

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Minutes of November 9, 2010 Meeting

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Debbie Ausmus; John Copenhaver; Ramona Hofman; Jean Hurst; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant.

Absent: Michelle Bradach; Joyce Moser; Virginia Tabor; and Ann Vloedman.

Guests: Angie Temple; Alicia Goodson; Ron Wassom; Ron Wulff; Gayle Mackey; Donna Schnitker; Theresa Schrunk; Gail Buermann; Ashlee Voges.

Call to Order/Introductions: Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: No quorum.

Kids Club of Harney County Update: Ron Wulff is the President of the Board of Directors and Acting Club Director after the resignation of Carrie Winstead. Ron sees this as a time of opportunity for the club. They currently have two paid staff members running the day-to-day operations of the club (play and structured activities) as well as full-time and part-time volunteers. There are two employees providing after-school homework assistance at Slater Elementary, funded through a grant. The Raise-A-Kid campaign started last week.

Director's Report: *(In Italics)*

Provider Updates. *All quarterly reports were submitted on time.*

Staff Update:

- *On Oct 13th, Dan and Patty participated in a meeting of the Coalition of Local Commissions in Portland. They heard from one legislator, Rep Tina Kotek, about her approach to the deep cuts that will need to be made to the state budget. Local commissions feel strongly that the 36 local commissions and the programs already on the ground in those counties must be the priority for funding, with cuts coming to the State Commission functions and staff.*
- *On Oct 15th, Patty participated in an Interfaith Volunteers phone conference organized by Kathy Rementeria to help learn from another county on how to engage the faith sector in our community work.*
- *Patty obtained County Court approval and signature on Amendment #4 to the 2009-2011 IGA between OCCF and Harney County. This amendment further reduced the funding amounts for the state funding streams. While at this County Court meeting, Patty and Dan spoke of the Coalition of Local Commissions meeting they attended in Portland on Oct 13th. Patty was also able to provide the County Court members and candidates with a one-page diagram of Harney County CCF work and programs.*
- *Patty participated in the Critical Choices, Critical Decisions meeting for the state and local commissions in Newberg on Nov 3rd.*

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: The Parenting with Love and Logic parent education class will hold its second session tonight. There were 12 attendees last week.*

- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): DFC work is really starting to take off, with great work and teamwork from Alicia Goodson and Ashlee Voges, youth, law enforcement, etc. Rural school curricula rollout, a DFC Community Presentation road show, and marijuana assessment for our community are in the works for implementation after the 1st of the year.*

From our Local Partners: How HCCCF Programs Help and What Else May be Needed: Ron Wassom, Principal of Burns High School (BHS), reported the school job shadowing program has been affected by the downturn in Harney County's economy. He mentioned that the OYCC Community Stewardship Corps program, funded by the commission, is an excellent program that helps improve the high school graduation rate and build life skills. The School Based Health Center is still in the discussion stage but he sees a huge need for medical and mental health resources for the students. From the Oregon Healthy Teen and Oregon Wellness surveys they are seeing depression, PTSD, and alcohol and drug issues with numbers in Harney County higher than the state statistics. There is a lack of school counselor resources and Ron believes early identification is a key. According to Ron, of the estimated 30 new students at BHS, 18-20 of these students have ongoing issues that affect the students and staff. Many students are moving to Harney County not as a family unit but coming to live with other family members not equipped to handle their challenges. The Youth Transition Program (YTP) is a vocational rehabilitation program that provides extra support to students with study habits, resume writing, and skills needed to transition from high school to the workforce. They currently have 12 students.

Gail Buermann, Principal of Hines Middle School (HMS), supported Mr. Wassom's comments and said the number of students with high needs often overwhelm the school counselors. She talked about a program called "Girl's Circle, which she co-facilitates with Lori Cheek (Juvenile Department). This group started within the Juvenile Department and was moved to HMS about three years ago and is a safe place for girls to talk about their issues and receive education on a variety of life skills. They meet once a week and provide a safe environment for the girls to receive positive peer and adult support. There are similar groups at BHS and Slater Elementary (5th grade). Everyone thought a group for boys would also be very beneficial but with all the funding cuts it would need to be facilitated by a volunteer. Gail Mackey, Principal of Slater Elementary School, said the Kids Club homework program and the Harney Partners parent education classes are very helpful to her students and parents.

Angie Temple, DHS, talked about the number of families involved with DHS who benefit from HCCCF support: DFC, 50%; Early Childhood Center/Healthy Start, 29%; parenting classes, 65%; Kids Club, 30%. Children also benefit from CASA and TEC. Regarding the Oregon Health Plan there is currently a "reservation list" for children with parents who don't have OHP. Harney Behavior Health often works with DHS so that children can receive the care needed but they have to be creative. Angie said the parent education programs that are funded and supported by the commission are helpful to her families, and their existence allows DHS funds to be used for more one-on-one parent support.

The guests said they are seeing success stories in Harney County but the needs are still great. Needs include early identification and intervention for children from high risk environments (the earlier the better), support system for "re-parents" i.e. grandparents raising grandchildren, and single parent support. Harney County has some resources but everyone has to continue to be creative.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the Meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2010, State Office Building Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.

