

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2007

Attending: Joyce Moser, Acting Chair; Lou Davies; Jean Hurst; Ramona Hofman; Debbie Ausmus; Michelle Bradach; Sonni Svejcar; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Assistant

Absent: Dan Nichols; Ann Vloedman

Guests: Steve Bull; Christine Phillips; Kathy Rementeria; Christie Timko; Rick Roy; Andrew Roy

Call to Order. Acting Chair Joyce Moser called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. A Motion was made by Debbie Ausmus, seconded by Lou Davies, and unanimously carried to approve the Agenda and October Minutes.

Public Comment. Maryanne stated that child safety car seats are now available for sale at King's Discount Store. King's is still the only vendor in Harney County to sell child safety car seats. Car Seat Technician Certification training will be offered in the Spring by Harney County Safe Communities Coalition.

Report on CASA. Christie Timko, Executive Director of Grant-Harney CASA, Inc., stressed the continuing need for CASA volunteers. Harney County has ten CASAs who serve 43 children with approximately 22 children who still need CASAs. Grant County has five volunteers and fewer cases to support. There is one vacancy on the Grant-Harney CASA Board. Recent support efforts included an ongoing one minute, three times a day radio spot about CASA in Grant County and the Harney County CASAs sold coffee and hot chocolate at the recent Chili Fest and will do so at a Christmas Bazaar.

Christie discussed the funding situation. Both Harney and Grant Counties provide funding from the CASA funding streams that come through the local Commissions on Children and Families (CCF). Those funds together equate to approximately \$27,000 total per year for the joint program. Grant County CCF made a decision to add one of their flexible funding streams to their CASA funding for the program this biennium. Christie said that additional funding will allow the Grant County CASAs to have significantly more funding for opportunities to travel and attend trainings, but that the budget to support the Harney County CASAs to attend additional trainings is very meager. Christie wants the Grant County CASAs to attend the Child Abuse Summit in Portland in April and the National CASA Conference in Washington, D.C., stating that attending these conferences provides motivation and education to CASAs. Debbie Ausmus questioned the use of CASA moneys for the considerable expenses of conferences, air fare, and hotel costs since so little funding is available overall and is needed elsewhere. Rick Roy, as a foster parent, spoke up in favor of as much training as possible for a CASA and for inclusion of foster parents in appropriate trainings. It was noted that CASAs are mandated to get 10-15 hours a year in training. Patty mentioned that in the past, under the previous CASA Director, Harney County CCF wanted to add funds that would directly help the Harney County

CASAs, but was told that any funds received were for the benefit of the entire joint program, not just one county. Christie said that is no longer the case. With that policy change in mind, Patty would like to see HCCCF's contributions impact Harney County CASAs specifically. Patty also mentioned that HCCCF has provided additional support by sending two Harney County CASAs to trainings this month in Salem. We will continue to try to support appropriate trainings beyond the budget if appropriate. Steve Bull has volunteered his time and expertise to provide training to the Harney County CASAs. Patty thanked Christie for her hard work.

Nadzi-Tsa-Ga Lacrosse Program. Rick updated HCCCF on the progress of his Lacrosse program for boys and girls of various ages. Last year he received some seed money to organize a team, which he used for helmets and gloves, and progress now has advanced to actually passing on team information for airing on KZZR. Next week his group is going to Bend, though not as a team, to interact with other players. Rick showed us Inside Lacrosse, a national publication, in which our local team was featured in an excellent write-up. On March 15-16, 2008 the team will host a tournament to include several schools from other areas. Rick is now offering a varsity program and a junior varsity program. Well over twenty kids are included with a good turn-out of boys, girls and parents at each practice and game. Lacrosse is a Native American game. The game draws the kids who don't turn out for other sports because they aren't jocks. The outside of a kid isn't judged; everyone is judged on conduct. There is no cost to play. Rick is working with college coaches, hoping to get players recruited from Harney County. Rick thanked the commission for its support and invited the HCCCF banner to be displayed at games as a sponsor.

Presentation/Potential Approval of 2008 Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families.

HCCCF members received and had opportunity to review the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan prior to the meeting. Peg VanderZanden, the state Regional Coordinator, made comments on the draft, which Patty read aloud. With some minor changes to the plan to be made per discussion at this meeting, a Motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan was made by Jean Hurst and seconded by Lou Davis, followed by unanimous approval.

Director's Report.

Staff Update:

- Patty has been focused on the comprehensive plan. As that winds down, she will begin drafting portions of the Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant. Thad Labhart, Kathy Rementeria, Gwen Haigh, Chad Karges, Donna Schnitker, Lori Cheek and Becky Shull are very involved and will be contributing.
- Maryanne is the Program Director for the Harney Partners Parent Education Series. She will also be spending time developing newspaper and radio prevention messages on reducing underage drinking for future implementation by Harney Partners.

- In February: DFC coalition applicants and grantees are required to send at least two members to the training. Patty will be attending, and possibly Thad and/or Gwen. It is an intense week-long conference in Washington DC.
- Dave Anderson, the contracted grant writer, has prepared and submitted a set of four grant applications for the Early Childhood Center playground and will be preparing a grant strategy and write-up for expanding the capacity of our Healthy Start work. His contract ends Dec 31st, but we may pay him to critique our DFC grant application in February.

Grants and Community Work

- **Parent Education Series:** Harney Partners Parent Ed committee will be releasing advertisements and notices soon to recruit local instructors for Love and Logic and other parent education programs. The grant funding was released to Harney Partners for program implementation. Maryanne is the Program Director.
- **Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant Work:** The DFC Committee has drafted two logic models for the grant and to guide local work. They'll continue to refine that work and compile the list of matching resources, staffing requirements, and other grant details.

Commissioner Terms

Ann, Michelle, and Joyce's terms serving on the commission end in December. We do not have term limits on how long a commission board member can serve. Patty thanked them for their service, complimented them on the quality of their contributions, and asked if they would consider serving for another term with the commission.

Retreat

Patty asked if the commission wants to have an annual retreat, and if so - when, where, and with what focus. A January date will be disseminated with details to follow.

Next Few Months Outlook:

- **December:** Meet if necessary; comp plan goes to the County Court for approval.
- **January:** Retreat and donation application review
- **February:** No meeting; bidder workshops for provider proposals

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. by Joyce.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell