

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2007

Attending: Ann Vloedman, Acting Chair; Jean Hurst, Joyce Moser;
Ramona Hofman; Debbie Ausmus; Patty Dorroh, Director;
Maryanne Lovell, Assistant.

Absent: Dan Nichols, Lou Davies, Michelle Bradach; Sonni Svejcar

Guests: Dave Anderson, Donna Schnitker

Call to Order. Ann Vloedman called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Public Comment. None.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. Patty Dorroh explained that Steve Bull was not in attendance. The Amended Agenda and the August 14 Minutes were unanimously approved, following a Motion by Ramona Hofman and a second by Jean Hurst.

Public Input. Patty has received very little new input on the Comprehensive Plan. The public has until the end of October to comment on it. Patty said that information gained so far from interviews, conducted three months ago, is sufficient and is being compared with state data. There are no surprises yet. Donna added that, unless something is controversial, people hardly ever reply. Patty said that next time we might try an on-line survey. Donna suggested taking the survey to the high school. The teens often say "No one ever listens to us." Approaching the Key Club and the Leadership Class would be a way for youth to provide their opinions.

Comprehensive Plan. Patty said she has received technical assistance from Peggy Vanderzanden and learned that the state is looking for more specific ways to identify outcomes. She provided the following update: Harney County's focus issues are 1) reducing child abuse and neglect, 2) reducing underage substance use, and 3) reducing juvenile offenses. Reducing teen pregnancies may also become an issue. Patty plans to work with the DHS state statistics person and Angie Temple for further specifics. Patty went down the strategic approaches, which include service delivery improvements, community mobilization, and system change. The data base for compiling the plan is still under development and testing at the state level; yet access will be needed before the draft plan can be adequately presented to the commission. Patty is hoping to have more information available at our next meeting.

Parenting Resource Book. In Steve Bull's absence, Patty reported that Steve got the copyright on his book and would like to make it available in Harney County. Patty is not sure how this will work yet, and plans to schedule Steve to present his

proposal at a future meeting.

Dave Anderson, Grant Writer. Patty introduced Dave who will be putting on tomorrow's Grant Writing Workshop, saying he has an excellent background in commission work. Dave is doing grant research and writing for our commission. Patty has asked him to take a strategic approach and develop a report on his recommendation for which foundations to apply to for various work. He has already drafted a few grant applications for the Early Childhood Center's new playground; HCCCF is providing his services in-kind to ESD. Dave reported on two articles. The first was regarding philanthropy in rural areas. There has been a disparity of charitable giving between rural and urban communities until now. The second article pointed out that foundations could alleviate economic problems in America by concentrating more on rural American. There is still a perception, with a lot of truth to it, that it is very difficult to get grant monies in rural areas; however, that is beginning to change. Dave passed out a Table for the Grant Applications for HCCC, which will be updated monthly. Dave will be conducting a grant workshop tomorrow, and there will be good county representation, including people from Crane and French Glen.

Director's Report, from Patty Dorroh.

Staff Update:

- On Aug 22nd Peg Vanderzanden, Regional CCF Coordinator traveled to Burns to provide the HCCCF Director with technical assistance for the comprehensive plan.
- Dave Anderson, our grants consultant, will be providing a workshop on Sept 12th for Grants Management for Boards and Commissions and Long Term Strategizing for Grants for Economic Development and Community Development. It will be presented in two half-day sessions, free of charge and open to all.
- There are two trainings coming up. They 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.
 - Sept 16-20 (National Prevention Network Conference in Portland): Patty, Gwen Haigh and Kathy Rementeria will attend. The commission is co-sponsoring the participants along with Tim Colahan and the CAMI (Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention) funds he administers.
 - Oct 3-5 (3rd Annual Northeast Prevention Conference in Enterprise): Patty, Maryanne, Kathy, and two community lay persons (Tyler and Anna McNab) will be attending and sponsored by the commission.

Provider Update:

- Provider contracts have been drawn up and will be going for signature by the County Court on Sept 19th.

Grants

- **Parent Education Series:** Next week, Harney Partners will meet and likely vote whether or not to take the lead for guiding the Parent Education Series grant that HCCCF was awarded. The next step will be to advertise for and select local trainers for the various curricula, and arrange for their training.
- **Drug Free Community (DFC) Grant Work:** The DFC Committee spent over three hours developing logic model information on Harney County's situation and strategies. A second session is scheduled for Sept 25th to continue that work.

Next Few Months Outlook:

- **October:** At our Oct 9th meeting, OCCF and Malheur, Grant and Harney DHS staff will present an overview of the regional team effort so far for the Reconnecting Families initiative. If available, the comprehensive plan draft will be distributed for your review.
- **November:** The comprehensive plan will be reviewed, and approved pending any recommended changes.
- **December:** We'll meet if necessary; the plan will go to the County Court for approval.

Thanks

Thanks to Maryanne and Ramona for an outstanding Harney County Fair Booth!

Additional Comment. Jean Hurst reported that Brent Jantze has withdrawn his application for employment with Independence House. Once he moves here from Bend, he'll be a good resource.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Lovell