

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2010**

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Michelle Bradach; Joyce Moser; Debbie Ausmus; Jean Hurst; John Copenhaver; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant
Absent: Ramona Hofman; Ann Vloedman; Virginia Tabor
Guests: Ron Wulff; Kathy Rementeria; Donna Schnitker

Call to Order/Introductions: Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Jean made a motion to approve the Minutes and Agenda from October 2010 and the Minutes from November, 2010, with 2nd by Debbie. The Minutes were unanimously approved. Patty presented a revised December 2010 Meeting agenda, which was approved.

Director's Report: *(In Italics)*

Provider Updates

- *TEC/CSC: To date this year CSC has served seven youth in its program. One student has completed his high school credits and six youth are still enrolled. Two more students should complete their graduation requirements by February and one of them is planning to enter the National Guard upon completion.*
- *Kids Club: The Kids Club job posting for a new Director will occur this week. Right now staffing consists of one half-time employee supplemented with volunteers Monday through Friday. Average attendance is approximately 11 kids per day. Slater afterschool program is seeing up to five kids per day. The Kids Club entered a float in the Christmas Parade.*
- *CASA: The new Grant-Harney CASA Director has been selected and her name is Sheri Webb. Glenda Hugnet and Sheri met with Patty on Dec 8th.*
- *Healthy Start: Healthy Start – Ten families are enrolled right now receiving varying levels of service from weekly home visits to quarterly home visits. The program is considered fully enrolled now. Two families are receiving home visiting services through the Oregon Community Foundation grant. The home visitor is using the Parents As Teachers.*
- *Great Start – Great Start is serving 32 children this year through two classes, one for four year old children and one for three year old children. The teacher, Nancy Stampke, continues to home visit the families, and does parent teacher conferences. She follows Head Start performance standards, only on a smaller scale.*

Staff Update:

- *Patty has been a participant in many webinars and phone conferences the past month. The Coalition of Local Commissions has continued to meet to hone a “game changing” recommendation that will preserve the most important elements of commission work in this budget environment.*
- *On Dec 8th Patty met with outgoing Grant-Harney CASA Director Glenda Hugnet and new Director Sheri Webb. Sheri will be coming to one of our future meetings so you can meet her. The CASA Directors Network is working on a plan to move from the OCCF system to a state level non-profit from which local CASA programs will receive their funding. If/when this change may occur is not known.*

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: The Parenting with Love and Logic parent education classes held during November 2010 went very well! In addition to future efforts with classes for parents in the community, Tammy will be working on a parent resource web page, getting the word out again on the computer-based parenting program Parenting Wisely, and making recommendations on the possibility of a radio-based offering.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): DFC work is done in committees and subcommittees, which are meeting regularly now. Work areas include Media, youth, evidence-based curricula, law enforcement, and capacity building. Alicia Goodson and Ashlee Voges will begin the Coalition Academy training in January and will work on a marijuana logic model to see how we can begin addressing the rise in use by our youth. Law enforcement participation is good now. Three coalition members will be attending the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership forum in February 2011.*

Juvenile Crime Prevention Topic for Discussion, Potential for a Boys Council Program in

SD3: John led the discussion reporting the Girls Circle program has been a real success with good outcomes. There is a boys program available. This program would be a definite possibility in Harney County SD3 but it would be difficult for the Juvenile Department to facilitate due to budget and staffing concerns. John passed out “The Council Facilitator Training” form he obtained on the internet and estimated approximately \$2000.00 would be needed to train a male volunteer and provide start-up materials. John believes this would be a valuable program especially for boys grades 6-8 at Hines Middle School to meet once a week during the lunch hour. John expressed two hurdles to getting this program established: 1) finding committed male volunteers, and 2) funding for training and basic materials. With the support of the Juvenile Department and the School District, he felt these hurdles were not insurmountable. Michelle reported the new school psychiatrist said the boys he is currently counseling are in need of positive male role models and asked if there was a “Big Brother/Big Sister” program available. Nothing is currently in place but “The Council” would be a great alternative. John will contact other communities in Oregon who are facilitating groups. Dan and John will meet to discuss this issue further.

DHS District 14 Volunteer Initiative: Kathy Rementeria reported that Grant, Harney, and Malheur counties are currently streamlining their DHS operations. There are many volunteers working in the county and past and/or present roles include book buddies, lunch buddies, volunteer drivers, handyman program, and prescription assistance program (Senior Center). With all the talk of budget cuts, Kathy feels volunteers are more important than ever as a valuable asset to the people of Harney County. Kathy passed out a list of needs, and asked if the commissioners would go through the list and mark five (5) needs they felt were important. Although we don't have the resources to make everything happen, if we know what are the greatest needs we can work on recruiting volunteers to help. Some of the groups growing in Harney County who require assistance are seniors and homeless families/teens.

Expiring Commissioner Terms-Discussion: A motion was made by Jean with 2nd by Joyce to re-appoint Ramona Hoffman and Dan Nichols to the commission. Virginia Tabor has declined re-appointment (Member-at-large opening). An announcement will be placed for the commission opening. Patty mentioned the benefit to have a commissioner from the medical community and/or school staff. Patty asked to be provided with names of people they would recommend, so she can make contact, follow up and encourage them to apply.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the Meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 2011 retreat was postponed, as was the meeting for January. Next meeting February 8, 2011, State Office Building Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.