

Harney County Commission on Children and Families

Regular Meeting Minutes

7/06/05

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

Ann called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. No public comments were offered. Introductions were made. Call to order

The agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the April 14th and June 9th meetings were approved as written. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Sonni introduced Kristen Johnson, who has submitted a letter of interest in serving on the Harney County Commission on Children and Families (HCCCF). Kristen serves on the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, is an active community volunteer, and is willing and able to commit the time for this position. Patty added that she and Kristen met for about an hour the previous Friday, and that Kristen was given an overview of commission work. Joyce moved, Debbie seconded, and motion carried to recommend to the County Court that Kristen be appointed to serve on the HCCCF. Recommendation for Kristen Johnson to fill Commissioner Vacancy

Patty provided the Director's Report. We will be issued Biennial Plan Update Guidelines later this month for use as we update our Comprehensive Plan. Updates are due to the State Office by January 31, 2006. This is six months sooner than anticipated. Patty asked the commission for their recommendation on how to accomplish this in the next six months. Kathy mentioned that the Leadership Challenge group would be meeting soon and it may be that they could help facilitate the update process. Discussion followed, and the consensus was to publicize the update process through radio and newspaper venues, use one of our fall commission meetings to solicit public input, broaden the opportunity for public input through a survey, and post the survey on our web page. Donna said she has a Community Needs Assessment format that Patty is welcome to use. Director's Report

Recommended Process for Comprehensive Plan Biennial Update

House Bill 3029 passed out of the Oregon Senate with a unanimous vote. This bill transfers Juvenile Crime Prevention and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families. It's now on the way to the Governor's desk for signature. Juvenile Crime Prevention transfer to OCCF

The biggest issue is the budget. OCCF still did not have a budget on July 1st; therefore, we are operating on a continuing resolution. Funding for the month of July will be determined using the Governor's Recommended Budget as an estimate. CCF Operating on a Continuing Resolution

Provider contracts will be drafted and presented to the County Court once we complete our decisions on funding providers and any requests for proposals (RFPs) needed.

Patty asked if the commission would like to sponsor a community booth at the Harney County Fair again this year. The consensus was that we should reserve a booth and focus on the 40 Assets theme. Patty will reserve a booth and start planning.

County "40 Assets"
Fair Booth

It was suggested that the Juvenile Department be invited to a future meeting to present an overview of their juvenile crime prevention programs.

Juvenile
Department on
Future Agenda

Patty provided the Commissioners with a summary of our revenue streams and how Harney County presently funds programs.

Contract Renewals
and RFP Discussion

Kathy mentioned that the Training and Employment Consortium (TEC) may be receiving substantial funding cuts this year, and since TEC is one of our providers, Patty said she would look into this.

Donna said that the likely cuts in the Healthy Start program will cut down on the numbers we serve, but because all the early childhood programs are run from the Early Childhood Center, we will still be able to provide services.

Overall, providers are on track with one exception: three of our Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs may not be an appropriate use of the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) funding stream. The consensus of the commission was that the Hines Enrichment, Bulldog Store, and Open Gym Programs are not the best use of our CYF resources, since they do not specifically address priorities identified in our comprehensive plan.

CYF Funds:
Consensus to Drop
Three PYD
Programs

Discussion continued and focused on the Big Buddy Mentoring Program (the PYD program that we funded last year and that does meet the CYF criteria). The Big Buddy Mentoring Program addresses our comprehensive plan priority #6: "Provide intervention to middle and high school students that are identified as "acting out" by school counselors, juvenile department and other local sources." and was funded in the amount of \$8,175. A letter from Gwen Haigh, the PYD program director, which asked that the Big Buddy Mentoring Program be funded again, was provided to the commissioners. Debbie said that with Healthy Start cuts on the horizon, she'd like to see flexible funds go to support that, as the early childhood focus is the most important and our comprehensive plan priority #1 is to increase positive parenting. Therefore, Debbie supports putting the entire CYF funding stream up for bid. Others voiced concern over cutting a program that was approved by the commission last year, since it does meet the funding stream parameters and is effective. Patty clarified that CYF is a flexible funding stream, but one that is separate from our own local budget flexible funds. There were several questions on how the Big Buddy

Discussion on
Whether to
Recompete the CYF
Funds

Mentoring Program money was spent. Commissioners were mindful that it's a good program, but wanted to know if there were ways to provide the program with less dollars. Debbie made a motion to put the CYF fund out for bid, but the motion failed. Further discussion resulted in a consensus that we revisit this issue in August, but with a written report in hand from Gwen that would provide facts and figures, as well as a bottom line on the minimum funding required to provide an effective Big Buddy Mentoring Program. Patty said she'd get Gwen to provide such a report and get it to the commissioners before the next meeting.

More Information
Requested on the
Big Buddy
Mentoring Program

Under late items, Donna told the commission about the Free to Grow program, through Head Start. This program teaches local families how to look around their communities, identify junky areas, illegal drug environments and other dangerous activities, and find ways to clean up the neighborhood. Donna is letting community partners know about the program and that national trainers will be coming to Pendleton on September 19th and 20th to train people.

Late Items –
Free to Grow
Program

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. The next HCCCF meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2005 at 1:30 pm at the State Office Building conference room.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dorroh - Director