

## Harney County Commission on Children and Families

### Minutes of August 10, 2010, Meeting

**Attending:** Dan Nichols, Chair; Ann Vloedman; Debbie Ausmus; Joyce Moser; Michelle Bradach; Jean Hurst; Ramona Hofman; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant.

**Absent:** John Copenhaver and Virginia Tabor

**Guests:** Alicia Goodson, Hilda Allison, Nellie Franklin, Amanda Benton, Peggy Yarbor, Becky Thein, Patty McClure, Laura Van Cleave, Gretchen Bates, Mark Creighton.

**Call to Order/Introductions:** Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** A motion to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2010, was made by Ramona, with the correction Ann requested to page 2 regarding Kids Club OCF grant “1-year grant of \$35,000 then funded year 2 and 3 with compliance of Kids Club.” Corrections noted, motion seconded by Joyce, and the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

**Safe Communities and Safe Kids Coalition Report:** Patty McClure of ODOT addressed the commission regarding history of the coalition and current Harney County efforts. The coalition discussed clinics and resources to increase use of seat belts, bicycle helmets, and child care seats. Gretchen Bates, Coordinator, and Mark Creighton Burns Paiute Tribe Police Chief / Program Director were also present. The administrator of this grant is the City of Burns. Patty discussed if perhaps the coalition would be more productive if it were part of Harney Partners. Harney Partners would need to discuss this proposal (coalition be a committee of Harney Partners) and would need Gretchen to present a plan to Harney Partners.

### **Conversation with Local Non-Profit Organizations**

**Safe Communities and Safe Kids Coalition:** Gretchen Bates and Mark Creighton reported they plan to have a bike rodeo, date TBA. They are also involved in the driver’s education program at Burns High School with winter drivers clinics. The Safe Communities group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month with attendees to include representatives from the schools, parks and recreation, law enforcement, ODOT, and Harney District Hospital. Their main challenge has been procuring volunteers and individuals to attend the meetings and assist in local events.

**Community Support Foundation:** Nellie Franklin, Treasurer, presented information on the foundation. It was formed in 2002 as a 5013c organization. This group is a financial pass-through for groups without a 5013c designation who are looking for funds. PRIDE, Special Needs, and Writer’s in Residence are a few of the groups that have benefitted from the foundation’s services. The President of the Community Support Foundation is Sharon Davis.

**Harney Partners for Kids and Families (HP):** Michelle Bradach, President, said that HP has been in existence for over 20 years with the purpose and goals “to provide a coalition to coordinate resources available to address the total well-being of children and families in Harney County. Identify and prioritize unmet needs, which can then receive community attention.” A brochure was made available to the commission and guests. HP has been active in the Drug Free Communities grant, Youth Action Committee (YAC), positive youth activities, Red Ribbon Week which includes week-long activities in the schools as well as a BBQ and bonfire event, parenting classes to name a few. All HP work is done by volunteers with no paid staff. Their main fundraising for this year is a calendar which depicts healthy children and families of Harney County and supports local businesses. HP meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 12p at Glory Days Pizza.

**High Desert Partnership (HDP):** Hilda Allison, Coordinator, and Amanda Benton presented information on the partnership. This organization assists in “solving issues by bringing all interested parties together.” HDP is committed to resolving issues without litigation, reaching agreement without legislative intervention, and maintaining healthy ecological systems, economic structures, and communities. Some of the groups they work with are ranchers, ecological groups, and county, state, and federal governmental agencies. In addition to helping groups work together on issues (i.e. timber sales) they also assist groups to identify other groups with similar interests and facilitate collaboration.

**Harney County Library Foundation:** Debbie Ausmus presented information on this foundation which is the fundraising arm of the Harney County Library. Their current focus is on the teen room and the computers and computer system. The foundation will be sponsoring a workshop on September 15, 2010, 12-3p at the Chamber of Commerce Community Center. This workshop is for non-profit organizations and their board members to help them establish a plan to protect against embezzlement. Debbie also stated they have a new grant writer which will assist the foundation.

**HHOPE:** Director, Laura Van Cleave, was in attendance to provide information to the commission. HHOPE is a private, non-profit organization and their mission is to help women and children escape violence and live a violence-free life, helping one person at a time. They have short-term and long-term housing, emergency services (clothing, food, and transportation), peer counseling services, 24-hour domestic violence hotline, and referrals to services within and outside of Harney County. They also have confidential shelter services for people/families who are concerned for their safety against a violent partner. They are funded by state, federal, and private dollars with a board of directors.

**Harney County Kids Club:** No representative available.

**Harney County Arts in Education Foundation:** Becky Thein is the Chair of the foundation’s Executive Board and she provided a brochure on the organization. The foundation was established in 2008 in response to the loss of music education positions in Harney County, and their mission is to “promote, maintain, enhance, enrich and improve the opportunities for growth and achievement in the areas of music education, performing arts, visual arts and theater arts for the schools in Harney County.” Their challenge has been in the area of grant writing but have been very active in local

fundraising. Someone suggested looking into mentoring grants as a possible solution to grant writing issues. Upcoming event: Portland Youth Philharmonic at Burns High School on October 30, 2010.

**Community in Action:** Peggy Yarbor presented information on this group. This organization's focus is the "war on poverty" in Harney and Malheur Counties with the goal of moving people out of poverty. They provide food, energy, housing, and homeless assistance to low income people/families. They receive state as well as federal funding, and currently have 26 grants and approximately 40 sub-grants. They are presently in the planning stages for a community garden.

**Director's Report:** *(In Italics)*

**Provider Updates.** *Providers turned in their Quarterly Reports for the fourth quarter on time. They were paid and provider contracts will be presented for County Court approval and signature on August 18th.*

**Staff Update:**

- *Tammy will be leading the Community Fair Booth effort at the County Fair. She will work with Harney Partners to determine which/how to showcase parent education and support resources, and Drug Free Community work*
- *During the past two months, Patty:*
  - *organized and led the hiring process for the DFC Coordinator Position*
  - *attended a Coalition of Local Commissions meeting in Bend*
  - *made a presentation about Drug Free Community work to the Lions Club*
  - *attended an OCCF Regional Action Summit meeting in Bend*
  - *presented our work as a collaborating partner in a telephone interview for a Prevent Child Abuse America site visit in Oregon*
  - *provided Drug Free Community orientation sessions to the new DFC Coordinator and the new Harney County Prevention Coordinator*
  - *provided John Copenhaver with a deskside orientation to the commission*
  - *participated in the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee Action Team to assess where efficiencies can be improved between various JCP advisory boards*
  - *prepared and staffed provider contracts*
- *Dan presented our commission's recommendation that John Copenhaver and Virginia Tabor be appointed to the commission at the July 7<sup>th</sup> session of County Court, where they were then formally appointed. The HCCCF Bylaws were also approved by the County Court at that time.*

**Commission System Matters:**

**OCCF Action Summit:** *The OCCF Action Summit scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> was restructured into four region meeting locations and a one day format in order to save money. Patty attended the July 20<sup>th</sup> session in Bend, where the following were discussed: budget cuts, the nature of the commission system, and how best to continue the work in hard economic times, with the ability to retain enough important functions and structure to ramp up if/when the economy gets stronger. Very hard conversations were held. The basic finding was that no agency or organization, other than the commission, really does locally determined, focused, true prevention work. Especially for the*

*frontier rural counties, regionalization means we get less of the funding and lose the ability to put resources where they will do the most good here. So many top-down state agency programs are crisis intervention and early intervention work – not prevention. The top-down programs often do not serve our population as well as they serve urban and suburban communities, because those communities have more and varied services available to them, and because they often dictate qualifying parameters for client populations with parameters that don't work well for Harney County.*

*HCCCF Self-Evaluation: The local commission self-evaluation is due soon. Patty will put it together, the commission will review it, County Court must approve it, and it must then be submitted to OCCF.*

### **Grants and Community Work**

- *CTFO Grant: Tammy will be leading the organization and coordination of the Harney Partners Parent Education Series classes this year.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): Patty was approved as interim DFC Program Director, a role vacated by Thad Labhart when he took a new job in Grant County. Ashlee Peila Voges has been hired by Harney Behavioral Health as the halftime Alcohol & Drug Counselor and halftime County Prevention Coordinator. Alicia Goodson was hired as the DFC Coordinator. Four youth from Burns and Crane High Schools went to CADCA Mid-Year training for a week in late July in Phoenix, Arizona*

**Drug Free Community (DFC) Update:** Alicia Goodson, new DFC Coordinator, briefed the commission on the following focus areas: media, Youth Action Committee (YAC), law enforcement, capacity building, and school curricula. Alicia will be in contact with the new radio station owner to discuss DFC needs. The Burns Times Herald continues to provide print information and the billboards have not changed. Commissioners and guest were encouraged to look at the YAC website 'riseabovetheinfluence.com.' YAC members and adults participated in the CADCA training this summer. In the area of law enforcement, there have been 3 alcohol sale compliance checks in the last 2 years. 14 portable breathalyzers have been purchased and given to law enforcement officers. Alicia's goal is to improve and strengthen the DFC's relationship with law enforcement. In the area of capacity building, there will be a Oregon Prevention Conference in Eugene (University of Oregon) September 15-17, 2010. Patty has pre-registered 8 slots, 4 to be used by the tribe. Alicia and Ashley Voges (new County Prevention Coordinator) will be attending which leaves 2 slots available for anyone interested. Interested parties should contact Alicia or Patty. In the area of curricula, Darlene Cronin (Slater Elementary School counselor) has requested alcohol prevention curricula. Alicia will be meeting with rural schools to introduce herself and ascertain needs.

**Adjourn:** Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the meeting at 4:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Johnston, HCCCF Assistant

