

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Minutes of April 13, 2010 Meeting

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Jean Hurst; Joyce Moser; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant

Absent: Sonni Svejcar; Ramona Hofman; Cody Hodges; Michelle Bradach; Debbie Ausmus; Ann Vloedman

Guests: Sheila Angell, Peggy Yarbor, Kathy Wassom, Cheryl Keniston

Call to Order. Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: Because of a lack of quorum, Joyce made a motion to defer the approval of today's Agenda and the Minutes of the March 9, 2010 Meeting to the May meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan, and unanimously approved. There was no public comment.

Teen Pregnancy: Cheryl Keniston updated the Commission on teen pregnancies in Harney County, which have been purported to be on the rise. Cheryl stated that there may be up to 8-9 pregnant teens in Harney County, with some of those being older teens. All teenagers in Harney County have access to birth control if they wish. The younger teens may simply be opposed to using birth control; some aren't opposed but still don't use it; some use it incorrectly. The youngest ages Cheryl sees coming into the Clinic at the Harney County Health Department are ages 14-15. Melanie Thomas, R.N. goes to schools to talk about sexually transmitted diseases and gets a lot of follow up phone calls, including calls about birth control. Health Class at the Burns High School is generally held in the 11th grade and this is where infectious diseases and birth control would be covered. Some students may take it earlier or later, depending on their academic programs. Health class is also taught in the 6th grade at Hines Middle School, which covers HIV, etc.

Kathy Wassom talked about the "Baby, Think It Over" program, also known as "The Robot Babies," which was introduced 15 years ago at Burns High School. There are 20 program options in the computerized doll to simulate a baby between one to five months in age. The program used to be offered as an elective at Burns High School, but has been discontinued because of lack of funds, plus the dolls cannot be repaired and would need to be re-purchased. The STARS Program was mentioned. Getting appropriate teen involvement was difficult and needs to be selective in the choice of participants. The STARS program is underfunded and the local schools are not in favor of trying it again.

As final comments, Cheryl finds parents of teens with whom she works to be pretty open. Kathy sees a loss of economic, influential status to be reflected in an increase in adolescent problems. The socio-economic population in Harney County seems to be changing, and there are more problems with those at lower economic levels. Overall, the student population in Harney County is changing to one that is less supervised than in the past.

Food Bank/Hunger Issues Update: Peggy Yarbor, who works for *Community in Action*, is part of a committee which is charged with improving access to food by those who are in need. Small non-profits groups within our county will soon be able to apply for the ability to create their own account, place orders from the South East Oregon Regional Food Bank, and do their own food distribution. Central deliveries for all Harney County accounts will be made at the Senior and

Community Center Food Pantry. Groups expressing interest in opening accounts are HHOPE, Kids Club, churches, and possibly the Runaway/Homeless Youth liaison. Peggy has gotten some food into the rural community through Dr. Fitzpatrick's mobile clinics and it is hoped that local pantries can be set up in rural communities to stock food.

Community Garden – Jean stated she is a skeptic of its success due to our short growing season, but is hoping that the community garden can be successful. Peggy replied that there is a grant to be accessed which will obtain greenhouse kits.

Dan stated that it's important to honor the intent of the private donors, as well as the food bank mission itself, questioning the use of food bank proceeds to some of the community events, such as to Red Ribbon Week. Peggy said that keeping the focus on people who really need the food, and keeping sources separate to honor the intent of the donor, are being done.

Patty stated that she has learned that Summer Meal locations for this year will remain the same. She will check mid-summer to see if numbers are up. The meal sites include Slater Elementary School, the Burns Swimming Pool, the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Kids Club, Washington Park, and Hines Park. Our summer meal program with the School District is a good partnership.

Director's Report: (In Italics)

Work Across the Five Functions:

System Development (Bringing Services Together)

- *Drug Free Community Work continues– It's 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. continue.*

Service Delivery Improvements (Ensuring Quality and Accountability)

- *Food Security and Hunger Issues – Work bringing various community partners together to maximize benefits from the South East Oregon Regional Food Bank – ongoing.*

Community Mobilization (Organizing Change)

- *The topic of rising teen pregnancies in Harney County is under discussion, as evidenced by today's HCCCF agenda. If and when it's determined that there is a trend we can address from a prevention standpoint, the Community Action Team (CAT) will be a forum for this work.*
- *April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We've had a nice newspaper article and photo highlighting "Pinwheels for Prevention," what to do about suspected child abuse and neglect, and some of the local events related to this topic.*

Policy Development (Shaping Policy and Law)

- *John Copenhaver is making arrangements to visit and receive clarification from ODE regarding current statute language about school attendance policy. Once that has been clarified, he will be visiting with School District 3 personnel to begin the local conversation toward a better understanding and possible updating of local school attendance policies.*
- *CCF Directors and State Staff have worked to review state statutes on roles and missions for OCCF as they answer the Legislature's Budget Note.*

Community Planning and Implementation (Leading Strategically)

- *The 2010 Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families was completed, database entries were made, the plan was approved by the Harney County Court, and it was submitted to OCCF.*
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Provider Updates. *The third quarter ended March 31st. Provider quarterly reports are due April 15th.*

- *Our Healthy Start Program received a site visit from OCCF on April 8th. Patty, Donna Schitker, Michelle Yunker, and Advisory Board members Shana Withee and Carolyn Bauer participated.*
- *The Kids Club fundraiser, Diamonds in a Glass, takes place on April 17th.*

Staff Update:

- *March 23rd Patty participated in a CCF Directors Regional Meeting in Redmond. A task force to create a Common Outcomes framework was briefed. After culling the voluminous state database, it appears that there are six common outcome areas that apply to the work of most local commissions. Patty has opted to participate in this pilot project, as well a pilot effort to capture parenting program outcomes. This work should make CCF work more understandable to legislators, and enable us to capture the significance of the work.*
- *April 6-7, Patty participated in the second OCCF Action Summit in Canby, OR. It moved forward with various initiatives to strengthen state and local commission work.*
- *Drug Free Communities (DFC): Thad Labhart (DFC Program Director) has taken a new position in Grant County, so the DFC Program Director role is unfilled at present. Approval from the federal agency grantor will need to be obtained before someone officially takes that role.*

Commission System Matters:

The OCCF has completed its draft of its 2nd response to the state budget note request. The major response topics were briefed at the Action Summit on April 6th. It will now go to the OCCF Executive Committee for approval, and will be submitted in May. Patty will highlight the response topics as the next agenda item.

Grants and Community Work

- *CTFO Grant: Maryanne is coordinating the 2010 Parent Education offering of Parenting with Love and Logic, taught by Rachel Robinson. The class is being held on four Fridays in April from 10:00-11:30am. As part of the Common Outcomes work, we will be using the Parent Skills Ladder evaluation tool, which will align our parent education outcomes with the rest of the pilot program participants.*

OCCF Action Summit Highlights: *Patty briefed the Commissioners on the OCCF Budget Note Response, which was discussed at the April Action Summit as follows: The State Commission and OCCF System programs and functions cannot be spun off into other agencies without losing the mid- and long-range cost savings of prevention work. It would also lose the large volunteer piece that the OCCF system leverages. OCCF should not be replaced with a block grant system, as that would be less effective, have little accountability, have no advocacy, and would likely lead to cuts, then discontinuation. The State Commission should not focus*

solely on the highest risk population. We use a comprehensive approach; however, prioritization will occur as resources diminish. Programmatic recommendations include: CASA could be housed elsewhere (possibly Oregon Dept of Justice or a community-based non-profit); Healthy Start Program will work toward independence during the 2013-2014 biennium and could possibly go to Public Health, although there are some capacity and willingness issues; Relief Nurseries still have some program growing to do so it's not recommended that they be spun off at this time; Runaway and Homeless Youth may be a good fit to go to Housing and Community Services; the Community Schools Initiative is a good concept but there's not enough on the ground yet and the Dept of Education has not embraced it, so it will be kept only as a policy initiative at this time; and OCCF is recommending that consideration be given to disbanding the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisor Committee and having other existing juvenile justice venues incorporate that work.

Discussion/Approval of HCCCF Bylaws: OCCF requires bylaws for local commissions. The discussion on approval of the draft bylaws for HCCCF will need to continue at the next meeting, as there was a lack of quorum at this meeting. Discussion topics included the issue of having a Vice Chair. Designating someone to run the meeting in Dan's absence and acting as Vice Chair has been informal in the past, but is now formalized in the draft bylaws. Rotating the position vs. just having one person appointed was discussed. General consensus was that election of a Vice Chair was a good idea. Dan added that we need to amend the bylaws to add language about the procedure to amend the bylaws. He also explained how the Commission Chair position was established by the County Court to be one of the County Commissioners, and that Dan accepted this role. He added that the idea of an elected Vice Chair position is good.

Dan pointed out, on page 3 (Article IV, Section 1), where it needs to read that the Commission Chair is appointed by the County Court. On page 5, Section 4 (Process for hiring a new Commission Director), Jean suggested "formalized by the Harney County Court, with full participation of commission membership and in accordance with county policy."

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Patty suggested that it is possible we will not need to hold a Commission Meeting in either June or July 2010.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, Dan adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant