

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2009

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

Absent: Michelle Bradach

Guests: Kathy Rementeria; Carrie Winstead; Donna Schnitker

Call to Order. Chair Dan Nichols called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. There was no Public Comment.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting was made by Joyce, seconded by Debbie, and unanimously approved.

Director's Report:

Provider Updates: The final quarter of the biennium ended June 30th. Final reports were received from providers and the new biennium start up information will be entered into the state database within a week after proposal funding decisions are made.

Staff Update:

- Patty and Maryanne conducted Bidder's Workshops for proposors on July 1st and 7th.
- Brett Jantze's last day as the DFC Coordinator was July 31st. A hiring process involving Thad Labhart, Michelle Bradach, Kathy Rementeria, Donna Schnitker, and Patty took place. Angie Witzel has been hired, with a start date of Sep 1st.
- Patty and Maryanne will be attending a regional meeting of local CCFs on Aug 13th in Bend. There will be a lot of information disseminated regarding the Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families update process. An update is due in January 2010.
- Maryanne has begun to coordinate the Parent Education and Support work for the new grant through Harney Partners.
- Patty updated the County Court on July 15th and obtained Judge Grasty's signature for an IGA between the OCCF and Harney County with funding allocations. The Healthy Start program has been funded for one quarter at this point, with decisions for the remainder of the year expected soon.

Commission Work and Community Matters:

- CASA update: The CASA funding allocations for this year will stay at the same level as last year. Christie Timko has resigned as Executive Director of Grant-Harney CASA effective August 31st. Stacey Johnson from Harney County has joined the CASA Board of Directors.
- The Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families next biennial update is due January 29, 2010. Patty and Maryanne have begun to review partners' plans and research demographic and statistical information.
- Andy Smith (Local Commissions and Legislative Relations) and Jessie Dudley (Regional Coordinator) from OCCF visited at the HCCCF office on July 22nd. Commissioners who attended: Sonni, Debbie, Ann, and Cody. An overview of the legislative session and

funding decisions was summarized by Andy as: The Oregon Legislature had to close a \$4B funding deficit. Approximately \$2B was brought in from stimulus money, approximately \$750,000 in tax increases, and approximately \$1B in cuts. There is still some deficit to deal with. There is much uncertainty for the future revenues. The CCF system overall took a 21% cut, as compared to other social services, which took a 10% cut. The stimulus funding helped fill in cuts that otherwise would have been made in social services. It did not mean 21% across the board to all CCF funding streams: LCCFs – 15%; Healthy Start – 21%; OCCF – 28% cuts.

- Funding from the State General Fund can only be requested six months in advance now, where before we could request a full year in advance and benefit from the greater interest earnings.
- Summary from this Legislative Session: Relationships with legislators must be established and maintained; OCCF cut its losses (took a 15% cut overall, rather than the 18-21% cut that was proposed by the Ways & Means Co-Chairs); email communications can be very effective; keep your eye on special sessions.
- Healthy Start will require a non-competitive RFA from each county before being funded. No further word on that at this time. Expected due date will be late September.
- Mickey Lansing (Director) and Dick Wicknell (State Commissioner) of OCCF visited Burns on Aug 5th. Commissioners who participated: Dan, Ann, Debbie, Jean, Ramona, Cody. There was a very good conversation and discussion. They also appeared at County Court that day. Dick Wicknell has emailed his thanks for showing him what a successful, rural commission looks like.
- There will be an OCCF System-Wide Symposium Sept 10-12 (same time as our county fair) to look at ways to streamline our system and reclarify roles and functions. If anyone is interested and can attend this forum, please let Patty know.

Grants and Community Work

- **CTFO Grant:** Maryanne continues to prepare for this year's goals of offering Make Parenting a Pleasure, Parenting with Love and Logic, and the computer based Parenting Wisely to the community. Books, DVDs, and other resources will be purchased this year.
- **Drug Free Community Work:** OLCC and local law enforcement did a retailer compliance decoy operation on July 24th, with a 100% compliance outcome. Kathy Rementeria and Thad Labhart attended the final third and final training for First Year Grantees, held in Louisville KY in late July. New office space has been secured for the DFC Coordinator in collaboration with the High Desert Partnership, a non-profit organization.

Next Few Months Outlook: Provider work plans will be developed, contracts drafted and approved, County Fair booth work, and staff work on the comprehensive planning update. October and November meetings may need to be longer than usual in order to present community partner and lay citizen input for the comprehensive plan.

Discussion, Deliberations, and Decisions on Provider Funding for 2009-2110. Carrie Winstead, on behalf of The Kids Club of Harney County, and Donna Schnitker, on behalf of Great Start, were present and responded to Commission members' questions concerning their Proposals. Because of the uncertain future of the economic climate, the Commission members agreed to allocate at this time only half of year's budgeted amount from the Local Flex Fund of \$28,700, or \$14,350.

Lengthy discussion was then held to review the seven proposals submitted, ascertain under which funding stream they belonged, and determine allocations to each, as follows:

TEC – Conservation Stewardship Corps (OYCC) - \$12,500 fully funded from the Youth Investment funding stream.

Kids Club of Harney County - \$12,000 fully funded: \$10,000 from Children, Youth & Families funding stream and \$2,000 from Local Flex Funds.

Harney ESD: Great Start: Funded at \$24,337.50, slightly less than the \$25,000 requested: \$11,087.50 from Great Start funding stream, \$2,500 from Families, Preservation and Support funding stream, and \$10,750 from Local Flexible Funds.

CASA Volunteer Support: \$2,000 funded as designated monies for Harney County Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement only, with \$1087.50 funded from the Children, Youth & Families funding stream, and \$912.50, from Local Flex Funds. The request for speaker funding and funding for a second year was not funded at this time.

Harney County Special Needs: \$687.50 of the total request of \$3,000 will be funded from Local Flex Funds.

Proposals that were not able to be funded were School District 3: Big Buddy Mentoring Program and the Harney County Library Teen Night project..

A Motion to approve these selections was made by Jean and seconded by Ann with a unanimous approval by the Commission.

Miscellaneous:

Patty reminded the Commission that the County Fair is coming quickly and that everyone is welcome to assist Maryanne in preparing and staffing the Commission Fair Booth. Ramona offered to help decorate and Sonni offered decoration items. Maryanne encouraged the remainder of the Commission to volunteer a couple of hours during the Fair to staff the booth, which will feature a demonstration of the computer program, Parenting Wisely.

Since the September meeting would take place right before the start of Fair Week and there are no pressing matters to be presented to the Commission next month, all agreed to have the next Commission Meeting on October 13th, at 2 p.m.

With no further business to address, Dan adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell
Prevention Assistant