

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2007

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Jean Hurst; Ann Vloedman; Joyce Moser; Sonni Svejcar; Ramona Hofman; Patty Dorroh, Director; Maryanne Lovell, Assistant.
Absent: Lou Davies; Michelle Bradach; Debbie Ausmus
Guests: Kathy Rementeria; Terri Hellbusch; Donna Schnitker

Call to Order. Dan Nichols called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The July 10th Minutes were approved as written.

Director's Report. Staff Update:

- The commission welcomed Maryanne Lovell, who joined the staff on July 1st as the Prevention Assistant. Maryanne is working on a part-time basis with her focus on directed assignments. She will continue to serve as the Coordinator for the Safe Communities and Safe Kids Coalitions.
- On June 19th, Patty attended a workshop on Coalition Building and Mobilization in Salem. It was excellent, and will be of use as our community forms and strengthens a coalition to reduce substance abuse among minors, which is a focus of the work leading up to next year's application for a Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant for Harney County.
- Maryanne, Patty, and Phyllis Miller from the Burns Paiute Tribe attended the Violence Prevention Institute in Corvallis on July 10th and 11th as a team. It was also an excellent forum across many prevention areas.
- Patty has been busy with work on the Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families and as a member of the DFC committee of Harney Partners.
- Patty attended a regional directors meeting in Baker yesterday and a CAT meeting today. On Aug 22nd Peg Vanderzanden, Regional CCF Coordinator, will visit with Patty on the progress of our comprehensive plan.
- Dave Anderson of Grant Central LLC, out of Tigard, has been hired as a grant writer and resource developer for six months to help with a strategic approach to resource development. Dave will attend next month's HCCCF meeting as well as provide a workshop on Sept 12th for Grants Management for Boards and Commissions and Economic Development and Community Development. It will be presented in two half-day sessions, free of charge to the community and open to all.
- HCCCF will sponsor commissioner, staff, and other community partners for two trainings coming up: Sept 16-20 (National Prevention Network Conference in Portland) and Oct 3-5 (Northeast Prevention Conference in Enterprise). Harney Partners and CAT will also be sponsoring people.

Provider Update:

- Quarterly Reports for the final period of the 2006-2007 biennium were completed, signed, and mailed last week.
- The Harney County Healthy Start program received a site visit from the state office on May 14th. It went well. Budget allocations for Healthy Start for the biennium are still pending.
- The Harney County CASA caseload is very heavy and many children are without an assigned CASA at this time. Terri Hellbusch, of Grant-Harney CASA, was present to ask the commission to encourage people to volunteer to become CASAs. CASA funding allocation is still pending from the state.
- Provider contracts will be drawn up as soon as the state office finalizes the funding amounts.
- The commission banner was prominently displayed at the Opie Rodeo on May 12th.

Legislative Update

The legislative session ended and we expect to receive levels of funding for programs very close to the 2005-2007 biennium budget. We received an increase in Basic Capacity funding, which pays for staff, professional services, operating costs, and community mobilization work. The intergovernmental agreements for funding are in process.

Community Partners

- Harney Partners: Harney Partners held its annual retreat on June 13th. Out of that session came a decision to expand its work to take on the role of a coalition to reduce underage substance abuse. Harney Partners will continue to hold a spring Volunteer Award Banquet and put on the Red Ribbon activities in the Fall, but with the funds they receive for A&D70 (alcohol and drug prevention), they now intend to work for more definitive outcomes. By taking on this direction and role, Harney Partners has decided to be the local coalition that will form the basis for DFC work. Harney Partners members have begun to recruit additional members to represent a broader spectrum of community sectors. The next meeting is Wednesday, Aug 15th at noon at Glory Days. Patty and Maryanne serve on the DFC committee. There will be opportunities for people to serve on the Red Ribbon Activities committee, Volunteer Banquet committee, and other potential committees, such as a Parent Education and Support Committee.
- Early Childhood Center: We received a thank you note from Donna Schnitker for the donation we provided so they could pave the parking lot. It was accomplished. Our grant writer's services were offered to assist Donna with getting grant funds to help build their new playground.

Grants

- Parent Education Series: The Childrens Trust Fund of Oregon awarded HCCCF \$11,000 each year for two years to establish a parent education series curriculum, with local trainers. Patty wrote the grant and will be offering Harney Partners the opportunity to take this on; the Early Childhood Center may take on this role if Harney Partners declines. The proposal included training local trainers and purchasing curricula for the following model parent education programs: Parents as Teachers, Making Parenting a Pleasure, Parenting with Love and Logic, The Incredible Years, and Parenting Wisely.
- Dave Anderson, Grants Consultant, will provide the Sept 12th workshop here in Harney County.
- New initiatives: Dave Anderson will also advise us on where and how to apply for grants to assist our Healthy Start efforts and possibly to fund some teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Following Patty's report, Donna Schnitker stated that Oregon has been credentialed by Healthy Families of America and thereby Harney County Healthy Start is too.

Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families

Draft Results Chart. Patty presented a one-page draft "snapshot" chart of the Harney County Comprehensive Plan on Children and Families as of August 12th. Some of the future work recommendations include working with the state to ensure our Boys & Girls Club continues to qualify for Child Care Development Funds, expanding the type of home visitation program that Healthy Start offers beyond first birth families, and pursuing the DFC grant to reduce underage substance abuse.

The State will not give us money for the Healthy Start Program beyond first births. This is an effective but time-consuming program and Donna explained that parents with second, third, etc. children are more ready for services than first-time parents—but are turned away. Jean suggested parenting support classes would help these parents.

Referring to the "Decrease teen juvenile arrests" Kathy stated that decreasing teen arrest(s) will not decrease the behavior(s). Under "Healthy Thriving Youth," the outcome should be "Decrease underage alcohol, etc." rather than "teen." This is a hard focus area, so we want to work on funding appropriate strategies.

"Decrease teen pregnancy" is a "maybe" as we don't have figures yet to support it. The Health Department is now referring girls to Donna. Kathy stated that the STARS Program is a program on abstinence to fifth graders. The eighth grade has an abstinence program with other safe alternatives.

Under "Reduce high school dropout rate," our statistics improved once the Alternative School opened. We also support the OYCC. This has shown that kids go on to

graduate and do productive things with their lives. Jean asked if junior college scholarships are available for those going to the Alternative High School. Unfortunately, with no scholastic counseling is available to those students, many have no aspirations for the future. Kathy mentioned Dollars for Scholars and Lions Club which has scholarships to technical schools. It was noted that some kids miss regular high school and do return to it.

Dan asked how publicity for public feedback is planned and Patty replied that a newspaper article is due out soon mentioning the web page, future HCCCF meeting opportunity, and input forms to be available at the library. Public input was solicited on the PSA submitted to the radio station last week; however for some unknown reason it was not aired. Patty will resubmit to the radio station. A lot of public input has already been obtained through interviews conducted.

Drug Free Community Grant Work. A committee has been meeting during the summer to work on the grant. The timeline for near-term work has been accomplished. Patty met with Crane Interim Superintendent Bob Sari regarding what he would like to see for the Crane schools. Committee member Thad Labhart delivered a power-point presentation on the project to Harney Partners. On August 30th, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, a logic model session will be held here at DHS. This is needed for the writing the grant. Committee members are working on the following questions at home, and discussion will continue at the session: What are our problems? What do we need to help with the strategies? Joyce suggested interviewing someone who has actually been into drugs to get his/her idea on what the problem is and what is most effective. Kathy referred to Chad Karges' comment: "Are these the problems or the symptoms?"

Patty stated that Harney Partners members have agreed unanimously to take on the role as DFC coalition. They have budgeted to put some of their money towards building capacity by paying the cost of trainings for coalition members.

Opportunities for Training and Volunteer Work. A sign-up sheet was passed around for training and volunteer opportunities. Patty mentioned that there are two opportunities for training: the National Prevention Networking Conference in Portland– September 16-20, and the 3rd Annual Northeast Oregon Prevention Conference in Enterprise – October 3-5.

With no further business, the meeting was then adjourned at 3:25 p.m. after noting that our next meeting is September 11th. Sonni and Dan stated that they will not be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Lovell