

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 13, 2008**

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

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Kathy Rementería, Rex Miller.

**Call to Order/Introductions.** Chair Dan Nichols called the Meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Dan welcomed Kathy Rementería who introduced her guest, Rex Miller, Interim Child Welfare Supervisor for the Burns DHS Office.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes.** With no corrections to the March 2008 Minutes, a motion to approve today's Agenda and the Minutes was made by Ann Vloedman, seconded by Jean Hurst and unanimously approved.

**Director's Report.** Patty provided the following comments during her Directors' Report.

**Provider Update:**

- Providers are in the fourth quarter of the contract year, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Harney County's Family Support Worker for the Healthy Start program is on a leave of absence for health reasons. Donna Schnitker will be interviewing to fill that position soon. She has asked Patty to be part of that process.

**Staff Update:**

- Patty and Maryanne attended a training in Bend on April 24<sup>th</sup> on the new state database for comprehensive planning and outcome measurement.
- Maryanne attended the Parenting Now Conference in Corvallis April 28-29, which was funded through the Childrens Trust Fund of Oregon (CTFO) grant for the Harney Partners Parent Education Series.
- May 8-9, Patty attended the Coalition of Local Commissions, State Commission, and CCF Directors training on Developing Community Intermediate Outcomes for the comprehensive planning and reporting process.
- Since the new OCCF database has just now been rolled out, all commissions will be playing catch up on data entry and reporting. The first, second and third quarters will need to be inputted by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Grants and Community Work:**

- Drug Free Community Work: The DFC committee of Harney Partners continues to meet and work on the plan articulated in the grant application. Thad Labhart and Marcie Colahan will be attending a workshop on how to select an Evidence-Based Prevention curriculum, Patty and Maryanne are beginning to research the options for a community public awareness campaign, Michelle Bradach and others will be working on strengthening the coalition, and Lori Cheek will head up progress on law enforcement/retailer compliance efforts.
- Patty drafted a small grant application for up to \$750 in publications and literature from Channing Bete that can be used for our Drug Free Community work. We'll find out in June if we will receive it.

- Parent Education: Parenting with Love and Logic classes, part of the Harney Partners Parent Education Series, was held for the second group on April 16, 23, 30, and May 7 at Pioneer Presbyterian Church. It was well attended, with approximately 15 adults completing the course. Maryanne met with the grantor (CTFO) at the conference and we may receive a visit this month. Also there may be possibilities for the funding to continue beyond the two year period. The next program to implement will be Parenting Wisely, an internet or computer-based program people can use in the privacy of their homes or at the library or Early Childhood Center.
- Reconnecting Families: Wendy Hill and Chris Phillips, the Region DHS supervisors for Grant, Harney, and Malheur Counties, will meet on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Burns with the local CCF directors to brainstorm on how this model may be applied in our region.
- Reinforcing Positive Youth: 3rd Trimester event to reward youth who are on track across the areas of school attendance, passing grades, and no discipline referrals will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Crane Hot Springs. The Capstone Event is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **State Level Topics:**

- OCCF and state level partners are beginning to use a “Dashboard” tool to work and track progress across children and family issues. By comparing the county comprehensive plans with the state-level data and trends across Oregon benchmark data, the state commission highlights major wellness categories across age categories to identify major areas for focus in the future.
- Coalition of Local Commissions met May 8<sup>th</sup> to reach consensus on a budget recommendation to advance to the Commission Budget Work Group. Flexible funds are the priority so local communities can determine best how to invest the funding in their communities.
- The Changing Demographics of the United States and Oregon: Hispanic/Latino population growth is accelerating at an incredibly fast pace in relation to the white and other minority group populations. The Hispanic/Latino high school graduation rate is only 50%, Hispanic families are generally low income and have a high rate of using public services. This portends for a huge decline in the tax base, which will affect all funding nationwide, but particularly in the west (California, Oregon) and Texas areas. Also future job needs are for those with reading, writing, math and research skills.
- The Commission is the agency put on the spot by the legislature for proving outcomes. As the Oregon legislature tries to move toward outcomes-based budgeting, it finds itself grappling with how to do that. The commission is big enough to be noticed, but small enough to be picked on. It’s a backhanded compliment that the CCF system is the focus of challenging scrutiny each biennium.

**Partnership Agreement - Self Assessment of Local Commission Functions.** The proposed Partnership Agreement - to be signed by the County Judge and the Executive Director of the Oregon Commission on Children and Families - was reviewed by the commissioners. The review indicates that HCCCF is staffed in accordance with state regulations, and that the commission board members and staff are performing well all the required functions of a local commission. Ann moved, Sonni seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved that the partnership agreement be presented to the Harney County Court with a recommendation that Judge Grasty sign the document.

**Discussion, Deliberations, and Decisions on Provider Funding for 2008-2009.** Patty provided a brief overview of the funding streams and the amounts available for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The CASA and Healthy Start funding streams were not in competition, as there is only one qualified provider for each program in Harney County. As the commissioners had been in receipt of all the proposals, and had reviewed them prior to the meeting, the commission then held discussion and deliberations on the flexible state funding streams. Of note: The Boys and Girls Club of Harney County did not submit a proposal this time. Also, the proposal for the Big Buddy Mentoring Program, which requested funding in the amount of \$6,500, was later amended via phone call to request \$7,000 in order to meet the anticipated rise in fuel prices. The following funding decisions were made:

- **OYCC Community Stewardship Corps (CSC)**  
Training and Employment Consortium (TEC) submitted a proposal requesting \$12,500. TEC was approved to receive \$12,500 from the Youth Investment funding stream for the OYCC CSC program.
- **Great Start of Harney County**  
Harney ESD submitted a proposal requesting \$15,000 for the Great Start program. Harney ESD was approved to receive \$12,500 from the Great Start fund and \$2,500 from the Family Preservation and Support fund for the Great Start program.
- **Big Buddy Mentoring**  
School District 3 submitted a proposal and requested \$7,000 for the Big Buddy Mentoring Program. School District 3 was approved to receive \$7,000 from the Children, Youth & Families funding stream for the Big Buddy Mentoring Program.
- **Ready! For Kindergarten**  
Crane Elementary School submitted a proposal requesting \$4,610 for the Ready! For Kindergarten program. Crane Elementary was approved to receive \$4,610 from the Children, Youth and Families funding stream.
- **CCR&R Early Childhood Care and Education Enhancement**  
CCR&R submitted a proposal requesting \$10,000 for the Early Childhood Care and Education Enhancement program. Concerns were discussed regarding the ability of CCR&R to actually engage the numbers of participants cited in the proposal. After Patty was unsuccessful in reaching the proposer, Jean Johnson, by phone (for clarification), it was decided to delay a decision on this proposal until the July meeting. Patty will contact Jean Johnson for more information and will also meet with her in June.

Dan concluded by saying how nice it is to work with this group on decisions like those just made. Patty noted that there will be no Meeting in June. The next scheduled meeting date will be Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. With no further business to address, Dan adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell  
Prevention Assistant