

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Annual Planning Retreat Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2008

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

Absent: Jean Hurst; Michelle Bradach; Lou Davies

Guest: Steve Grasty

Call to Order. Chair Dan Nichols called the Retreat Meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., following the Commission's closed Executive Session. A Motion was made by Ramona, seconded by Debbie, and unanimously carried to approve the Agenda and the November, 2007 Minutes.

Donation Approvals. Patty explained that in Executive Session donation applications had been reviewed, resulting in some initial recommendations, but that the full Board present would now review the applications and vote on the amounts to be awarded. Patty noted that one application was received after the deadline. Discussion was held concerning allowing an exception to the deadline rule in this case. It was decided the Commission would adhere to its stated policy and not consider the late application at this time, but hold it for consideration in July. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Ann, seconded by Joyce, and unanimously carried to award the following amounts from our Local Flexible Funds budget line: \$300 for the Burns High School Reader Board project; \$4,390.60 for the Boys and Girls Club; \$1,000 for the Positive Youth Reinforcement Program; \$500 for the Rimrock Pony Club; \$1,500 for the Nadzi-Tsa-Ga Lacrosse Club; \$2,000 for the Harney County Special Needs Committee; \$200 for the Great Basin Caledonian Society; \$2,000 for the Opie Arena Rodeo; and \$2,000 for the Kelley Arena Rodeo. A decision on Steve Bull's application to fund printing of a parenting manual for free distribution to the community was tabled pending discussion with Steve to answer numerous questions the commissioners had.

Recommendation to Appoint Ann Vloedman, Michelle Bradach and Joyce Moser to New HCCCF Terms. All three Commission members are willing to serve another term; the Commission does not have term limits. A Motion was made by Debbie, seconded by Sonni, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Harney County Court reappoint Ann, Michelle and Joyce to additional terms on the Commission.

Tribal Drop-out Rate: Ann Vloedman noted that Cecil Dick from the Burns Paiute Tribe had recently commented publicly that the reservation has a higher school drop-out rate than the general population at Burns High School. Patty will speak to Michelle Bradach to find out her recommendation on how the community should best express to the tribe its caring and concern and find out if there is anything we can do.

Local Commission Work Re-Orientation. Patty gave a lap-top “Local CCF Orientation” presentation on Commission history, state functions, the purpose of our Commission, processes we follow, planning steps, specific helps, and what citizen members bring to the Commission.

Community Issues in Review. Patty briefly went over the list of “Year in Review” topics addressed by the Commission in 2007. Comments included:

- The Grant-Harney CASA program is on a better track than it was last year.
- Community Mobilization efforts followed a solid process of a well-received Community Needs survey (showing surprisingly similarity of issues from both adults and youth), a Community Readiness Assessment for tackling substance abuse prevention, and coalition building for Harney Partners for Kids and Families. Thad Labhart has guided the capacity building effort for Harney Partners. There are less meetings than in the past, but more is being accomplished and more adults and high school students attend each monthly meeting now.
- Drug Free Communities Grant: Patty discussed the progress made in order to apply for the grant, described how the Logic Model has progressed, and stated that several members of Harney Partners, both adults and youth, plan to attend CADCA’s Conference in Washington, D.C. in February.
- Parenting Education Series – The Children’s Trust Fund of Oregon has provided a two-year grant for putting together a series of parenting programs in Harney County. Patty and Maryanne summarized parenting programs being offered in the near future as well as next year, beginning with Love and Logic. Pam Eggleston at the Early Childhood Center is already utilizing the Parents As Teachers curriculum.
- Healthy Start of Harney County – Accreditation has taken place and will last until 2011. This program serves first birth families only. Pam Eggleston, the Healthy Start Family Support Worker, must adhere to this requirement.
- Reconnecting Families of Foster Children – Patty has not heard anything further since a presentation was made to the Commission several months ago. During discussion, members stressed the importance of kids knowing who their family members are and retaining that connection, even if the parents are in jail. DHS staff will let us know if there is anything we can do. There is no funding to assist with this initiative.
- Greater Inclusion Across Harney County – Patty summarized the Reinforcing Positive Youth Program, under the direction of Gwen Haigh. In addition to Burns High School students, Crane High School is participating this year. More presentations have been made to outlying area schools boards and community groups. Time and effort has been spent in achieving a closer working relationship with Burns Paiute Tribe. Although not a Native American herself, Commission member Michelle Bradach has been successful in her position at the Tribe and is able to portray to the Commission her perception of the Tribe’s perspectives.

2008 Harney County Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families – Our six-year plan will focus on reducing underage substance abuse.

Commission Brainstorming.

Tribal issues involving children – how to involve the Tribe: Patty suggested more successful ground work is needed in order to further involve the Tribe in solving these issues. Cultural differences must be respected. We should be asking: Is there anything we can do for your community? Sonni added that when a low-income family is worrying about how to pay the phone bill vs. setting aside \$20 a month for a child’s college education, it’s easy to see where that money is going to go.

Outlook for the Next Six Months. The Bidder’s Workshops for commission funding proposals will be held next month. There will be no commission meeting in February due to Patty’s trip to Washington D.C in conjunction with the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant Application, which is due in March. Thad Labhart, Kathy Rementeria, Chad Karges, Gwen Haigh, Lori Cheek and Michelle Bradach are working on the DFC committee with Patty.

Commission members expressed their interest in keeping presenters’ comments short, limiting both time and amount of speakers at any meeting.

Patty will try to get Steve Bull to come to the Commission’s next meeting on March 11th. Other potential future agenda items include the new ethics rule mentioned by Judge Grasty and tribal issues. The Commission will invite someone from the Tribe to attend as well and bring any issues the Tribe may want to present.

Patty was thanked for her efforts in putting together the Comprehensive Plan, Maryanne was thanked for her Minutes, Judge Grasty was thanked for attending, Ramona was thanked for her hospitality at Hines City Hall, and everyone was thanked for attending and bringing a wonderful array of potluck items.

With no further business to discuss, Dan adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell