

Bringing the Youth Perspective to the Forefront

- Commissioners Morrison and Sorenson are bringing forward to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) a proposal to increase the Board's exposure to and understanding of issues concerning youth in Lane County
- This proposal will also increase opportunities for youth to work with elected officials and other government staff during the course of regular business
- Commissioner Morrison has been working on details of this proposal with staff from the Department of Children and Families (Christine Rogers, Diana Avery) and other community partners (Paula Medaglia, Kitty Piercy, Kathryn, Henderson, Suzanne Boling)
- A number of community and County advisory boards require youth membership, and yet participation is sporadic. Consequently, we believe that youth need greater support of their membership and better opportunities to have their viewpoint heard and acted upon
- Commissioner Morrison's ad hoc Youth Mobilization group, is proposing that youth be recruited countywide to present issues and ideas on a quarterly basis to the Lane County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). In addition, youth may be asked to participate with the BCC, on making decisions on a particular, relevant Board Agenda item
- The Commission on Children and Families has been asked to take the lead in organizing and implementing this effort
- Initially, youth for this project will be recruited from schools (both rural and urban), and from the following advisory committees: United Way Board of Directors, Lane Workforce Partnership's Board, the Commission on Children and Families, Lane County Human Rights Advisory Committee
- In order to maximize youth participation from school groups, their participation will take place during the school year; advisory committee youth members will present during the summer months
- BCC to discuss this proposal and suggest next steps