

**Harney County Commission on Children and Families**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**6/09/05**

Attending: Chair: Dan Nichols; Ann Vloedman; Sonnis Svejcar; Patty Dorroh, Director  
Absent: Debbie Ausmus; Joyce Moser; Lou Davies; Ramona Hofman; Michelle  
Bradach  
Guests: Donna Schnitker; Kathy Rementeria; Chris Phillips; Marlene Eccles

Ann called the meeting to order at 1:41 pm. No public comments were offered.

Call to order

Due to lack of a quorum, the agenda and minutes were presented, but not formally approved. Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting. Decision items on the agenda were changed to reflect information discussions only.

Presentation of  
Agenda and  
Minutes

Marlene Eccles, Director of the Grant-Harney CASA Program, was introduced and provided an update. Marlene has been on the job since March 1, 2005. She conducted a fiscal and case file audit, finding only a few minor discrepancies which have been corrected. Marlene is concerned with the financial sustainability of the CASA program, as state and federal funding sources are cutting back on their grant amounts. The Grant-Harney CASA program will be starting this year with \$2500 less than usual (due to the Juan Young Trust amount decreasing). Marlene plans at least one major fundraiser this year, a quilt raffle, between both Grant and Harney counties. Also, she is looking into obtaining national certification of the program, which requires continuing education for CASAs. Possible ways to achieve this would be to leverage training with DHS and obtain sponsors. Marlene is working with the CASA Board of Directors on a Cultivating Communities forum in Grant County, which is a social enterprise to sustain CASA. The Board will be working on ideas for social entrepreneurship over the next 18 – 24 months. Ford and Meyer trusts may have some funding available. Patty mentioned that she will email Marlene and Tammy Johnston (Harney County CASA Volunteer Coordinator) with any training opportunities she becomes aware of.

Grant – Harney  
CASA Program  
Update

Donna Schnitker reported that all her programs were reviewed this year and that Harney County's Head Start program was evaluated by eleven reviewers from all over the U.S. Out of 1,798 performance standards, only two items were identified for changes. Our program had the fewest findings in Region 10, which includes Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Healthy Start is undergoing the accreditation process with Healthy Families of America. Ann and Patty thanked Donna for her outstanding management of the Early Childhood Programs.

Early Childhood  
Programs –  
Evaluation Results

Patty provided the Director's Report. Providers are on track with one exception: three of our Positive Youth Development programs may not be an appropriate use of the Children, Youth and Families funding

Director's Report

stream. This will be discussed during a later agenda topic.

The Community Action Team continued to reward Burns High School students who are on track academically and behaviorally with the third trimester event at the theater. The final “capstone” event that the commission helped sponsor was held June 7<sup>th</sup>. Sonni stated that it went well, with approximately 36 Burns High School students attending.

Community Partners Sponsor Events – Community Action Team

Harney Partners for Kids and Families sponsored Keith Nord for motivational and anti-drug/alcohol messages and the Spring Awards Banquet.

Harney Partners for Kids and Families

Patty updated the commission on the legislative activities in Salem. There is still no agreement on a budget for CCF. Ann asked when we should know the actual funding amounts. Dan indicated we may not know until September or October. Patty also mentioned that she found the Bridges Out of Poverty training she attended very worthwhile.

Miscellaneous Matters

No letters of interest have been received to fill the one Commission vacancy. Commissioners are asked to continue to look for good candidates. Sonni and Ann indicated they will be talking to some potential candidates.

Commissioner Vacancy Remains

Patty reported that an Oregon CCF review of our programs indicated that three of our Positive Youth Development programs may not be an appropriate use of the funding source. Patty provided commission members with a chart depicting our funding streams, funding parameters, which programs we fund, and the director’s comments and recommendations for continued funding. The commission will need to determine if any changes should be made for next year’s contracts. This topic will be placed on next month’s agenda for action.

Contract Renewals and RFP Discussion

Donna mentioned that DHS and the Early Childhood Center (ECC) are developing a proposal for creating a joint mentoring program that would continue home visitations for the families of kindergarten students. They are also working on designing parent training for pre-school parents. They plan to compete for commission funding to sponsor these initiatives.

DHS / ECC Initiatives

Kathy Rementeria said that Harney Partners for Kids and Families may go back to their former format for its Spring Conference, where speakers are brought in for a workshop-type training. They would be interested in applying for commission funds to help sponsor this and to provide some scholarship money to send parents who otherwise could not attend.

Harney Partners Spring Conference Plans

The Director noted that her contract is for one year, with one year automatic renewal. Her first year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Patty said she really enjoys the work and would like to continue in the role as Director. Several commission members voiced their satisfaction with her performance. Kathy, a community partner, stated that Patty is doing a

Director’s Performance and Contract Renewal

good job. Dan said that the Executive Committee (Dan, Ann, Sonni, Joyce) will meet soon to discuss the Director's performance and any personnel evaluation issues that need to be addressed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next HCCCF meeting will be scheduled during the week of July 5-8. Patty will poll the commissioners for their availability and advertise the date and location.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dorroh - Director