

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families  
Minutes of April 12, 2011, Meeting**

**Attending:** Dan Nichols, Chair; John Copenhaver; Jean Hurst; Ann Vloedman; Geoffrey Robinson; Pat Sharp; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant.

**Absent:** Joyce Moser; Ramona Hofman; Michelle Bradach.

**Guests:** Tonya Fox; Jeni Stevens; Alicia Goodson; Gwen Haigh; Donna Schnitker; Angie Temple.

**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, seconded by Ann, and unanimously approved.

**Kid's Club: Report from the New Director** The new Kid's Club director, Jeni Stevens, discussed her vision for the club. Staffing includes one full-time person, but they are in need of volunteers to help run the club. She discussed plans to encourage more participation of the parents of the members. She also presented information on new programs, including alcohol and drug education, nutrition, Tae Kwon Do, cultural diversity, and bullying prevention. Efforts are being made to investigate future funding possibilities. She did express some concerns regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the OCF grant, and asked the Commission for their support. She was excited about the upcoming "Diamonds in the Glass" fundraiser.

**Child Abuse and Neglect in Harney County** Angie Temple presented the Commission with information regarding caseload sizes and the challenges of providing services to children and families with all the budget cuts. DHS's focus is moving toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect, instead of only reacting after abuse or neglect happens. John felt the relationship between DHS and the Juvenile Department has improved.

**Early Childhood Education Update** Donna Schnitker provided valuable information to the Commission regarding the Governor's budget and legislative activity regarding early childhood matters.

**Drug Free Communities Presentation** Alicia Goodson discussed progress of the DFC work in the following; 1) strengthening the coalition, 2) community needs assessment (focus groups and surveys), 3) community education (speaker, Eric Martin), and 4) community change (new media billboards, curriculum for Kid's Club, Prescription Take Back event). There are 2 ½ years left on the 5-year grant.

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

**Provider Updates.** *The end of the quarter was March 31<sup>st</sup>. Provider quarterly reports are due April 15<sup>th</sup> and the data will be entered into the state database.*

- *Kids Club: Patty visited with Jeni Stevens, Kids Club Director, on April 6<sup>th</sup>.*
- *CASA: Patty attended a meeting of the Harney County CASAs on Feb 14th, thanked them for their service, and discussed the uncertainty of next year's budget.*
- *Healthy Start: Donna, Michelle Yunker, and Patty will participate in a site visit from the state tomorrow, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The program is in good shape and helping high risk families*

### **Staff Update:**

- *April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In order to bring awareness to the need to help prevent child abuse and neglect, Patty has adapted three short articles for publication in the Burns Times-Herald. Banners have been hung and “pinwheels for prevention” countertop displays are located at DHS, Harney Partners for Kids and Families, the County Clerk’s office and the Health Department.*
- *Tammy gave notice that April 30<sup>th</sup> will be her last work day with the commission. She has done a great job, but has a very full plate with her family responsibilities, graduate school, and other interests and efforts. Tammy has coordinated three successful parent education classes the past year, contributed to the DFC work, and assisted Patty in many ways. She will be missed!*
- *On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Patty attended a county training on ethics.*
- *Patty provided new commissioners Pat Sharp and Geoffrey Robinson deskside orientations to our commission on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, respectively.*
- *On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Patty participated in the Harney District Hospital Health Advisory meeting. This forum looks to be a good fit for both commission and DFC attendance.*
- *On April 7<sup>th</sup> Patty attended an Oregon Community Foundation seminar here in Burns on Youth Mentoring and After School Programs. Several partners from Harney and Grant counties were in attendance: Kids Club, DFC, ECC/Healthy Start, Parent Programs, schools, Burns Paiute Tribe, and others were there.*
- *The work toward establishing and supporting a Boys Council mentoring program at the middle school (now called “The Council”) will start back up once the staffing situation for next year at our local schools becomes known. It will involve working with the school to see if a program can be established during school/lunch hours.*
- *As a Harney County Department Head, Patty has prepared next year’s budget along the lines of last year’s budget despite the uncertainty for levels of funding as well as exact funding streams. She is scheduled to appear before the County Budget Board this Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm.*

### **Legislative and State Level Developments**

- *The legislative process is underway. At this point, the Governor, through an Executive Order, has created the Education Investment Board and appointed the members. They are charged with looking at investments being made and how to get the outcomes in the early learning system, the K-12 system and the post-secondary education system.*
- *Under the Governor’s plan, the Commission’s funding would move to the Early Learning Council (ELC). Recently, the Governor released the names of the members of the Early Learning Council and the design team for that body to be led by Lynne Saxton. The work group says it will be looking at the entire continuum; that older children will not be lost in this new system.*
- *Legislatively, there are several bills in play: One is a bill to move the commission work to the Department of Human Services, HB 3533 moves the juvenile crime prevention dollars to the Criminal Justice Division, HB 3102 moves CASA to Judicial, either under their own division or under the public defenders office. Bottom line: there is much ambiguity.*
- *Peg Vanderzanden, OCCF Regional Coordinator, will serve her last day at OCCF on April 29<sup>th</sup>. She spoke with me at length on April 1<sup>st</sup> and shared the following, most of which is her personal opinion:*
  - *The ELC would serve the governor, and counties would not necessarily have any direct relationship with county governments. In Peg’s opinion, many of these developments indicate the*

*Governor is leaving county governments out of resource decisions and focusing on ensuring resources primarily go to the most populous counties in the state. If that is true, rural communities may find themselves left behind.*

*- Peg also mentioned that some funding streams may not retain the flexibility to be applied to the programs we have supported in the past. There should be some recommendations regarding the “Common Outcomes” work that OCCF has been engaged in the past year. For these reasons, Peg recommends patience for now before we decide to either begin an RFP process, or make decisions on possibly renewing last year’s contracts for an additional year of funding.*

*- Peg recommended that improving an existing -- or forming a new – 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to serve the county’s children and families needs -- as an extension arm of the county -- may be needed in order to successfully compete for state funding in the future. With the vision at this point being to have five or so regional hubs across the state, rather than a presence in each county, proposal selections may become quite competitive and will need a strong non-profit entity to assure capacity and accountability within a public-private partnership model, which is where she thinks things are headed in the future.*

- *Patty has been in communication with our funded providers (Kids Club, Early Childhood Center, TEC Community Stewardship Corps, and CASA) in order to keep communication open and everyone informed.*

### **Grants and Community Work**

- *CTFO Grant: The second offering of Make Parenting a Pleasure classes are being held this month. The Children’s Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) season for grant applications had an April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, and Patty was able to develop a proposal and submit it. If awarded additional funding, the commission (in affiliation with Harney Partners for Kids and Families), would seek to continue its successful efforts to bring high quality parent education to Harney County, Oregon. With another grant, we can continue to offer the programs on hand, build capacity by training additional local instructors, strengthen two parent resource centers in our community, add a radio-delivered parent education program, and provide referral services for parents.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): Major events underway with DFC work includes: Eric Martin Meth and Marijuana Presentations, April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22nd, Crane Play Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and Community Health Fair on May 7<sup>th</sup>.*

**Commissioner Appointments:** *Pat and Geoffrey were appointed to the commission by the County Court on February 16th, 2011.*

**Provider Proposal Process:** *With so much uncertainty and unknowns for the next budget year, Patty recommended 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.*

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

**Next Meeting:** Either May 10<sup>th</sup> or June 14<sup>th</sup> at the State Office Building Conference Room, 2:00 p.m.