

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

**Attending:** Ann Vloedman, Acting Chair; Debbie Ausmus; Jean Hurst; Joyce Moser; Ramona Hofman; Cody Hodges; Michelle Bradach, Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant

**Absent:** Dan Nichols, Sonni Svejcar

**Guests:** Kim Mills, Kathy Rementeria, Mark Creighton, Mark Simpson

**Call to Order.** Ann called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with a round-table introduction of members and guests.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of the January 12, 2010 Annual Retreat was made by Jean, seconded by Ramona and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

**Update/Community Stewardship Corps:** Mike Simpson stated that much of the evidence-based Community Stewardship Corps program is centered on mentoring kids from the alternative high school who are at risk for dropping out of school. He assists them to get academic credits through skills learned while completing the structured work projects of the program. Mike spoke to the success that graduates of the program are having in job searches related to skills they have gained. Governmental agencies are his main draw for projects currently because of the joint focus on education.

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

**Work across the Five Functions:**

**1) System Development (Bringing Services Together)**

- *Drug Free Community Work – We are doing this through coalition work to bring services together for community change: media (many good news articles), law enforcement (re-start for increased enforcement work), evidence based school prevention curricula, etc.*

**2) Service Delivery Improvements (Ensuring Quality and Accountability)**

- *On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Patty participated in a meeting in Burns with the State Director of DHS along with other community partners. He and his staff solicited feedback and input on issues regarding the Burns Child Welfare Office and other services.*
- *Peter Lawson of the Southeast Oregon Regional Food Bank in Ontario came to the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Harney County Court meeting to discuss food bank delivery service the past six months. Many community members attended, and it's clear that there has been some miscommunication in the past. Harney County's food bank needs have grown at the same time that deliveries from Portland were discontinued and Ontario deliveries became infrequent. Various community members are energized to find a more frequent, reliable delivery response for Harney County.*

**3) Community Mobilization (Organizing Change)**

- *The topic of rising teen pregnancies in Harney County has become a Community Action Team (CAT) topic. It's difficult to determine if we are seeing a random spike or if there is an upward trend. Checking the information that is provided by the schools, health*

department, 800 numbers, etc. indicate that prevention and education information is available and in place. The next challenge is to find out if some or most of these teen pregnancies were intentional, and if so, what prevention strategies are needed to address this.

#### **4) Policy Development (Shaping Policy and Law)**

- As a result of the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Plan, John Copenhaver is beginning to work with School District 3 in order to read and understand their truancy/attendance policies. John wants to be very thorough and avoid turf issues as he begins this work. It looks like the local policies have not been updated in a long time, and it's possible that development of updated policies may help reduce the barriers to early truancy intervention that our JCP Prevention Plan has identified.

#### **5) Community Planning and Implementation (Leading Strategically)**

- The Harney County JCP Plan was presented to and approved by the Harney County Court on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Patty and John Copenhaver did the database piece to the plan on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2010 Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families has been completed and is in the approval process.

**Provider Updates:** Second quarter payments went to providers.

- Our Healthy Start Program submitted an application for a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- OCCF will be conducting a Healthy Start site visit, which will involve Patty, Donna Schnitker, Michelle Yunker, client families, and an advisory board member.

**Staff Update:**

- On Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Patty participated in the quarterly Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) meeting, which is an advisory board to early childhood special education and early intervention services. The Healthy Start caseload is increasing. Michelle Yunker is doing a great job getting the word out and making contact with prospective clients.
- Drug Free Communities (DFC): Thad Labhart (DFC Program Director) and Kathy Rementeria (Coalition Member) attended the CADCA Leadership Conference in Maryland from Feb 8-11.

**Commission System Matters:**

The OCCF responded to the state budget note request on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Director Mickey Lansing and Chair Dick Withnell spent nearly an hour listening to legislative feedback from the OCCF report. Although several legislators commented that they thought it was a good report, at least one felt it "missed the mark." The motion that was approved asked that OCCF return in May to outline priorities and how the state office can maximize the impact of limited resources. With the increased specificity in the revised instructions received from the legislature, the state commission will be developing its response soon. Some interpretations indicate that certain legislators may be looking for OCCF to go on record as saying that "mission creep" occurred over time, and to name responsibility areas that need to be removed from OCCF.

**Grants and Community Work**

- CTFO Grant: Maryanne coordinated the February 2010 Parent Education offering of Make Parenting a Pleasure, taught by Michelle Yunker. Attendance was good and

*evaluation feedback was very positive. Harney Partners will offer a four-class session of Parenting with Love and Logic in April 2010.*

- *Drug Free Community Work: Check out the Harney County youth DFC website [www.riseabovetheinfluence.com](http://www.riseabovetheinfluence.com). This is a social media web site being designed by the youth of Burns and Crane High Schools who are part of the Youth Action Committee (YAC).*

**Outlook:**

- *The Comprehensive Plan Update is due to OCCF by April 2, 2010. HCCCF will need to send its recommended version to the County Court for approval on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010.*
- *Patty has a regional meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Redmond.*
- *Provider site visits will be scheduled soon. Commissioners should please let Patty know if they are available to assist with this.*

**Discussion/Approval of HCCCF Bylaws:** Local commission Bylaws are required as part of a review by OCCF. Since the original copy of the Bylaws has not been located, Patty has written a draft for consideration. A decision on approval of the Bylaws is not needed today. By consensus, it was decided that the Bylaws will be further discussed at next month's meeting.

**Discussion/Approval of Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families**

**2010 Update:** Patty presented the 2010 draft update to the Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families. This is an update to the six year plan for the period 2008-2014, which was submitted in 2008. During discussion the emerging issue of food and hunger needs was discussed, as well as teen pregnancy. Commission members expressed interest in hearing more on these topics at future meetings. Debbie complimented Patty on her excellent job of updating the Comprehensive Plan. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to approve the 2010 draft update to the Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families, and recommend that the Harney County Court approve it.

**Late Items:**

- *Patty updated the Commission on the Kids Club of Harney County, stating that she understands that the numbers of children attending are up and that Dave Anderson, who has done grant writing for us in the past, was hired by the Club to help with an Oregon Community Foundation grant. Ann encouraged the membership to support Diamonds in a Glass which is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. Patty asked for and received unanimous approval to sponsor a table in the Commission's name.*
- *Jean alerted the Commission that she will be on Sabbatical in May, June and July.*

**Adjourn:** Without further discussion, Ann adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant