

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**2/10/05**

Attending: Acting Chair: Ann Vloedman; Lou Davies; Debbie Ausmus;  
Ramona Hofman; Sonni Svejcar; Joyce Moser; Patty Dorroh, Director  
Absent: Dan Nichols; Michelle Bradach  
Guests: Cheryl Foster; Dustin Hiatt; Robert Moreland; Justin Daugherty; Noah  
Lafferty; Shannon Swindlehurst; Donna Schnitker; Susan Carlile; Lloyd Tolle

Ann called the meeting to order at 1:37 pm. No public comments were offered. Call to order

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and minutes as written. Motion carried. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Cheryl Foster, from Training and Employment Consortium (TEC) was introduced and subsequently introduced Dustin Hiatt (crew leader) and three crew members from CSC: Robert Moreland, Justin Daugherty, and Noah Lafferty. Cheryl stated that the CSC program is progressing well. They started the year with seven crew members: one was dropped for substandard performance; one has entered Job Corps; and five youth now make up the crew. There has been a 72% improvement in school attendance by the crew members, which is one of the outcomes we measure. Cheryl said that commission funding enabled them to start the program at the beginning of the school year, rather than have to wait until the following year. The program is modeled after a successful program in Grant County, and involves crew members attending school classes and completing assignments in order to be eligible to serve on the crew. The CSC has completed two ranch-related projects so far, and the Malheur Refuge is interested in hiring them to do work. Crew members answered questions and relayed that they are learning valuable work skills, recording their work in journals, using math and measurement knowledge in their work, and enjoy being able to earn academic credits through CSC work. Cheryl passed around a photo album depicting the CSC crew in action. Conservation Stewardship Corps (CSC) Update

Shannon Swindlehurst of TEC/Child Care Resource and Referral informed the commission that she has three in-home child care providers enrolled in the Quality Child Care program. She held an orientation and administered the Harms Rating Scale pre-test to the participants. Shannon will be conducting site visits and mentoring this quarter. In June, Shannon will administer the post-test to participants, from which we'll measure any changes in the providers' professional knowledge. Quality Child Care Program Update

Susan Carlile, Interim Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Harney County, introduced Lloyd Tolle, the Regional Service Director of the Boys and Girls Club of America. Susan stated that Harney County is Boys and Girls Club Update

the smallest community in the U.S. to have a Boys and Girls Club. Lloyd has been a tremendous supporter of Harney County's club and is determined to work with our community to help it succeed. Lloyd said that new fundraising and board models are needed in our situation, and that the local Boys and Girls Club board of directors are stepping up to help. Susan reported that 36% of all children, grades 1-12 enrolled in Harney County schools, have been members of the club. In January there were nine new members enrolled, a few more in February, and the club has five new volunteers. Recently, 53 teens came to a Teen Dance at the club and had a great time. Susan described some of the new programs and activities offered this year: Smart Girls, Club Tech, Fitness Authority, Rhythm & Noise, and the Cheerleading Club. They continue to offer Power Hour (a daily homework assistance program) and the Torch Club (a teen leadership group).

Susan also mentioned the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diamond in a Glass fundraiser will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Big Bear Lodge, and that this year the event is open to all.

Donna Schnitker reported that every one of the five Early Childhood programs she oversees is being monitored this year. The week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be 7-9 monitors here conducting evaluations at our Early Childhood Center. Donna has 1,797 performance standards she could potentially be rated on. Patty asked Donna to let the commission know how we can be of assistance during that period. Donna is planning to hold a questionnaire/luncheon meeting as a sort of community forum in preparation for the April evaluation. Patty will work with Donna to get the appropriate level of commission participation.

Early Childhood Programs Update

April Evaluation

Donna reported that the Healthy Start and Great Start program numbers are pretty stable. The Healthy Start program is full with 15 families receiving home visitations and participating in Toddler Group activities. The Great Start program is always full, and Donna considers it very valuable to the community because it helps the working poor.

Healthy Start and Great Start Programs on track

Donna also mentioned that the Community Safety Net program is not being funded in the Governor's budget.

Community Safety Net Unfunded

Patty provided the Director's Report. The Step 8 (Data Gathering) report for the July-Dec 2004 period was completed and submitted on time. This is a collaboration between OCCF and Juvenile Justice, OYA, and Alcohol and Drug Prevention agencies. In the process of completing this report, Patty made minor revisions to the Update to our Comprehensive Plan and submitted those changes too. Copies of the Step 8 report were provided to the commissioners.

Director's Report

Step 8 Data Collection Report Submitted

Patty reported that she continues to collaborate and meet regularly with community partners and that our providers are on track with their programs and reporting.

Providers on Track

Quarterly reports for the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennium Quarter were completed and entered into the state database ahead of the deadline. We have requested release of our 7<sup>th</sup> quarter funding in the amount of \$9,118.

Quarterly Reports Submitted

All 36 local commission directors were asked by the state commission director to respond to two questions regarding better outcomes and positive results for our communities based on commission work and the comprehensive planning process. Patty provided copies of her response to the commissioners. This input was used during the OCCF appearance before the legislative Ways and Means Committee.

Response to State Commission on Outcomes and Results

No letters of interest have been received to fill the one Commission vacancy. Commissioners are asked to continue to look for good candidates.

Commissioner Vacancy Remains

Patty asked the commissioners about topics and guests they'd like to hear from in future meetings. She is planning on asking the local directors of Harney Behavioral Health and the Department of Human Services to address the commission. Other suggestions were to invite local law enforcement and the superintendents of the Burns and Crane schools.

Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

Lou suggested that, although the commission work is somewhat complicated, local high school work/study and intern programs may offer a potential solution to helping with the additional community mapping and research needed for next year's plan update. The names of Debbie Titus and Mrs. Bennett were mentioned for potential follow-up.

Personnel Staffing Suggestion

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next HCCCF meeting is scheduled for March 10th, 2005 at 1:30 pm at the State Office Building conference room.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dorroh - Director