

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
5/9/06

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Michelle Bradach; Debbie Ausmus; Lou Davies;
Joyce Moser; Ann Vloedman; Sonni Svejcar; Kristi Curtis,
Assistant; Patty Dorroh, Director
Absent: Kristen Johnson; Ramona Hofman
Guests: Donna Schnitker; Kathy Rementería

Call to Order/Introductions

Dan called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Introductions were made.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes for the April 11th meeting were approved as written.

Great Start Funding Request

Donna Schnitker from the Early Childhood Center came to request \$10,000 for the Great Start program. The program had been approved to receive \$15,368 from the commission at the April meeting. The additional money is needed for salaries and supplies, and is the same amount approved by the commission last year from its local flexible funds account. The RFP format did not have a section for such a request; hence the need to request it separately. Lou moved to approve the request; Debbie seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

Commission Approval of 2006-2007 Healthy Start Work Plan

Donna brought copies of Harney County's Healthy Start Work Plan. The work plan addresses the performance indicators that are not being adequately met and strategies of how to achieve them. Donna indicated the biggest challenge is the percentage of first births offered/screened and the days to screen. Donna and Jeannette Vinson are working with the Health Department to share information. Jeannette will be able to accompany the Maternal Case Management Nurse on the first home visit. They will also try to get in contact with pregnant mothers to reduce the days to screen. The work plan is due to OCCF by June 30th. Ann moved to recommend that the Healthy Start Work Plan be approved by the commission, and that Dan or Patty be authorized to sign the final version for forwarding to OCCF. Debbie seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Provider and Admin Overview:

Providers continue to provide quality services. County Budget Hearings are underway. Patty will appear on behalf of the commission tomorrow. End of the year fiscal requests and tasks are the focus right now.

Child Abuse Prevention Month Events

1. April 12th- Jan Hindman training
2. April 20th- Harney Partners Volunteer Awards Banquet
3. April 21st- Spring Conference Presentations
4. Self Defense Classes

Provider Quarterly Reports

Reports were received from our providers. The information was entered into the state data base and were signed off today by Dan.

Director's Evaluation

According to Dan, there was a good response from participants in the Director's Evaluation survey. The commission board members will use the input to deliberate on the Director's performance. Dan had prepared a summary of the results and Patty had prepared a chart to assist the process.

Future Forums. Some of the topics planned in the near terms include:

1. Child Abuse and Neglect: What more should we be doing?
2. Underage Drinking and Substance Abuse- The number of Minor in Possession citations, particularly for younger adolescents, has been increasing in Harney County. Let's hear from a local group who is working this issue.
3. Teen Suicide Prevention Program- A speaker from Bend is willing to come to Harney County to talk about suicide and depression prevention programs.
4. New Approaches to Positive Youth Development- Gwen Haigh attended a training on May 4th and we'll schedule her for a summary.

Discussion of Commission Work in Rural County Areas

Lou stated the main contact for the rural communities is the schools. Contacting the schools and getting the teachers on board is essential. Parenting tapes and DVDs could be sent by mail to rural parents. Donna suggested taking baby steps with parents in rural communities because of the isolation. Patty stated she received one response from the letter she sent out to the rural areas. The response was from a teacher from Suntext. The teacher wondered if the commission could help with transporting people from rural areas to the city for events. Patty invited her to the meeting, but she was unable to attend.

Dan suggested putting together a program where town kids would be able to visit rural areas and work on projects in order to build work ethic skills and have some fun. Sonni stated we should look into liability and safety restrictions. Lou agreed

that kids that don't have anything to do (such as families that don't live on farms/ranches) can get into trouble unless they have something to occupy their time.

Patty and Kristi are going to research some options and any restrictions related to this kind of program.

Executive Session: Director's Evaluation and Contract Renewal

It was unanimously agreed to renew Patty's contract. Patty has done an outstanding job as director!

Late Items

No late items were discussed.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. There will not be a meeting in June. The next HCCCF meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 2:00 p.m. in the State Office Building conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Curtis