

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Minutes of October 12, 2010, Meeting**

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Debbie Ausmus; Joyce Moser; Michelle Bradach; Virginia Tabor; Jean Hurst; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant.

Absent: John Copenhaver; Ramona Hoffman; and Ann Vloedman.

Guests: Theresa Schrunk; Donna Schnitker ; Sheila Angell; and Kathy Kementaria.

Call to Order/Introductions: Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: A motion to approve the Minutes of August 10, 2010, was made by Debbie, seconded by Joyce, and unanimously approved.

Director's Report: *(In Italics)*

From Commissioner Copenhaver: *Patty read an email from John Copenhaver expressing his disappointment that he had to miss another HCCCCF meeting, as he is very committed to his responsibilities on the commission. Patty verified that John's absences were excused, that he is in good standing according to the bylaws, and that John has been very active in recent JCPAC Action Team work.*

Thank you Notes: *Patty passed around thank you notes from various providers who are most grateful for the funding that HCCCCF has been able to provide.*

Provider Updates. *Glennnda Hughet, Grant-Harney CASA Director has resigned to take a different job, although she will help with the administration of the CASA program during transition. Carrie Winstead of the Kids Club is no longer employed as the Executive Director.*

Staff Update:

- *Patty presented the provider contracts for approval by the County Court on August 18th.*
- *On Aug 23rd, John Copenhaver and Patty participated in a JCPAC Action Team meeting to determine whether JCPAC and OCCF have duplicative functions related to JCP advisory roles.*
- *Virginia Tabor received a commission orientation from Patty on Aug 23rd.*
- *Patty conducted a training on the Tri-Ethnic Model for Community Readiness Assessment on Aug 25th.*
- *On Aug 26th, Patty and Alicia Goodson introduced the DFC work and opportunities for evidence based prevention curricula to the rural school teachers.*
- *Tammy organized and assembled a great Community Fair Booth that showcased parent education and Drug Free Community work. It won a 3rd place ribbon.*
- *On Sept 10th, Tammy participated in a Hunger Webinar hosted by OCCF.*
- *Patty and six others from Harney County and the Burns Paiute Tribe attended the Oregon Prevention Conference Sept 15-17 in Eugene. It was excellent.*
- *Community Systems Group, the contracted evaluator for the DFC grant, was here on a site visit Sept 28th and 29th. One community session was offered free to community members and the rest of*

the time was spent training the County Prevention Coordinator, DFC Coordinator, and Tammy on navigating the system capabilities.

- *Patty presented our commission self-evaluation, which was recommended for approval via email, to the County Court on Oct 6th.*
- *There has been a lot of staff time spent associated with end of federal fiscal year DFC reporting.*

Commission System Matters:

- *The State Commission has cut its staff by several people. Jessie Dudley, our regional coordinator, left in July. Peg VanderZanden is our regional liaison, but will not be traveling much in that role.*
- *Budget Adjustments Continue: We have taken budget cuts this biennium of approximately 18% so far, much of it determined this summer. That means we have to absorb the reductions all in this second year, rather than evenly across the two year period. All our contracts with providers expressly state that funding is contingent upon the funds provided by the state. Patty will be working with each provider to re-issue reduced allocation documentation.*
- *Coalition of Local Commissions: There is a very important coalition meeting tomorrow in Portland. According to the coalition chair “We, as a coalition have to have some serious discussions about our legislative strategy and we need to have everyone at the table to have these discussions. After meeting in Salem recently and hearing and seeing things, we as a coalition need to band together in solidarity, with one voice, to ensure that we are looking after the best interests of Children and Families across our good state. If our coalition is not able to come together in solidarity for Children and Families, I foresee that the comments made at last week’s State Commission meeting could and will be reality that the State Office and the local commissions can be and will be abolished. This is a time that we have to focus on Children and Families and lay out a strategy with solutions and not march up the capital steps just saying - don't cut us.” Dan and Patty will attend this meeting.*
- *Critical Choices, Critical Decisions: There will be another important meeting sometime in November for state and local commission staff to come together to discuss their recommendations for how to best serve our children and families in the current fiscal environment. Patty plans to attend.*

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: Tammy has organized a Parenting with Love and Logic parent education offering during November. Classes are free and will be held on four Tuesday evenings.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): Alicia Goodson is doing a great job, and as soon as she can compete the year-end reporting and admin requirements, stand by for this work to really take off.*

Keeping the Good Work Going Despite Budget Cuts: Patty provided a one-page diagram showing how HCCCF programs employ 17 people in Harney County, serve 425 children, youth and families with direct services that are the right fit for this community’s needs, and how these programs link to high level outcomes and partner agencies across parenting, schools, court system, employment, food programs and child welfare. Commissioners and guests briefly discussed how important this prevention work is and what a cost saving it is across the spectrum of government social services.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the Meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 9, 2010, State Office Building Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.