

Harney County Commission on Children and Families
Regular Meeting Minutes
7/11/06

Attending: Dan Nichols, Chair; Kristen Johnson; Debbie Ausmus; Lou Davies;
Joyce Moser; Ann Vloedman; Sonni Svejcar; Kristi Curtis,
Assistant; Patty Dorroh, Director
Absent: Michelle Bradach; Ramona Hofman
Guests: Donna Schnitker; Kathy Rementeria; Chris Phillips; Dave Courtney;
Ruby Bottom; Kerryann Woome; Dana Brooks; Pete Trepanier;
Marcie Colahan

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 minutes for the May 9th meeting were approved as written.

DHS Update on Child Abuse and Neglect

Chris Phillips gave a report on the most recent statistics of child abuse in Harney County. She reported that in 2003, the victim rate per 1,000 children was 19.7. In 2004, the rate increased to 37.9 per 1,000 children, and then in 2005, the rate decreased to 24.1. Chris stated this significant drop is due the prevention efforts in the community and DHS using a guided assessment process to screen the incoming reports. Chris stated the Early Childhood Center has been an excellent prevention program. In 2003, DHS was not responding to all the child abuse calls and an interim manager was brought in to make some changes. Chris said DHS has made it a priority to provide consistent case follow up and to work with a family one time, rather than bringing the family in and out of the system.

Underage Drinking Prevention Efforts in Harney County

Kathy Rementeria distributed statistics on underage drinking and arrests attributed to juveniles consuming alcohol. Harney County has had 15 alcohol related deaths (minors) in the last thirteen years. She provided an update of the Underage Drinking subcommittee formed from the Community Action Team. The COPS grant has been resubmitted to receive funds for a School Resource Officer (SRO). The committee has brainstormed ideas to prevent underage drinking. Some ideas are: writing an article for the newspaper, putting stickers that list the consequences of furnishing alcohol to minors on alcohol in stores, and having a billboard with pictures of teens that were killed by alcohol related

accidents. Kathy stated the biggest problem is the attitude of people who don't think underage drinking is a problem.

Youth Suicide and Depression Prevention

Pete Trepanier, of Bend, came to give a presentation on awareness of youth suicide. Pete lost a son to suicide and has made it his mission to educate others of the signs and symptoms of youth suicide. By the year 2020, depression will be the second most burdensome disease. In the U.S. alone, fourteen people die every day from suicide. Pete presented four different curriculums that schools can use in Health classes to promote suicide awareness. Those curriculums are the Jason Foundation, Red Flags, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), and QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Institute. Pete stated Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes County are all using these curriculums in their schools. He provided two of the program curriculum packages to Dave Courtney and Marcie Colahan of School District 3 for their examination and potential use.

Safe and Drug Free Community Efforts in Grant County

Dana Brooks, Executive Director of Grant CCF, introduced the Grant County Prevention Coordinator, Kerryann Woomer. Grant County has recently received a grant of \$100,000 per year for five years, with the option of renewing for five additional years. The grant monies are for safety and prevention. Hood River has a dynamic prevention program and has agreed to mentor Grant County in their efforts to make it a safe and drug free community. Grant County surveyed the community using a community assessment tool to get ideas and look at different resources. They have also referred to the data taken from the Oregon Healthy Teens Survey done in their county. They have established prevention classes in the schools, a mentoring program for kids, and are working to educate the community about issues involving tobacco/alcohol sales to minors. They are trying to establish adult awareness of underage drinking and change community norms that say underage drinking is acceptable.

Strategic Fundraising

Kristi gave a report on a workshop she attended in Salem, titled "Strategic Fundraising." This workshop provided information on sources for funding, fundraising techniques, and strategies for successful fundraising. Kristi will begin a grant writing course through TVCC later this month.

Kids' Rural Work Projects-Early Information

Dan had expressed interest in a rural work project for kids at our last meeting. Kristi talked with Debbie White from TEC and researched child labor laws on the internet to see what steps would need to be taken. To begin, we would need a sponsor or overhead agency to be the employer of record and provide liability insurance. Federal laws restrict minors from doing hazardous jobs and also restrict hours available to work. More research needs to be done.

Director's Report

Update

1. Providers continue to provide quality services.
2. Our recommended budget was approved at the May 10th meeting of the County Court.
3. Contracts with providers were also approved and are in place.

Provider Update

1. The 4th Quarter reports are due from our providers to Patty this Friday. Patty will enter the data and wrap up the 2005-2006 year. The information was entered into the state data base and reports were signed off today by Dan.
2. The Boys & Girls Club has a new director, Ruby Bottom.
3. CASA is actively working on obtaining national certification.
4. Great Start, Big Buddy Mentoring, and Community Stewardship Corps will start back up in September.
5. Healthy Start completed the required work plan. Patty signed it and sent it in to OCCF. Patty applied for Community Action Agency funding for our Healthy Start program and we were awarded \$3,500.

Comprehensive Planning

1. The update to the Harney County Comprehensive Plan for Children and Families was submitted in January 2006. We don't know yet if we'll be directed to do a complete re-mapping in 2008, or if we will continue to update. Next update will likely be due in 2008, with preparatory work in 2007.
2. Partners for Children and Families has begun a 2-year initiative called Promoting the Social and Emotional Well-being of Children. This will be the first time a State Level action is occurring based on issues identified in the local comprehensive plans.

Basic Capacity

1. Our request for a waiver of the 2.0 FTE local staffing was approved for this biennium. We are staffed at 1.25 FTE, with in-kind support bringing us to 1.5 FTE.
2. There is some talk of regionalizing commission staffing and work. Eastern counties feel strongly that our communities would lose out on what is special and effective about commission work if that happens. Patty recommended supporting that we retain a local commission rather than a regional commission.

Cultural Competency Training

We're working on arranging a one-day cultural competency training here in Burns, sponsored by the commission. The date will either be the first or third week in October. Topics will center on awareness of what cultural competency is, why it's valuable, and cultural differences along different socio-economic lines. DHS, CASA, HOPE, and the Burns Paiute Tribe are interested in attending. It will be open to anyone.

Director's Schedule

Patty will be out of town the first two weeks of August. There is no official business that the commission needs to conduct; therefore Patty recommended that we not meet until September 12th.

Donation Applications Review

The donation applications were reviewed by the committee before the meeting. The following awards were approved to receive our local flexible funds: Robotics Club - \$1,000; Burns Paiute Powwow - \$500; Opie Rodeo - \$1,500; Library Children's Services - \$5,000; and USA Wrestling team - \$500. HCCCF will recommend that the Robotics Team give a presentation to the Boys & Girls Club to promote interest in their activities.

Commissioner Sign-Up Opportunities

A sign-up sheet was passed around for commissioners to assist with different projects. There are opportunities to help with the Harney County Fair booth, the Kids' Rural Work Program, HCCCF Annual Retreat Planning, and attend the State Commission meeting in Baker City.

Late Items

No late items were discussed.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m. There will not be a meeting in August. The next HCCCF meeting is scheduled for September 12th at 2:00 p.m. in the State Office Building conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Curtis