

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2008**

**Attending:** Dan Nichols, Chair; Ann Vloedman; Joyce Moser; Debbie Ausmus; Ramona Hofman; Jean Hurst; Lou Davies; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant.

**Absent:** Michelle Bradach; Sonni Svejcar.

**Guests:** Kathy Rementeria; Steve Bull; Thad Labhart.

**Call to Order.** Dan Nichols called the Meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes.** Upon review of the minutes of the January 10, 2008 retreat, Maryanne was instructed to correct the donation approval to Burns High School in the amount of \$300, on page 1, to include the words “for the Reader Board project.” Today’s agenda and the minutes, corrected to read “\$300 for the Burns High School Reader Board project,” were approved unanimously per motion by Ramona and seconded by Ann.

**Public Comment.** None.

**Parenting Book: Preparing Teens for Life.** Steve Bull provided the commission with further information on his plan to distribute his parenting book to the community, stating his vision was to print 300 copies of the book to reach perhaps 700 families in the County, getting the manual on people’s shelves for them to use when they have specific parenting questions or to help handle problems that arise. The cost of printing locally will be \$11 a manual regardless of number of copies. Ann expressed concern as to whether the book will be used by simply handing it out. She wants to include Crane in the distribution to be more inclusive of the county, and also inquired if Steve is planning on making any presentations about the book. Steve replied that mass distribution is planned in the Fall at the start of school, that he had not planned on making presentations, but was thinking about putting an announcement on the radio. Patty asked if manuals are planned to become resources given by counselors to parents and Steve said not at this time. Steve added the bulk of the books will go to Slater Elementary and Hines Middle School. It was noted that not all parents will be interested. Jean, Ann and Debbie voiced their agreement that they want the book to go to all the rural schools as well as local schools. Steve hopes to also put the book in the Book Parlor and in the Library. He said he has no problem starting out with a smaller print and distribution run; that he would be pleased with whatever assistance is available. Steve thanked the Commission members for their time and exited the meeting.

**Gambling Prevention Update.** Thad gave a power point presentation on gambling statistics in and outside of Harney County. One in 25 teens has a major gambling problem which equates to approximately 30 kids in Harney County. Twice as many youth as adults have major gambling problems. This is the first generation of kids to grow up with gambling as the norm. Twice as

many youth who gamble also drink and do drugs than do non-gamblers. Gambling addiction is treatable and one percent of the Oregon Lottery revenue is designated for gambling treatment. For Oregon residents, gambling addiction counseling is paid for by the State. A lot of people don't even know that we have gambling treatment programs in Oregon. Most people who come in for gambling addiction counseling have an addiction to video poker. Poker is big with teens and they play on weekends and online. Addiction treatment works and, after treatment, 81% no longer gamble or they gamble within reason. For those who need help, they can call 1-877-2-STOP-NOW or go to [www.1877mylimit.org](http://www.1877mylimit.org). Thad added that spouses of gamblers will often call the help line. Thad noted that 50% of those in counseling are women and women are also more likely to seek help. Gambling addiction is recognized as a disease. It is not fun; it's an escape from reality and from problems in one's life.

## **Director's Report**

### **Staff Update:**

- Patty has been focused on two things: the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for HCCCF funding streams, and the Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant.
- RFP: Public and legal notices went out for the RFP, two bidder's workshops were held in Burns, plus one additional rural presentation at Crane. Next commission meeting, HCCCF board members will be provided with the proposals for review and scoring prior to the May meeting.
- Maryanne is the Program Director for the Harney Partners Parent Education Series. She has been very busy selecting, training, and supporting two local trainers who are instructors/facilitators for the Parenting with Love and Logic course.

### **Grants and Community Work**

- **Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant Work:** The DFC grant application is scheduled to be mailed this Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. It is due in Washington DC by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Thad Labhart, Kathy Rementeria, Gwen Haigh, Chad Karges, Lori Cheek and Michelle Bradach were very involved contributors. The grant seeks \$125,000 per year each year for five years to fund a Program Manager to implement community strategies to reduce underage substance abuse. The DFC Committee met three times with the Harney County Court to seek their support and answer questions.
- **In February:** Harney Partners, Harney Behavioral Health, HCCCF, and youth members of Harney Partners traveled to Washington DFC for required training in conjunction with the DFC grant.
- **Parent Education Series:** Harney Partners Parent Ed committee, led by Maryanne, began its Parenting with Love and Logic program last week. March sessions are in progress, and well attended. An April session is also scheduled. The grant is on track. Maryanne will provide a full briefing at our April meeting.

### **Next Few Months Outlook:**

- **April:** Meet and receive the bidders' proposals.
- **May:** Meet, deliberate, and make decisions for our funding streams.
- **June:** No meeting; staff to develop provider workplans and contracts

## **Executive Session**

**Parenting Book: Preparing Teens for Life.** The Commission went into Executive Session to discuss the funding of Steve Bull's Parenting Book. Ann then made a motion, seconded by Joyce and unanimously approved, to fund the printing of 150 copies to be available in Burns, Hines, and Crane with the option of printing another 150 books, if needed and if requested by Steve by December 31, 2008.

**Discussion/Recommendation: HCCCF Director as County Employee:** Patty provided background of her position as a contracted Commission Director and the potential for the position to become a county employee. If the County receives the Drug Free Grant, its full-time program manager position would ideally be a county employee, supervised by the HCCCF Director. Following discussion, the Commission went back into Executive Session during which it decided to recommend to the County Court that the Director of the Harney County Commission on Children and Families position become a County employee position.

**Adjourn:** April 8th is the Commission's next meeting date. With no further business, the meeting was then adjourned by Dan.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant