

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 10, 2009**

**Attending:** Dan Nichols, Chair; Debbie Ausmus; Jean Hurst; Joyce Moser;  
Ramona Hofman; Lou Davies; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention  
Assistant

**Absent:** Sonni Svejcar; Michelle Bradach; Ann Vloedman

**Guests:** Kathy Rementeria; Gwen Haigh; Rev. Gene Luttmann; Dr. Reuben A. Hubbard;  
Jennifer Williams; Stephen W. Bull

**Call to Order.** Chair Dan Nichols called the Meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and welcomed the several guests who introduced themselves to the Commission members.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes.** A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of the December 2008 meeting was made by Debbie, seconded by Jean, and unanimously approved.

**Director's Report. Provider Updates:** Quarter 6 Reports were turned in on January 15<sup>th</sup> and the data was entered into the state database. All providers are fulfilling their contractual obligations and on track with their outcomes.

**Staff Update:**

- Patty and Brett attended the mandatory DFC New Grantee training in Washington DC January 5-8<sup>th</sup>. It was excellent. Brett is at the CADCA Conference in Washington DC along with two other Harney Partners coalition members.
- DFC Year 2 Grant Continuation Application is due to Department of Human Services in Washington DC on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The DFC Committee has been working on getting this done, and it's on track.
- Maryanne has been busy with parent education work, DFC support, and general commission work.

**Economic Impact on Community Matters and our Budget:**

- Comotiv Systems, the company that we and the rest of the OCCF system contracted with to provide webcam teleconferencing services, closed its doors on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Our check had not yet been processed so we were reimbursed in full.
- The Boys & Girls Club has remained closed since December due to financial problems. They hope to open their doors on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- KZZR/KQHC radio station has been cutting back its live announcement hours, such as the morning announcements of community events and meetings.

**Grants and Community Work**

- **CTFO Grant:** We purchased the *Parenting Wisely* curriculum for both parents of young children and parents of teenagers. The programs have been loaded onto computers at Juvenile Department, the Early Childhood Center, and the Harney County library. We hope to provide the programs to the Burns Paiute Tribe and possibly Crane schools. The advertising will roll out next week, and we hope to see parents take advantage of these programs as a different sort of tool for our community. A four-week *Parenting with Love and Logic* class has been planned for April 7-28 on Tuesdays in Crane. We submitted a

Letter of Intent to apply for another CTFO grant; the application is due to the grantor on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Drug Free Community Work: Prevention radio spots, recorded with our local youth; newspaper article and weekly prevention ads; law enforcement planning for enforcement work; and conversations to begin evidence-based curriculum to Crane have begun.
- Child Neglect Summit: May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Seneca School. Please save the date. We'd love to have commission board members, faith community members, various organization representatives, and interested residents attend.

**Input from Community.** Kathy Rementeria suggested another resource for getting Parenting Wisely out into the community would be the ESD Media Library (with Flo Merritt as our contact) which would reach the home-schooled children. Kathy addressed the meeting concerning the upcoming May 15th Child Neglect Summit to be held in Seneca for Harney and Grant Counties. A telephone conference planning meeting will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at DHS at 8:00 a.m. Jean Hurst offered to participate in the meeting, as neither Patty nor Maryanne are available. Kathy, Patty, and Dan also clarified for a guest the differences between Harney Partners for Kids & Families and Harney County Commission on Children and Families. A question was asked regarding whether local CASAs have not been assigned new cases recently, and whether or not implementation of the DHS Oregon Safety Model has reduced caseloads through greater attempts to keep children in the home. Patty said she will look into it and report at the next meeting.

**Conversation with the Faith Community: An opportunity to hear from local church and religious leaders on their insight and concerns about Harney County.** Dan cited the problems associated with poor parenting and abuse as being the basis for much of the concern facing families in Harney County. Dr. Hubbard noted that alcohol and drugs or both are major problems for families. Jean added that violence and neglect are also major problems. Dr. Hubbard sees both physical and verbal abuse as problems. Jean added that neglect results in children's needs and nurturing not being met. Patty explained that Harney County statistics are among the highest in the state for child abuse and neglect. Discussion followed.

Steve suggested that churches need to be recognized as legitimate institutions among community resources and partners. Discussion followed on the Ministerial Association's current state of inactivity and the growing role of the lay person to assist the often over-worked pastor in the 17 or so churches in the area. Gene Luttmann believes there may be fewer pastors than there were ten years ago. Jean explained the history of the Ministerial Association. At one time it was very active but community programs were poorly attended and other issues arose which worked against the Ministerial Association's effectiveness. Jean noted that, with the exception of the school system (which is mandated to steer clear of any church and state partnerships), our community is more open to religious and state collaboration than most other communities. Jennifer cited the difficulty she encountered in dealing with the Dept of Education when she was looking into establishing a church-based school and was adamantly told that no school would be allowed to teach a curriculum that allowed the teaching of creationism along side evolution.

Jean pointed out that the more we can get families with their children into church, the fewer issues that will arise. Church shouldn't be considered competition for "quality family time," as this is good use of quality time between parents and children, not a hindrance to it.

Lou asked the guests if they had advice for us, as a Commission. Jennifer replied that there are a lot of community programs offered through churches and there would be more if funding were

available to them. Jean stated that she wants to see grant funding go to church organizations with youth programs. Jean also added that she would like to see the Commission stress to grantees that they not offer their programs at times that families might be in church. Jennifer is concerned that Friday, when children are not in school, leaves one whole day for children not to be involved with positive activities, such as The Boys & Girls Club of Harney County, which is closed until at least April. Mentoring 1:1 with kids on Friday would help their parents and offer something to the children.

Patty explained Commission funding procedures and mentioned that opportunities for funding are advertised in the newspaper and on radio. Our donation program, using locally generated flexible funds, is usually a good fit for helping to fund faith-based programs.

Gene, retired minister at Peace Lutheran Church, talked about Thrivent Financial Institution. Instead of the institution's dividends going out to stockholders, the dividends go out to the community in the form of matching funds for approved fund raisers. Commission members, guests and other community members are welcome to telephone him when they are having a fund raiser to see if Thrivent can donate to their project.

Dan thanked the guests representing the Faith Community for attending.

**Discussion of 2009-2011 Budget Guidance, Local Flexible Funds Donation Program, and RFP Schedule.** Patty provided copies of the 2009-11 Reduction Recommendations for Harney County Commission on Children and Families at various levels of funding.

**Status of Oregon's Children Data Book 2008: Reaction and Discussion.** Group discussion was held concerning the Harney County statistics as presented by Children First for Oregon. Discussion centered on the Harney County page. Patty offered to send the entire report to those who wanted it. Debbie asked that she receive the full report.

**Recommendation for Appointment to New Terms on the Harney County Commission on Children and Families.** Dan thanked Debbie and Jean for agreeing to remain on the Commission for another term. Lou stated that he would not be seeking reappointment for another term on the commission, as he would like to step down at this time for personal reasons. Dan thanked Lou for his commitment over these many years. A Motion was made by Lou and seconded by Ramona with unanimous approval to recommend to the County Court re-appointment of Debbie and Jean to the Commission for another term. Patty will advertise for the open position. She hopes that a person with a rural perspective can be found to replace Lou.

**Late Items.** Gwen Haigh thanked the Commission for its support of the kids. She explains she works with the Big Buddy Mentoring Program. Patty announced Maryanne's upcoming vacation trip to Israel and all the members wished her a safe but fun-filled adventure.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to address, Dan adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell  
Prevention Assistant