

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009

Attending: Ann Vloedman, Acting Chair; Jean Hurst; Joyce Moser; Ramona Hofman; Sonni Svejcar; Patty Dorroh, Director
Absent: Dan Nichols, Chair; Michelle Bradach; Debbie Ausmus; Maryanne Lovell, Prevention Assistant
Guests: Kathy Rementeria; Cody Hodges; Donna Schnitker; Lisa Tiller; Diana Roberts

Call to Order. Ann Vloedman called the Meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and welcomed the several guests who introduced themselves to the Commission members.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of the February 2009 meeting was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Introduction of Cody Hodges: Cody introduced himself as a Harney County resident who graduated from Burns High School, lived and worked outside Harney County for a number of years, and has moved back with his family. His parents live in Fields, they have had roots in Harney County for decades, and Cody would like to contribute to the community by joining the commission. A letter of introduction with his background was supplied to the commission board members via email prior to the meeting.

Director's Report. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Maryanne has worked with Joyce at HHOPE to get out information and materials. Patty passed around the Harney Partners brochure. The following update was provided:

- Provider Updates: The 7th Quarter of the biennium ended March 31st. Reports are due April 15th and will be entered into the state database next week. Lisa Tiller has been providing Storytime services for the CCR&R Early Childhood Care and Education Enhancement. Michelle Yunker from Healthy Start attended *Parents As Teachers* training and is incorporating that curriculum into home visits and playgroup sessions with parents.

- Staff Update:

- Patty attended two days of meetings, work sessions, and training in Salem on March 12th and 13th.
- Maryanne and Brett, as well as several Harney County people from our schools and HBH, attended a free training in John Day on March 31st about marijuana awareness. It was excellent. Whether marijuana use is going up and the status of meth use in the community was suggested as a topic for a future commission meeting.
- Patty wrote a grant application for another two years of funding for parent education and support from the Children's Trust Fund of Oregon. Grant awards will be announced in June.
- Maryanne attended a grant writing workshop through Lane Microbusiness on April 10th. She has been busy with parent education work, DFC support, and general commission work.
- Patty has spent many hours responding to queries from the state commission staff on quick turnaround information they needed to respond to legislators.

- Economic Impact on Community Matters and our Budget:

- The Boys & Girls Club has remained closed since January due to financial problems. They held their Diamonds in a Glass fundraiser on April 11th.
- The 5% budget cuts for the current biennium that were discussed in December became reality. Harney County CCF had to refund the state \$ 9,428. This reflects an approximate 3% cut from the state commission budget and 2% cut from our local budget.
- The latest request from the state commission was to show how a 25% and 30% budget cut would look like for Harney County. The Grant-Harney CASA Director said with that level of cuts she recommends the program close. Healthy Start cuts that deep would make it hard to continue the program. If possible, Harney County would try to provide Healthy Start-like services without the expensive administrative requirements of the program, and without the limitation of only serving first-birth families.
- The HCCCF county budget input from our commission reflects a 10 percent cut; we are almost sure we will have higher cuts, possibly up to a 30 percent cut. Using the higher possible revenue amount when there is this much uncertainty allows the County Court to avoid having to do a budget resolution, which is needed when a department will exceed the budgeted expenditures. HCCCF will only spend within the budget revenue received. No pay increases or COLA increases will be proposed in this year's budget.
- Local flexible funds were budgeted this year for \$26,000, with \$12,238 spent or obligated to date. The decision was made in November not to hold a donation period due to budget cuts in this biennium, so \$13,763 is available and budgeted through June 2009 that can be donated or used as the commission sees fit.

- Grants and Community Work

- CTFO Grant: The *Parenting Wisely* (computer-based) curriculum for both parents of young children and parents of teenagers are located at the Juvenile Department, the Early Childhood Center, and the Harney County library. Our local DHS office is looking into whether or not they can set up a place for its use at their facility. A four-week *Parenting with Love and Logic* class has begun at Crane, which runs April 7-28. The grant application for another CTFO grant was mailed March 30th.
- Drug Free Community Work: Three separate *Choices and Consequences* multi-media presentations were held at the Burns-Hines schools on April 8th: high school, middle school, and grade school. Crane bused its students in for it. Safe Communities and Safe Kids Coalition sponsored these – they were outstanding and incorporated information and messaging about the topics of alcohol, tobacco, drug, unsafe driving, and bullying. Local law enforcement will be starting compliance checks and minor decoy operations by the end of June. The Teen Coalition will be approaching retail alcohol and tobacco outlets to pass out NoneB421 materials and tobacco messages created by local high school students will be used for the theatrical trailer messages in the local theater. Prevention radio spots, recorded with our local youth; newspaper articles and weekly prevention ads are ongoing. Crane has already begun to implement an evidence-based curriculum in the elementary school.
- Child Neglect Summit: May 15th at the Seneca School. The timing for this is very good, as a lot of community needs are changing in this very difficult time for Harney County.

- Next Few Months Outlook: Budget decisions on our state funding will probably not be decided until late in June. The status of the Boys & Girls Club for the future is of great concern. May 15th is the Child Neglect Summit; no May 2008 HCCCF meeting is scheduled at this time.

Boys & Girls Club Update: Patty read a letter from Randy Fulton, Boys & Girls Club Director. The letter stated that the *Diamonds in a Glass* fundraiser netted \$16,000 and that the club plans to open on June 15th. Discussion followed, with commissioners expressing support for the club by suggesting donating the remainder of the local flexible funds budgeted for this year (approximately \$13,000) to the Boys & Girls Club. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to donate the balance of the local flexible funds to the Boys & Girls Club of Harney County pending input and approval from Chair Dan Nichols. Patty said she would follow up with Dan.

Roundtable Discussion of Community Concerns: Ramona commented on the high unemployment and that she is seeing more Hines residents who come in and can only pay \$20 toward their water bill. Jean mentioned that a general feeling of fear (economic) is prevalent in the community. Ann mentioned a very negative article about Harney County published in the April 12th edition of the Bend Bulletin newspaper. It focused on the closure of employers and the recycling center. Nothing was mentioned about the wonderful Bird Festival that just took place, our new hospital, or our children and youth, who are very accomplished and productive. Lisa mentioned that there is some stability in the child care profession locally at this time, but that there is still a reluctance for them to participate in trainings. Joyce stated that she sees a lot of mortgage activity, lots of construction loans, and some refinancing going on. Ann spoke about her involvement with the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Leadership Council, and that there will be funding available for an eight-county region here in Eastern Oregon. Commissioners mentioned needs such as after school activities and enrichment programs, job skills training, dental care programs, and substance abuse prevention work. Cody mentioned that at the end of the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) process, there will be \$25,000 available to put to good use for the community regarding health-related needs.

Budget Planning Topics: Patty stated that the budget will not be known for another 6-8 weeks, but that a decision on whether and how to expend the remaining, budgeted local flexible funds should be made by mid-June. A full Request for Proposals is being planned for this summer.

Recommendation for New Appointment to HCCCCF: The commissioners discussed Cody Hodges' qualifications to become an HCCCCF board member. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to recommend to the Harney County Court that Cody be appointed to HCCCCF.

Adjournment: With no further business to address, Ann adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dorroh, Executive Director