

Harney County Commission on Children and Families

Regular Meeting Minutes

11/14/06

Attending: Ann Vloedman (acting Chair); Ramona Hofman; Jean Hurst; Lou Davies; Debbie Ausmus; Kristi Curtis, Assistant; Patty Dorroh, Director

Absent: Michelle Bradach; Joyce Moser; Sonni Svejcar; Dan Nichols

Guests: Donna Schnitker; Kathy Rementeria; Shannon Swindlehurst

Call to Order/Introductions

Ann called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

Kathy thanked Patty for presenting the Community Readiness Model at the Community Action Team Meeting earlier today.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Harney County Child Care Update

Shannon Swindlehurst from Child Care Research & Referral (CCR&R) gave an update on the availability of child care in Harney County. Currently, there are thirteen provides, which includes two private preschools and the Boys & Girls Club. CCR&R supports and registers providers in the area. Their referrals are now nationally approved and accredited. The agency is also working with a mentoring program through Portland State University. Each region has a mentor. Harney County's mentor is Angela in Baker City.

Registered providers can care for up to ten children at a time. Each provider is only allowed two infants. The lack of infant child care is an issue in our county. Shannon stated right now there is one part-time infant slot available in the county. The price of child care for an infant/toddler is \$2.00-\$2.25 per hour and older children are \$1.50-\$2.00 per hour. DHS families and low-income families may qualify for childcare assistance.

Director's Report

Provider Update:

- Providers are on track. Quarterly Reports were completed on time and indicate positive, measurable outcomes.
- Our Healthy Start program will probably have a site visit/inspection from the OCCF Healthy Start office sometime in the coming year. Kristi and Patty have offered to help our local program prepare.

- CASA: They hope to name the new Director soon, with a January start date. Patty plans to request to do a site visit/informal audit with the program after the new Director has been on board for six weeks or so.
- The next Big Buddy Mentoring event is tomorrow night at the Boys & Girls Club.

Staff Update:

- Kristi will be tasked with assisting with our January retreat, continuing to attend partner meetings, and doing grant research.
- Patty appeared before the Harney County Court on Oct 18th to give them an update and request the appointment of Jean Hurst to our commission. The County Court voted unanimously to appoint her to fill the term ending Dec 2008.
- Cultural Competency Training was held on Oct 19th. Thanks to Kristi for her help with that and for Ann being able to attend the afternoon session.
- Kristi, Patty, and Michelle helped out at the Red Ribbon dinner and bonfire on Oct 25th. An estimated 650 people attended.
- Today Patty provided the CAT with an overview of the Community Readiness Model for assessing community readiness and strategies. If/when the CAT determines they have an issue for that model, Patty will provide expertise and participation.
- Patty has arranged to speak to several local organizations to tell the commission story, disseminate the comprehensive plan, and answer questions. Groups currently scheduled include the Crane Elementary School Board tonight, the Ministerial Association on Nov 16th, and the Lions Club on Dec 11th.

Commission Banner is Out There

The HCCCF banner that says, "Supported by the Harney County Commission on Children and Families" was displayed at the Powwow, Cultural Competency training, and Red Ribbon Dinner.

Grants

The \$3500 grant for our Healthy Start program, from the Community Action Agency, should be coming to us soon.

Local Flexible Funds

Radio and newspaper advertisements will be out soon to let community members know that applications for donations must be received by Dec 31st.

Commissioner Terms

Ramona, Dan and Sonni have HCCCF terms that expire this December. Each has indicated that they are willing to continue to serve another term. Our bylaws do not limit the number of terms that commissioners may serve. Patty will need a recommendation from the commission to take to the County Court for formal reappointment, which is our next agenda item.

Commissioner Reappointment Recommendations

The commissioners voted unanimously to recommend that the County Court formally reappoint Dan, Ramona, and Sonni to continue serving on the HCCCF.

Coalition of Local Commissions: Membership Discussion and Decision

The Coalition of Local Commissions represents and provides a voice for the local commissions to the legislature. This work involves a paid lobbyist to represent the 36 counties. Dues are \$500 per year for a county of our size, which would be paid from basic capacity funds. Harney County has not paid dues in the past, but the coalition has now asked that all members pay dues. Judge Grasty had some concerns in the past about different priorities of the coalition and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), but no longer has those concerns and would be comfortable if the commission decides to join. After a discussion, the commissioners voted to become a dues paying member of the Coalition of Local Commissions, with dues budgeted to begin the next fiscal year (July 2007). The commissioners would also like to see reports from the lobbyist in the future.

2007-2008 Budget: Overview & Input

Patty reviewed the current budget and explained that the county budget process starts in January.

Executive Session: Professional Services Compensation

Commissioners discussed salary compensation while Director and Assistant were out the room.

HCCCF Retreat Planning

Our HCCCF retreat will take place at Hines City Hall on January 9th at 10 a.m. Those commissioners on the Executive Steering Committee (Dan, Sonni, Joyce, and Ann) will meet before the retreat to discuss donation applications. Lunch will be potluck. There was a suggestion to have a personality type indicator activity in order to learn more about each other. Ann suggested that we discuss our CASA program and learn how the program operates. Lou suggested we include time for a generalized discussion of the roots of our issues. Any other ideas can be emailed to Patty.

Late Items

No late items were addressed.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m. There will not be a meeting in December. The HCCCF Retreat is scheduled for January 9th at 10 a.m. at Hines City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Curtis