

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2009

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

Absent: Dan Nichols, Michelle Bradach

Guests: Kathy Rementeria; Donna Schnitker; Gwen Haigh; Margaret Amara, Peggy Yarbor, Sheila Angell

Call to Order. Ann Vloedman called the Meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Introductions were made. Guests included new Burns Child Welfare Supervisor for DHS, Margaret Amara.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. A motion to approve both the Revised Agenda and the August 11, 2009 Corrected Meeting Minutes was made by Jean, seconded by Sonni, and unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Kathy distributed printed information on the Pandemic H1N1 Flu, mentioned that Hilda Allison has been hired as the Coordinator for the High Desert Partnership (HDP), and said a Resource Assistant for Rural Environment (RARE) employee will also be joining the HDP staff.

Early Childhood Update: Donna gave an update on her programs. The Early Childhood Center has increased services this year due to Head Start and Early Childhood special education programs receiving stimulus money. Last year, families were moving here and this year they are leaving as their local services are running out. Seven children were lost the first week of school because of moving away. Great Start is doing well. This year 29 children are enrolled with capacity for up to 33 children. Healthy Start has received the biggest cut in funding.

Donna explained how Healthy Start works; it is a home visitation program that serves first births and only has a two-week period surrounding the birth to sign up families. The program is modeled after Healthy Families of America, out of Chicago. The State Office of Healthy Start has suggested we regionalize our services with another county's program. Our program would actually incur greater costs by doing so. We remain committed to serving our families. We hope to partner with Grant County on some foundation grants for using a *Parents As Teachers* curriculum to serve all births.

Homeless Youth Update: Gwen stated that the numbers of homeless youth are up. Approximately 60 youth were identified last year and 111 youth have been identified this year. Substandard housing/lack of housing due to economic issues raises red flags for the Homeless Youth Program. Youth are identified by questionnaires at the start of school. Younger children need help with clothing. A clothing closet for families is in the works. *Feed the Children* sends hygiene items and backpacks to Portland and possibly Redmond. We are hoping to participate in that distribution. 50% of eligible youth turn down services but, because they are identified, they are counted. Services include referral to appropriate programs, clothing, free school lunches, and immediate school enrollment without having to show proof of shots or other documentation, which would be cause to turn others away. "Homeless" here in Harney County is not the same as in urban places; it means youth living in a camp trailer, in places like the deserted motel

building in Hines, or couch surfing. Kathy added that our culture would not allow people to live on the streets here. Gwen added that identification is a once-a-year process. If additional students are identified later in the year, teachers and staff let her know. She also gets referrals from DHS.

Director's Report: (Shown in italics)

Provider Updates: *The First Quarter of the biennium ended Sept 30th. Providers have until Oct 15th to turn in their Quarterly Reports. Our funded programs this time are: Kids Club of Harney County, Early Childhood Center Great Start and Healthy Start Programs, CASA, and Community Stewardship Corps. The new CASA Director, Glenda Hughet, met with Patty on Sept 21st. Patty shared comments for improvement from several of our CASAs she had spoken with. Glenda looks like a great asset to the program. The CASA staff sent a note thanking HCCCF for its financial support.*

Staff Update:

- *Patty has been busy getting provider workplans, contracts, and inter-governmental agreements with the State completed. The County Court signed various documents on Sept 16th. We were able to update everything in the database, request our funds, complete our Healthy Start Medicaid Reinvestment Plan, and write and submit a Healthy Start proposal, which was required for the first time.*
- *Sept 29th through October 1st, Patty and Angie Witzel, DFC Coordinator, attended the Fall Oregon Prevention Summit. There was one day dedicated to DFC work and our Washington DC Project Officer, Shawn Cook was there.*
- *Maryanne, with great help from Ramona and Sonni, set up, manned, and took down our County Fairbooth. Thank you very much.*
- *An extension has been granted for the Comp Plan Update. It is now due April 2, 2010, rather than January 29th. However the Juvenile Dept still has a January 29th deadline for submitting their plan to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee.*
- *By collaborating with the High Desert Partnership, Harney Partners now has office space at 113 W. Washington in Burns. Both non-profits share the office space. The DFC Coordinator, Angie Witzel's office is there, and it is envisioned as a community resource center also for ATOD prevention and parent support materials.*

Commission Work and Community Matters:

- *Donna Schnitker and Patty worked on a Healthy Start proposal, which was required this year before being funded. It was mailed to OCCF on Oct 7th, due by Oct 15th.*
- *OCCF held a System-Wide Symposium Sept 10-12 (same time as our county fair) to look at ways to streamline our system and re-clarify roles and functions. The Listening Circle agenda item for today is part of that process.*

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: Maryanne selected Michelle Yunker to receive Make Parenting a Pleasure training. That curriculum will be offered to the community on Tuesday evenings in November. Maryanne also ordered various books, DVDs, and other parent resources, which will be available at the Harney Partners office. Both computer-based Parenting Wisely programs (for parents of young children and teens) have been installed at the Crane schools.*

- *Drug Free Community Work: Angie Witzel is moving the work forward. She attended two trainings, the Fall Oregon Prevention Summit in Hillsboro and the Coalition Academy with Kathy Rementeria in Pennsylvania. New billboards have gone up addressing tobacco and alcohol. Meetings and Year Two work is ongoing.*

***Next Few Months Outlook:** There has been a huge increase in work required by our staff to the State: Healthy Start application, Systems Review work, and numerous other short fuse responses. With the comprehensive plan deadline moved back, the staff recommends skipping a November meeting and holding a December meeting for community partner and lay citizen input and discussions.*

Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Grant Information: Ann Vloedman requested to share information about upcoming grant opportunities through the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). Ann, Debbie, and Fred Flippance serve on the OCF Leadership Council for Eastern Oregon, a nine-county area. They participated in the process of deciding where to focus available funds, choosing a focus on education, prevention, mentoring and after-school activities. On December 9th, from 10am-Noon, an OCF grants workshop will be held here in Harney County. Information will be sent to Patty for dissemination to the community as soon as it is available. Applications for funding will be due by mid March with decisions made in May. There is also an OCF Community Grant Program that funds efforts to nurture children and strengthen families. Those applications are due February 1st.

Listening Circle: Oregon Commission System Review. Patty explained that we were to review the OCCF's statutory responsibilities, organizational structure, and potential service and administrative efficiencies at the State and local level. Community partners and members of our Commission and other Commissions across the State participated in the collection of data for the Mirror Report through on-line and telephonic surveys. The Listening Circle is the next step in this system review. A facilitated discussion was held, with the attached notes capturing the essence of the conversation, with no specific name attribution. These notes will be provided to OCCF per their request separate from the meeting minutes.

A Motion was made and unanimously carried for the November meeting to be cancelled and the December meeting to take place on December 8th. With no further business to address, Jean adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell
Prevention Assistant