

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
10/14/04

Attending: Acting Chair: Ann Vloedman; Debbie Ausmus; Lou Davies;
Ramona Hofman; Michelle Bradach; Patty Dorroh, Director
Absent: Dan Nichols; Joyce Moser; Sonni Svejcar; Beth Walberg
Guests: Donna Schnitker; Chris Phillips; Suzanne Marchment; Gwen Haigh; Kathy
Rementeria

Ann called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. Introductions were made.
No public comments were offered.

Call to order

Suzanne Marchment provided an update on the 2004-2005 Harney
County Library Children's Programs. Services continue to grow and
those offered include "Storytime" for preschoolers; Slater and Hines
Super Reading Clubs; Outreach Programs for the Early Childhood
Center, Slater Kindergarten, and Slater First Grades; the Summer
Reading Challenge; and two Summer Reading Clubs that span grades
K-8. A new effort, Slater "Bulldog Buddies" is a 5th grade mentoring
program that includes 30 minutes of Read Aloud training per class.
Suzanne was enthusiastic about the programs and thanked the
commission for its financial support.

Children's Library
Programs Update

Gwen Haigh was introduced as the Positive Youth Development
Coordinator for School District 3. She thanked the commission for their
support and described the four programs she manages: The Big Buddy
Mentoring Program, Hines Enrichment Days, Bulldog Store Project, and
Winter Open Gym. Hines Enrichment Days occur later in the school
year, so there's been no activity yet. Winter Open Gym days will begin
in December. The Bulldog Store Project is designed for the 4th and 5th
graders to earn Bulldog Bucks for shopping and to provide job interview
and work experience job skills. The Big Buddy Mentoring participants
are planning to have a float in the Red Ribbon Parade next week.
Kathy mentioned that Winter Open Gym days began during the
Thanksgiving break last year. Debbie voiced her concern that every 4th
and 5th grader be selected for at least one job during the Bulldog
Program and that no one be rejected. Gwen said she would look into
the possibility of starting Winter Open Gym days during the
Thanksgiving break and assured Donna and the commission that all
eligible students would be hired for a job in the Bulldog Store project.

Positive Youth
Development
Programs Update

Cindy Jennings of Creative Sign Shop was introduced. She described
her business and products, and displayed several samples of attractive
vinyl-lettered, 2' x 6' banners, which she stated were approximately \$85
each. Cindy also provided some ideas on paper for commission signs
or banners. The commission thanked her for coming in. Ann asked
that this be placed on next month's agenda for decision at that time.

HCCCF Banner

Patty asked for clarification on the procedure for recruiting a new commission member to fill Beth Walberg's term, which expires in December. Ann said to go ahead with advertising the vacancy in the local media. Commission members should speak with people they know who may be interested and able to contribute. Once letters of interest are received, the commission will discuss the candidates and make a recommendation to the County Court. Patty will proceed with preparing the advertisements

Commissioner
Vacancy Process

Ann opened the discussion on whether the commission should sponsor a public forum for school issues. Discussion included why there may be a need to raise school issues in a forum beyond school board meetings. Lou said that school boards tend to pay attention when a large number of people appear before them. Gwen recommended that concerned parents or the commission go to the school board as a group and present themselves as trying to inform teachers of concerns. Ann asked if the commission should have a role in this matter or not. Donna suggested that the answer is no, as it's a volatile issue that could place the commission in an adversarial light. It was decided to continue this discussion at the next commission meeting.

Discussion of a
Public Community
Forum for School
Issues

Ann provided copies of a article about the Chalkboard Project, a statewide collaborative effort of Oregon foundations who are assisting in creating a new vision for public education. They have a website for gathering opinions (www.chalkboardproject.org) and plan to co-host public forums in local communities.

Chalkboard Project

Patty provided the Director's Report. Provider workplans are progressing and their quarterly reports are due tomorrow. The Director attended two trainings: Excel Spreadsheets and Evidence-Based Practices. Evidence-based practices will be required for at least 25% of juvenile programs by 2005. She attended local Community Action Team (CAT), Harney Partners, and CAT subcommittees. Patty is making short presentations in order to raise awareness of the updated Harney County Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families. She spoke to CAT members and will address next week's Kiwanis meeting.

Director's Report

Lou expressed his interest in learning how other communities achieve results from grant writing. Donna said that the Early Childhood Center hired a professional grant writer for obtaining funding for their new building. She also advised that any contract entered into with a grant writer be incentive-driven (only pay them for successful grants) and that their track record be checked before hiring.

Grant Writing

Ramona moved to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2004 at 1:30pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Adjournment

Patty Dorroh - Director

