

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
10/10/06

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Michelle Bradach; Ramona Hofman; Joyce Moser; Ann Vloedman; Sonni Svejcar; Kristi Curtis, Assistant; Patty Dorroh, Director
Absent: Lou Davies; Debbie Ausmus
Guests: Donna Schnitker; Jean Hurst; Richard Roy; Gwen Haigh

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The approval of today's agenda and minutes for the July 11th meeting were postponed until the end of the meeting to allow commissioners review time. The agenda and the minutes were approved at the close of the meeting.

Letter of Interest: Open Commissioner Position

Jean Hurst, minister of Pioneer Presbyterian Church, expressed interest in filling the open commissioner position. Jean brought her letter of interest and introduced herself. The commissioners opted to discuss her qualifications and vote at the end of the meeting.

Positive Youth Coordinator/Homeless & Runaway Youth Liaison

Gwen stated the Big Buddy program is full swing. She has 42 Bigs and 15-18 Littles. The Bigs range from 15 to 18 years old and the Littles are either in fourth or fifth grade. Gwen said some parents had expressed concerns to her about safety issues, so she arranged for Chris Phillips (DHS) and Rob Nou (Burns Chief of Police) to give a safety presentation for the Bigs and Littles. A total of 45 youth participated. The first Big Buddy outing will take place on October 25th at the Red Ribbon Week bonfire. Future meetings are November 15th at the Boys & Girls Club, December 13th at the BHS Christmas Program, January 18th at the Boys & Girls Club, February 8th, March 14th, April 11th, and May 7th the year end event in Bend.

Gwen stated Teen Court will take place this evening at 6:00p.m. They will be reviewing seven cases. Judge Kramer and Gordon Mallon have been very involved in Teen Court. Gwen would like to take the students to Redmond to observe that Teen Court and possibly get some training.

Gwen reminded the commissioners that Red Ribbon Week is October 23-27. The dinner and bonfire will take place on October 25th. Posters of the BHS athletes will be given out at the door for the athletes to sign.

Reinforcing Positive Youth trimester event dates have been set and planning meetings occur monthly.

Gwen stated the homeless program has changed its name and is now being called Families in Transition (FIT). There are 40 youth ages 0-21 that have been identified as homeless.

Gwen said the biggest problem right now is teen mothers can't afford or find childcare so they can attend school. There are 10-15 teen mothers in our area that are facing this issue. Gwen thinks evening classes for high school completion might be a good option. Donna reminded us that these parents can be given different options for high school completion, but they need to be able to take baby steps towards their goals if they are going to be successful.

High Desert Lacrosse Program

Rick Roy, coach of the High Desert Lacrosse Team, presented his program. This is a new positive youth activity in Harney County – one that is attracting youth who don't necessarily fit the stereotype of "the athlete." High schools around the country are starting Lacrosse teams. Rick is a member of Positive Coaching, National Lacrosse, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Rick believes in using sports to teach life skills.

Rick showed an educational video on how Lacrosse is played. He also handed out information on the background and Code of Conduct for the High Desert Team. The team consists of fourteen and fifteen year olds who practice three times a week. Bend High School donated goals for the High Desert Team, the Burns Paiute Tribe donated money, and HCCCF local flexible funds were used to purchase used equipment and instructional videos on DVD.

Rick's drive and enthusiasm were evident as he described his plans to seek out grants, other funding options, and partnerships. The High Desert Lacrosse Team has traveled to the indoor facility in Bend over on the weekend and played with other students from Central Oregon. Rick is working on contacting New York colleges and Nike to get them to sponsor six kids from Burns to go see the Lacrosse Nationals. He is also trying to get a game set up in Burns between the Boise and University of Oregon lacrosse teams.

Director's Report

Provider Update

Providers continue to work hard. CASA- Director Marlene Eccles resigned to take a job in Grant County with DHS. The CASA board is in the process of recruiting a new director. Great Start & Healthy Start- Both programs are on track at the

Early Childhood Center. Pam Eggleston has been tasked with establishing closer coordination with the hospital to identify first births as soon as possible. Big Buddy- Gwen briefed us on the program earlier. TEC/Community Stewardship Corps- Brandon McMullen has been hired as the new crew chief. Quarterly Reports- 5th Quarter ended Sept 30th and provider quarterly reports are due to Patty on October 13th.

Staff Update

Kristi continues to attend and participate in Harney Partners, CAT, Reinforcing Positive Youth, and Underage Drinking Prevention meetings. Patty participates in the Head Start Parent Policy Council, Child Care Advisory Board, Local Interagency Coordinating Council, and CAT. Patty also plans to speak to various community groups in order to make citizens more aware of HCCCF and its roles. She will attend the Harney County Ministerial Association meeting in November. She plans to get on the agendas of the school boards, local governments, Lion's Club, and the Chamber of Commerce. Both Kristi and Patty attended the Eastern Region CCF Retreat, the OCCF Dinner Dialogue, and State Commission meeting in Baker City two weeks ago.

OCCF State Commission Meeting

The two initiatives that the State Commission has identified in its strategic plan are: Homeless and Runaway Youth and Community Schools. They will be mapping strategies at their own retreat later this year.

Basic Capacity Issue

During the past two bienniums, CCF funding, and especially Basic Capacity (local staff) was cut significantly. OCCF has developed its proposed budget for the 2007-2009 biennium that would restore much of those cuts. As part of the process to thoroughly justify the budget request, each CCF Director has been involved in a mapping survey to quantify where we put our time and efforts, and with what results, under our current funding. Patty submitted our input online, this past Saturday, before the October 11th deadline.

Grants

Kristi completed her on-line grant writing course through TVCC. Patty completed the lengthy process of getting our commission registered through grants.gov so that we will be ready to apply for federal grants in the future.

Community Events

Patty provided details about the following upcoming community events: Burns Paiute Reservation Day Powwow, Red Ribbon Week Dinner and Bonfire, and the Cultural Competency Training sponsored by HCCCF, OCCF, and DHS. Forty people have registered for the training, including registrants from DHS, CASA, HBH, SD3, Juvenile Dept., Economic Development, the Burns Paiute Tribe, Grant County and Baker County CCF.

County Fair Booth

Patty thanked Kristi, Sonni, Ramona, and Kristen for setting up the community booth featuring the 40 Assets. The booth received a 3rd place ribbon.

Farewell Kristen

Kristen Johnson moved to Washington last month. Patty was able to visit her before her move, thank her on behalf of the commission, and bring a gift for her new daughter.

We are still looking at having our retreat in January. Commissioners should be thinking about what topics they would like to focus on.

School One Stop Program

Kristi presented information on a program in Baker County called School One Stop (SOS). The focus of the SOS program is prevention and early intervention. Teams of social service workers, school counselors, principals, and representatives from health and educational agencies meet weekly at each school to problem solve the needs of referred children. Parents or guardians of the child are present at these meeting also. Each child is assigned a lead case worker to who obtains services and reports back to the team. SOS is able to provide services ranging from A&D counseling, parenting classes, housing, medical care, intensive home based services, food assistance, and daycare.

During the summer, SOS has a summer fun program for kids to participate in positive activities during the summer months. SOS works with the YMCA and other businesses to provide lunches, horse clinics, art classes, swim passes, etc. Each child can choose four different activities to participate in. Without this program, these children couldn't afford to participate in these fun summer activities.

Baker County has obtained grants for this program, but a majority of the money comes from the local community, which gives and gives for this program so that children who otherwise might fall through the cracks are successful in school.

Future Agendas: Input

Patty went over some upcoming topics such as Homeless and Runaway Youth, Community Readiness Model, Summer Youth Program, and School Based Community Work Day. These may be items to be discussed at the retreat or future meetings.

Coalition of Local Commissions: The Coalition of Local Commissions is an organization formed by local commissions to represent issues of importance from the local CCF perspective, as there are times when the state commission and local commissions may differ on issues. The coalition hires a professional consultant to work with legislators and organizations or persons of influence to educate them on children and family issues. Harney County's annual fee for coalition membership is \$500. We have not paid dues in the past. All 36 counties are being asked to pay dues at this time. Patty will look into it further so we can

decide at next month's meeting whether to join as paid members for the next fiscal year.

Next month the commission will review the budget, including staff compensation, coalition membership, and other issues.

Vacant Commissioner Position Discussion and Recommendation

After discussion of the vacant commissioner position, the commissioners moved, seconded, and unanimously recommended that Jean Hurst be appointed to fill the HCCCF vacancy. Patty will bring that recommendation to the County Court for decision.

Late Items

There were no late items.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m. The next HCCCF meeting is scheduled for November 14th at 2:00 p.m. in the State Office Building conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Curtis