

Harney County Commission on Children and Families

Minutes of June 8, 2010, Meeting

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Ann Vloedman; Debbie Ausmus; Sonni Svejcar; Joyce Moser; Michelle Bradach; Ramona Hoffman; Patty Dorroh, Director; Tammy Johnston, Assistant

Absent: Jean Hurst

Guests: Donna Schnitker

Call to Order/Introductions: Dan called the Meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Patty introduced her new assistant, Tammy Johnston, to the Commission.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: A motion to approve both the Agenda and the Minutes of March 9, 2010, and April 13, 2010, was made by Debbie, seconded by Joyce, and unanimously approved. Ann asked if there was a possibility of scheduling another site visit of the funded sites. Patty thought this was a good idea after summer and the addition of new Commissioners. There was no public comment.

Introduction of Candidates for Appointment to HCCCF: Sonni Svejcar announced her resignation from the Commission. Patty announced the resignation of Cody Hodges, submitted on May 10, 2010. Patty presented two candidates for the Commission, Virginia Tabor and John Copenhaver, reading their letters of interest. Unfortunately, both were unavailable to attend the meeting. The Commission discussed the candidates and found them both acceptable.

Family Preservation and Support Funding Change: Patty made a clarification of this Federal funding, stating that now it can only be used for support services and not family preservation services. The Early Childhood Center uses this funding in Harney County in a manner that meets the definition and criteria for support and family focus, not preservation. No changes will be required at this time.

Director's Report: (In Italics)

Provider Updates. *Providers turned in their Quarterly Reports for the third quarter on time. They were paid and their work is on track.*

Staff Update:

- Departure: Maryanne's last month on the job with our commission was May. She was a great help to many people and groups in Harney County.
- New Hire: Tammy Johnston has been hired as the HCCCF Assistant.
- Common Outcomes Pilot Work: Patty has been interviewed by the OCCF Committee leading this effort, and will be collecting local information and data for the issues of Hunger and Positive Youth Development.
- Parenting Support Pilot Work: Maryanne was able to use the Parent Skills Ladder survey tool with the participants in the April Parenting with Love and Logic class, which enables alignment of our outcomes with the rest of the pilot program participants. Donna Schnitker will also be using it for her families, which will strengthen our data pool.

Commission System Matters:

Another session of the OCCF Action Summit system review is planned for July 19th and 10th in Boardman. Commissioners are invited.

Grants and Community Work

- CTFO Grant: Maryanne coordinated the 2010 Parent Education offering of Parenting with Love and Logic, taught by Rachel Robinson during the month of April.
- Drug Free Communities (DFC): Patty was nominated to be the interim DFC Program Director, a role vacated by Thad Labhart when he took a new job in Grant County. Harney County is required to have a Program Director on board in order to retain the grant. While there are some others who are qualified, none were able or willing to take this on. It is anticipated that once Harney Behavioral Health hires a new County Prevention Coordinator, he/she will be able to add this role to their work. Angie Witzel was selected to become the new Senior and Community Center Director and began that work on June 1st. The new hire process will proceed. Once hired, there will be in-house training and bringing the new DFC Coordinator up to speed. Harney Partners Youth (YAC) will be going to CADCA Mid-Year training in July.

Decision to Renew Provider Contracts: Dan talked about the current provider contracts with CASA, Early Childhood Center, Training Employment Consortium, and Kids Club of Harney County. He was in support of renewing the current provider contracts. During discussion, Ann reported that the Kids Club recently received a 1-year grant of \$35,000, with a funded year 2 (\$25,000) and year 3 (\$15,000) with compliance of Kids Club. Also, CASA will be having a fundraiser in June, a family-friendly comedy night. Additionally, the Early Childhood Center received a grant, renewable for 3 years, for "all births" parenting

support (similar to Healthy Start work). A motion to renew the provider contracts was made by Debbie, seconded by Sonni, and unanimously approved.

Discussion on Local Flex Funds Donations Program: The decision on whether to re-activate this locally-generated program was put on hold at this time. Discussion centered on the fact that we have funds available, but are not sure how much overall funding we will have with State budget cuts. The Local Flex Funds donation program has \$12,000 in the budget for expenditure next year. Patty asked for any ideas of possible requests for funds. Someone suggested the Harney County Arts and Education Foundation. There was general agreement to wait a few months for further discussion.

Discussion/Approval of HCCCF Bylaws and Vice Chair Position: The revised Bylaws of the HCCCF were presented to the Commission and the changes were highlighted: Article IV-Officers/Section 1, Article V-Executive Committee/Section 3, Article VII-Staff/Section 4, and Article IX-Amendments to Bylaws. A motion to approve the Bylaws was made by Debbie, seconded by Ramona, and unanimously approved. Debbie was nominated by Ann for the position of Vice Chair with Ann as the unofficial “vice” vice chair, unanimously approved by the Commission.

Recommendation on Appointments to HCCCF: A motion to appoint Virginia Tabor and John Copenhaver as the newest members of the Commission was made by Joyce, seconded by Michelle, and unanimously approved.

Late Items: A suggestion was made to e-mail a survey to past parenting class attendees. Patty said they had a nice going away party for Maryanne. Patty presented an engraved silver bowl to Sonni for her seven years of service to the HCCCF. There will not be a meeting in July 2010.

Adjourn: Without further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Johnston, HCCCF Assistant