

# Harney County Commission on Children and Families

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### 05/08/07

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Jean Hurst; Ann Vloedman; Lou Davies;  
Joyce Moser; Sonni Svejcar; Debbie Ausmus; Kristi Curtis, Assistant;  
Patty Dorroh, Director  
Absent: Michelle Bradach; Ramona Hofman  
Guests: Kathy Rementeria; Maryanne Lovell; Steve Bull

#### **Call to Order/Introductions**

Dan called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m. Introductions were made.

#### **Public Comment**

Maryanne Lovell passed out flyers for the upcoming Bike Rodeo on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the next car seat clinic on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Safety Fair took place last week at Slater Elementary and was a huge success. Maryanne was also able to support the Rural Schools Play Day at Crane by offering bike helmets, doing helmet fitting, and playing the “Wheel of Safety” knowledge game with students. The Safe Communities Coalition will also conduct a vehicle inspection at Burns High School this month.

#### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The agenda for today’s meeting and the April 10th minutes were approved as written.

#### **Parenting Classes at HBH**

Steve Bull came to discuss parenting classes available at Harney Behavioral Health. He conducts two different age groups of classes; one for parents with children ages 0-6, and the other for parents with children ages 7-18. Classes begin in January, June, and September, and consist of ten two-hour sessions. The cost of the classes is based on income, but on average costs each participant \$30 per hour.

Steve has co-authored a manual for parents of teenagers called “Preparing Teens for Life.” This manual is being processed at the Library of Congress and will hopefully be published by Fall 2007. Steve would like to see every parent in Harney County receive this manual. The manual covers topics such as house rules, parenting styles, problem solving strategies, anger, etc.

For parents with children ages 0-6, the classes focus on attachment issues, brain development, and age appropriate discipline. Steve stated that an infant between 8-12 months establishes how they will respond in relationships by the way their parents care for them. He teaches parents to use warmth and a soft voice to calm an infant’s emotions.

## **Director's Report**

### **Provider Update:**

- Quarterly Reports have been completed, signed and will be mailed later today. They are due to the state office by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Harney County Healthy Start program will undergo a site visit/inspection on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Patty will be participating in it.
- Jean Johnson, long time CASA volunteer and CRB Chair, has retired from these duties. She is to be commended for her many years of tireless service to children.
- The commission banner will be displayed at the Opie Rodeo on Saturday.

### **Staff Update:**

- Patty attended a Data Analysis 101 training in Pendleton on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Kristi and Patty have been conducting interviews and conversations for the Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families. Next month the results will be compiled and compared to the Oregon Benchmark statistics and other data.
- Patty provided an update to the County Court on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will be appearing before the County Budget Board tomorrow at 1:30pm.
- Patty is scheduled to attend two regional meetings in Baker City – one on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and another in late June.
- Kristi's last day will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. On behalf of the Harney County Commission on Children and Families, Patty thanked her for her time on staff and presented Kristi with a card and gifts.

### **Legislative Update**

No update at this time. OCCF will be making its budget presentation to the State Legislature on May 14, 15, 16. With budget uncertainty at this time, Patty recommended that HCCCF consider suspending our donation application award period that usually ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and hold applications until a December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. This issue is on the agenda today.

### **Community Partners**

- Harney Partners: Volunteer Award Banquet on April 26<sup>th</sup> was well attended. They will be holding a retreat on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Diamonds in a Glass fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club was a huge success. Many people worked hard to make that happen.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Crane Hot Springs. The Capstone Event will be a masquerade party at the Big Bear Lodge on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- DHS: Chris Phillips is on a temporary job rotation as the Child Welfare Program Manager for six months to one year. She is taking Todd Siex's regional position; Angie Temple is moving into Chris' position in Burns.

## **Grants**

- The Drug Free Community Grant subcommittee of CAT includes Patty, Kathy Rementeria, Thad Labhart, Lori Cheek and Gwen Haigh. Patty has been receiving unofficial “telephone” mentoring from Wasco and Hood River Counties. Efforts for the grant, which is not officially due until 2008, require a huge amount of collaboration, coalition building, and strategy setting. Working on these things, and especially developing strategies for reducing underage ATOD use in Harney County, will help even if we are not awarded the grant.
- Patty will be attending two local grant workshops – one here in Burns on May 16th at the Health Department, and one in John Day on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The announcement on awarding of grants from the Childrens Trust Fund Oregon is scheduled sometime in June.

## **Parenting Education and Training**

Sonni shared information with us on Love and Logic. Steve Bull provided us information on the type of education and counseling he offers. Patty spoke with Linda Harrington from Families First in Grant County about their approach, which includes offering a variety of parenting classes throughout the year, and summarized Linda’s comments for the commission.

## **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

Patty suggested that the commission not schedule a meeting in June, as there are no action items at that time. Additionally, she will be very busy compiling comprehensive plan information. She recommended that the meetings in July and August be meetings to receive commissioner and public input for the plan.

## **Best Practices Topic: Positive Youth Development**

Kristi reported on Best Practices for Positive Youth Development (PYD). The PYD approach understands that all young people need support, guidance, and opportunities and recommends creating supportive communities for young people and engaging youth to contribute to the well-being of the community.

Common goals of PYD programming are promoting positive relationships with peers, emphasizing youths’ strengths, providing opportunities to learn healthy behaviors, connecting youth with caring adults, empowering youth to assume leadership roles in programs, and challenging youth in ways that build their competence.

Some ways PYD can be put into practice are recruiting youth to volunteer in organizations, showing youth how to start their own newspapers or websites, asking high school students to co-teach classes with teachers, teaching students to conduct community surveys, inviting youth to serve on the board of a non-profit organization, and creating a youth board that advises state or local government on issues that are important to youth.

**Legislative and Budget Update; Donation Program Discussion**

Patty suggested that we not advertise for donation applications this June because the budget is uncertain at this time. It was moved and seconded that we hold off on the donation application process until the budget is established.

**Executive Session: Professional Services Compensation**

Staff members were excused for commissioners to discuss Director's salary.

**Comprehensive Plan: Update**

Patty and Kristi are conducting interviews with members of the community for input on the Comprehensive Plan. Patty intends to have a brief with the integrated results of local interviews and state data prepared for the July HCCCF meeting.

**Late Items**

The new Early Childhood Center (ECC) recently found out their parking lot will not be paved by the county. Donna Schnitker is trying to raise funds to cover the \$26,000 cost, needed by July 1<sup>st</sup>, to ensure they are approved for occupancy. Donna has collected \$10,000 so far. Patty suggested that the commission consider contributing up to \$2,000 from the director's expense line for paving the parking lot. This amount can be justified in from funds in lieu of the office space rent donated in-kind by Harney ESD. The motion was approved and seconded by the commissioners to donate \$2,000 to the ECC for the paving of their parking lot.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45p.m. There will not be a meeting scheduled in June. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., at the State Office Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Curtis