



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

December 30, 2008

Mr. Dick Withnell
Marion County Commission on Children and Families
PO Box 14500
Salem, OR 97309-5036

Dear Mr. Withnell:

Thank you for your ongoing work in support of Oregon and Marion County's child welfare system, and your willingness to participate in the upcoming facilitated planning process beginning on January 5, 2009. I am pleased by the establishment of this process, and believe that together we can safely find ways to reduce the number of children in foster care in our state. I have designated this effort – occurring in seven counties besides your own – as an Oregon Solutions project and have appointed Multnomah County Judge Nan Waller as the statewide convener.

Based on your demonstrated commitment to children and families, I am officially designating you as the convener for Marion County. I will look to you as the local convener to bring together other critical child welfare partners from the public, private, and civic sectors. Your job will be to create a neutral forum that will allow your local partners to collaborate with and support the important agenda adopted by Oregon's statewide Commission on Children and Families and Oregon Department of Human Services in the course of their work with Casey Family Programs. A professional facilitator and project manager from Oregon Solutions in carrying out your convening role will support you.

You have my sincere gratitude for your commitment to improving the lives of Marion County children and their families. I look forward to watching this work unfold and to getting your best thinking about the ways in which your local efforts can be replicated statewide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore R. Kulongoski".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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