – Community Member

Dr. Leila Keltner – CARES Northwest

Shalonda Menefee – Community Member, Sistas Enterprise

Pat Moffitt – Multnomah Early Childhood Program, Multnomah Education Service District

Linda Ridings, Community Member, CCFC Poverty Action Council

Emily Ryan – Community Member

Michael Ware – Black Parent Initiative and Self-Enhancement Inc.

Former Commissioners

Monica Ford – Mental Health Program Director, Morrison Child and Family Services

Alissa Keny-Guyer – Community Member

Patricia Martinez-Orozco – Executive Director, Oregon Council of Hispanic Advancement

Charles McGee – Black Parent Initiative

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Klondy Karina Canales – Community Member, Multnomah Youth Commission

Pam Greenough – Mount Hood Community College Head Start

Kelly Henderson – Community Member, Multnomah Youth Commission

David Wang – Community Member, Attorney

Engaged in JCP Community Stakeholders Planning Sessions

Dave Koch – Director, Department of Community Justice, Juvenile Services Division

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Sgt. Dave Thoman – Portland Police Bureau, School Resource Officer, Marshall HS

Elizabeth Davies – Staff, Local Public Safety Coordinating Council

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Andre Channel – Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center
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Julia Mitchell – Community Member
Mark McKechnie – Juvenile Rights Project
Keith Bickford - Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office
Lynn Magnum – Department of Community Justice
Kris Bella – Northwest Behavioral Health Care Services
Shannon Wight – Partnership for Safety and Justice
Pam Hiller – Multnomah County Health Department
Lonnie Nettles – Department of Community Justice
Ricardo Lopez – Catholic Charities, El Programma Hispano
Olga Kaganova - Commission on Children, Families and Community
Shalonda Menefee - Commission on Children, Families and Community
Larry Fritz – Department of Community Justice
Cathy Sherick – Greater Gresham Area Prevention Partnership
Judy Griswold – Oregon Department of Human Services, District 2
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Ivette Iparraguirre – Central City Concern, Alcohol and Drug Treatment
Raidel Leon – Central City Concern, Alcohol and Drug Treatment
Vickie Parker – Department of Community Justice

Involved through planning with the Juvenile Justice Council

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Katherine Tennyson - Oregon Judicial Department
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Heather Updike - Department of Community Justice
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Cynthia Thomas-Johnson, New Decision Treatment Foster Care
Jodi Shaw - Multnomah County Department of County Human Services
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