

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 9, 2009**

**Attending:** Dan Nichols, Chair; Debbie Ausmus; Jean Hurst; Joyce Moser; Ramona Hofman; Sonni Svejcar; Michelle Bradach; Cody Hodges; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant

**Absent:** Ann Vloedman

**Guests:** Kathy Rementeria; Christie Timko; Carrie Winstead; Diana Roberts; Angie Temple; Donna Schnitker; Gwen Haigh

**Call to Order.** Chair Dan Nichols called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and made informal introductions.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes.** A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting was made by Ramona, seconded by Joyce, and unanimously approved.

**Child Neglect Summit Action Plans: Parent Education/Mentoring, Transitional Housing, Food and Hunger Issues, Kids Club Advocacy.** Patty explained that representatives from Harney County and Grant County attended a Child Neglect Summit in Seneca on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The morning was filled with speakers talking on the many faces of child neglect. In the afternoon, attendees worked on creating workable action plans to take back to their communities.

Angie spoke on Parent Education and Mentoring. Her Action Plan group identified goals of providing more support for families through a variety of crisis systems with individualized services and group services. Her group will meet again in July.

Gwen reported on food needs in Harney County and how her Action Plan group is researching utilization of the resources already available in Harney County, as well as possible new initiatives that could be added. Discussion centered on use of the local food bank and food stamps. Despite comments at the summit from Sharon Thornberry (Oregon Food Bank), that Harney County wasn't utilizing a high level of its food stamp allocation, Gwen has been unable to determine that food stamp usage per se is an issue. The local food bank is seeing high use. Michelle said that the Tribe has the USDA Distribution Program. Jean spoke about the Food Bank board meeting she attended and remarked that there has been an increase in its use by the elderly. Cody raised discussion as to the underlying barriers for child neglect, with substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse all being cited. It takes collaborative effort to change things. Gwen's group is working with people from the Community Review Board and other individuals. Michelle suggested Gwen include Angela Smartt from the Tribe. Kathy mentioned a telephone call she received from someone offering a vacant yard for a community garden as a possible resource.

Maryanne spoke about concept of creating an advocacy group, The Kids Club Champions, to strengthen the sustainability of the Kids Club of Harney County. The Champions would be advocates to provide ideas, input and help to the Kids Club Board of Directors as they rebuild the program with the long-term result being that the Kids Club will open, remain open, and be a high quality out-of-school program for school age children and youth.

**Casa Update.** Christy explained the grim budget perspective that the Grant-Harney CASA program faces. Though the Ways and Means Co-Chair budget held overall statewide CASA funding harmless from cuts, a CASA Director's group is proposing to reallocate CASA funds to serve the most number of youth regardless of geographic location and size, with serious cuts to counties such as Grant and Harney. The Oregon Commission on Children and Families has formed a CASA allocation committee on which Christie serves and is struggling to pay for the travel involved. Sonni asked if the Commission can support her travel to Salem, advocating for our local CASA efforts. Dan said that the state commission should defray the cost of travel for these duties. Debbie stated that the human element is being lost and CASA's work is being diminished because of this. Cody asked what we could do to assist her and Christie suggested that we write letters to influence the OCCF Budget Work Group. Patty will look into how this can be done. Patty asked Christie to e-mail her information the commissioners can use to help them write their letters. Christie mentioned that the Grant-Harney CASA Board has no Harney County members on it. Christie had some good news to share: Corey Jewel Jensen, a national speaker, will be in John Day next month. It costs \$35 for non-CASA members to attend.

**Kids Club Update.** Carrie stated she is the Executive Director and the Program Director. She informed the group that the Kids Club Champions is a great idea but that it may be taken care of in part by formation of a Steering Committee in addition to the Board of Directors. The children will have a garden, they will work in it and it will benefit them. Landscaping and new fencing have been put in with an underground sprinkler system. The fee has been changed to \$10 a month. Some can't afford it. There is an option of volunteering instead. Michelle stated that her office will pay the fees for Burns Paiute youth who attend. The Summer Food Program starts in July and the club will provide lunches for the children after that. Fund raisers include the run/walk on June 20<sup>th</sup>, an Open House in July, and a golf tournament in August. The Club will still be a non-profit entity. Carrie said that parents' information given for the family at the time of registration is voluntary.

### **Director's Report:**

**Provider Updates:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Quarter of the biennium ended March 31<sup>st</sup>. Reports were entered into the state database and funds requested on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Providers are on track to complete their contractual work.

### **Staff Update:**

- Patty, Maryanne and Brett attended the May 15<sup>th</sup> Child Neglect Summit. All three have been working on Drug Free Community (DFC) work.
- Brett and Thad Labhart attended the second required training for new DFC grantees in April in San Diego. Brett also attended a work session for Oregon DFC grantees in Eugene May 5-7.
- Maryanne has become more involved in DFC work and continues to coordinate the Parent Education and Support work through Harney Partners.
- Patty updated the County Court on May 6<sup>th</sup> and appeared before the Harney County Budget Board on May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Patty has been working closely with the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors to help them as they restart their services as the Kids Club of Harney County.

### **Commission Work and Community Matters:**

- The Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families next biennial update is due January 29, 2010. During the summer, Patty and Maryanne will review partners' plans and research demographic and statistical information.
- The 2 FTE requirement for CCF staffing remains. The waiver process remains in statute and will be used if necessary, depending on funding.
- Every other year, local commissions submit a self assessment, done by the CCF board, signed by the County Court, and submitted to OCCF. The format will be changes to follow the five functions
  - a) Comprehensive Community Planning & Implementation: Leading strategically
  - b) Policy Development: Shaping policy and law
  - c) Community Mobilization: Organizing Change
  - d) System Development: Bringing services together
  - e) Service Delivery Improvements: Ensuring quality and accountability
- Some surprising news about one of the funding streams: Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). It looks like Representative Tina Kotek of the Oregon House of Representatives is about to get the CCDF moved from the Oregon Commission on Children and Families over to DHS to try to backfill some of DHS budget cuts. If the CCDF funds are moved to DHS they will be used for Employment Related Day Care (ERDC). If indeed the CCDF funds leave the commission system, the funding stream that has traditionally been awarded by HCCCF to the Boys and Girls Club will no longer be available for our proposal process - for at least the next two years - but possibly longer. Whether or not our DHS office will be able and willing to work with the Kids Club on the use of these funds is unknown. Patty is trying to set up a meeting with Chris Phillips and Diana Roberts of DHS to open a dialogue about this.
- The Boys & Girls Club changed their name and 501c3 status to the Kids Club of Harney County. They hired Carrie Winstead as the new director/program coordinator. The club will reopen June 15<sup>th</sup> and they were very appreciative to receive the \$13,000 donation from the commission.

### **Grants and Community Work**

- CTFO Grant: The *Parenting Wisely* (computer-based) curriculum for both parents of young children and parents of teenagers has now been added to Harney Behavioral Health. This is in addition to locations at the Juvenile Department, Harney County Library, and the Early Childhood Center. The Burns Paiute Tribe and Crane Schools have expressed interest and are working on details for hosting a computer station for the program. Great news: CTFO has awarded Harney Partners a grant for the Harney Partners Parent Education Series for 2009-2011 in the amount of \$11,000 per year for two years.
- Drug Free Community Work: OLCC did a compliance check on May 13<sup>th</sup> to seven alcohol-serving establishments in Harney County. Four out of seven failed. This is far below the state average. The Teen Coalition has been approaching retail alcohol and tobacco outlets to pass out NoneB421 materials and tobacco messages. Compliance checks by our DFC members, youth, and law enforcement are scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. New prevention radio spots have been recorded by our local youth and are being aired. The DFC Committee of Harney Partners is refining their evaluation of the root causes and local conditions here that contribute to our situation. Additionally, the Community Systems Group will be providing evaluation and coalition assessment

services for Harney Partners via the DFC grant beginning this month. In a late breaking development, Brett Jantze, DFC Coordinator, is resigning his position to return to teaching in Bend. He can stay on until August 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Child Neglect Summit: Held May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Seneca School. A very good forum that yielded some action plans that we as a commission will monitor and facilitate.

**Next Few Months Outlook:** Request for Proposal (RFP) work, bidder's workshops, proposal submission, commission evaluation and deliberations, funding decisions, comprehensive planning update work.

**Overview of Request for Proposal Process/Decision on Request for Proposal Process.**

Patty distributed and reviewed the Timeline for proposals, noting that there will be no Commission meeting in July. Dan asked if we should, with the budget still uncertain, wait before accepting proposals. Patty felt confident that budget decisions would be made soon and would like to move forward. A motion was made by Joyce and seconded by Sonni to approve the RFP timeline and the vote was unanimous to do so.

**Late Items.** None.

The next Commission Meeting date and time: August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m..

With no further business to address, Dan adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell  
Prevention Assistant