

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Minutes of February 8, 2011, Meeting**

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

Guests: Donna Schnitker; Geoffrey Robinson; Belinda Brown; Peggy Yarbor; Sheila Angell; Leighton M. Reed-Nickerson; Nancy Walker.

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

Approval of Agenda and Minutes Jean made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes with correction, seconded by Ramona and unanimously approved.

Candidates for Appointment to the Commission: Letters of Interest and Introductions Geoffrey Robinson and Leighton (Linc) Reed-Nickerson introduced themselves and discussed their interest and qualifications for appointment to the Commission. Patty read a letter of interest from Pat Sharp, who was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous engagement.

Director's Report: (In Italics)

Provider Updates.

- *All providers submitted their quarterly reports on time and the state database has been updated.*
- *Kids Club: Jeni Stevens has been hired as the new Kids Club Director.*
- *CASA: Patty will be speaking to the Harney County CASA volunteers on Feb 14th to thank them and briefly discuss the changes facing OCCF programs.*
- *Healthy Start and Great Start: Donna Schnitker will briefly address these programs, which are fully on track, when she speaks today.*

Staff Update:

- *Patty has been active in the Drug Free Communities work, guiding the DFC Coordinator, who is doing a great job.*
- *The Tobacco Prevention Education Program (TPEP) is an Oregon program that is administered under the Harney County Health Department. The majority of its program elements and goals are identical to our DFC work around youth tobacco prevention. Judge Grasty, Cheryl Keniston (Health Department Director), Michelle Bradach (Tribal TPEP oversight) and Patty have been holding discussions to see how to best reach outcomes and make best use of the funding.*
- *Tammy has been coordinating the Make Parenting a Pleasure classes, revitalizing our Parenting Wisely resource for better use in Harney County, and contributing to DFC work.*
- *Patty and John have begun looking into offering support for a Boys Council program at the Hines Middle School. This is the male version of the Girls Circle program. Gail Buermann is very happy we are willing to try. The facilitator's guide book was ordered and is on hand for reference, and the next step is to recruit two male volunteers to lead the program.*

Legislative and State Level Developments: Legislative Initiatives

- *The Governor's budget was released. It proposes creation of a single 0-20 education investment budget called the Oregon Education Investment Fund. It will be administered by a new Oregon Education Investment Board, chaired by the Governor. Under this board a Council of Early Learning will be created, which will focus on ensuring that children enter school ready to learn, enter the first grade ready to read, and leave the first grade reading. The Governor proposes to transfer all funding and programs from a number of agencies and departments into one budget framework focused on outcomes for young children. All funding for the State and Local Commissions on Children and Families will be transferred to this newly created agency for early childhood. Funds will be spent at the direction of the Governor's Early Childhood Director. In the first year of the biennium a design team will re-engineer and transform the early childhood system to produce measurable outcomes and cost benefit analysis on a regional basis through performance-based contracting with local providers. The design team will recommend a process to transition to the new delivery model in the second year of the biennium. There will be no changes to current operations or programs in 2011-2012. Although the budget for the existing programs will be moved to the Council of Early Learning, the programs themselves will continue to operate in their current form for the first year of the biennium.*
- *Representative Dave Hunt will be submitting a bill to move the local commissions under the DHS structure with reduced state commission functions being conducted by DHS.*
- *Representative Tina Kotek is planning to propose her own bill, but we have no further information at this time.*

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: Make Parenting a Pleasure classes are being held this month. Tammy is looking into an online login for the computer-based parenting program Parenting Wisely, to make it more accessible to our community. The CTFO grant cycle is here, applications are due April 1st. Patty is working on a grant application that will continue our community parent education and support resources and possibly seek some funds to plan and design a parent mentor volunteer program for the future.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): Slater School will be receiving an alcohol prevention curriculum to complement the tobacco prevention curriculum we have previously provided them through the DFC grant. The DFC Coordinator (Alicia Goodson), HBH Prevention Coordinator (Ashlee Voges), Gwen Haigh, and Kathy Rementeria are in Maryland and the DC area this week attending the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership forum. Planning for focus group discussions regarding marijuana use in our community has begun. Input will be part of a community needs assessment and a logic model analysis of the problem. Alicia and Ashlee made a DFC presentation to the County Court and Alicia will be making more community presentations in the future.*

Commissioner Appointments: Dan and Ramona were reappointed to the commission by the County Court on January 5th, 2011.

Provider Proposal Process: With so much uncertainty and ambiguity for the next budget year, Patty recommends that the funding proposal process be held in July or August, with awards in September or October. Most other local commissions are planning to do that.

School Volunteer Mentoring Initiative Nancy Walker gave a presentation on the importance of tapping into volunteers for the schools because of budget cuts. She discussed various issues related to

volunteering including the rise of episodic volunteerism, needs of different schools in the community, importance of role models for local youth, matching people to a cause they are passionate about, and the need for a robust web presence for Harney County. Nancy reported this initiative is in the beginning/planning stages. Contact information: nancyw6780@gmail.com, (541) 408-6780.

Juvenile Crime Prevention work in Harney County: Summary of Outcomes John Copenhaver discussed the Harney Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) program, which is an evidenced-based program with measurable outcomes. The State screening tool identifies high risk youth before they become involved in the Juvenile system. Referrals can come from parents, caregivers, and school employees. The State screening tool domains include behavior issues, family functioning, substance abuse, mental health, and school attachment (Harney County Juvenile Department identified domain). Various risk and protective factors have been identified for assessment and periodic re-assessment. John stated he has seen remarkable improvements, i.e. youth with improved school attachment and decrease in numbers of youth who move along the juvenile justice continuum. John explained the process of how youth move through the department, which begins with a referral (concerns of parents or schools), then an Education Improvement Plan (EIP) is drafted with discussions between juvenile department staff and school, then an action plan is written up. The action plan includes responsibilities of student, parents/caregivers, school, and juvenile department.

Early Childhood Update & Oregon Community Foundation Grants Donna Schnitker reported that the Head Start funding stream is 75% State and 25% Federal dollars, and is funded until March 2011. For funding March-June 2011, the Early Childhood Center (ECC) must rely on the State legislature but Donna is optimistic the funds will be there for the program. The ECC is fully enrolled with a waiting list. Donna has seen a rise in mobile families who move to Harney County after loss of employment to live with family, in hopes of finding employment here. Employment opportunities are limited so the families move out of the area. The ECC early intervention/special education program includes children birth to 5 with the requirement of the completion of development screening before 45 days in school. The Great Start program is preschool two days a week with educator, Nancy Stampke. In addition to classroom education, Nancy also does home visits with all the children. The Healthy Start program is for first-birth mothers with certain identified risk factors; staff is Michelle Yunker. This program is currently meeting and exceeding the benchmarks but referrals continue to be an issue due to HIPAA constraints. Donna reported the award of an OCF Grant of \$17,350 over 3 years. These funds can be used to supplement Healthy Start and individuals who do not meet Healthy Start criteria. Donna also discussed a \$90,000 grant submitted for Grant and Harney County to OCF/Ford Foundation. The grant would include county collaboration and one parenting class. The grant application is currently being reviewed.

Commissioner Appointment Recommendations Dan and Patty led a discussion of the candidates for the two Commission openings. After a discussion of their qualifications, Jean made a motion to recommend that the County Court appoint Pat Sharp and Geoffrey Robinson to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Ramona and unanimously approved.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the Meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Will be either March 8th or April 12th, 2011, State Office Building Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.