

# Harney County Commission on Children and Families

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### 8/11/05

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

Dan called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. No public comments were offered. Introductions were made. Dan welcomed Kristen as the newest member of the commission.

Call to order

The agenda for today's meeting and minutes for the July 6th meeting were approved as written.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Patty provided the Director's Report, which covered a budget and provider update. The OCCF budget is slated to be signed this week. Once that happens, the state office will disseminate specific dollar figures for each county and each funding stream. For most of our programs, we are expecting cuts. The Healthy Start Program will receive a large state-wide budget cut of approximately \$4 million. The details of how this cut will be apportioned for individual county programs will be determined through a process that involves a steering committee, with opportunity for county input.

Director's Report

Budget Update

At the next HCCCF meeting, the commission will need to formally vote on the contract awards for the programs we fund. At that time Patty will provide a summary handout to guide the discussion and decision-making. Contracts must then be drafted and presented for provider signature and County Court approval.

Funding Decisions to be Formalized at Next Meeting

Harney County was selected as one of a few counties whose Healthy Start program will receive a site visit and peer review as part of the credentialing process for Healthy Families America. We are scheduled for evaluation on Sept 19 and 20.

Healthy Start Site Visit and Evaluation

Since Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) and the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee have been transferred to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, Patty has invited John Copenhaver, our local Juvenile Director, to speak to us about the juvenile prevention programs. He plans to be our agenda for the October meeting.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Topics on October Agenda

Michelle asked if tribal JCP funding comes under the HCCCF. If so, there may be ways to leverage the JCP funds of both the county and tribe for greater effect in the area. Several commissioners said they thought the tribal funding streams are entirely separate and not under HCCCF oversight, due to the sovereign nature of tribal governments. Patty said she would look into it and report at the next meeting.

County and Tribal JCP Funding Question

The 8<sup>th</sup> biennium quarter ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We completed our final quarterly reports, signed an IGA that funded the continuing resolution we operated on in July, and received approval and signature from the County Court for the 2005-2007 Partnership Agreement, which outlines the local commission's obligations and the state commission's responsibilities.

Biennium Close Out  
and New  
Partnership  
Agreement

Patty congratulated Kristen Johnson on her appointment to the commission. The County Court formally appointed her on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Kristen Johnson  
appointed to  
HCCCF

Patty attended the Community Action Team (CAT) meeting on August 9th, where she mentioned the update to our comprehensive plan that will occur this Fall. She asked that community partners and individuals identify their priority issues.

CAT asked to  
participate in Plan  
Update Process

Patty provided each commissioner a copy of the Biennial plan update Guidelines that were published by the state office. Commissioners were asked to look them over when they have time. Commissioners were also provided an outline of the process to be used to accomplish the update. The process will include public announcements, dissemination of a community needs survey, and an HCCCF meeting dedicated to public input on the plan. This process was developed based on commissioner recommendations from the last meeting.

Recommended  
Process for  
Comprehensive  
Plan Biennial  
Update

Dan noted that there seems to be very little public comment these days at our commission meetings, and wondered if something has changed. He recalled when people would frequently show up and bring issues to the commission. Susan commented that she believes a lot of prevention programs have been put into motion, and that the community seems to be on track.

Less Public  
Comment than in  
Years Past

Patty provided the commissioners with a list of near term major events and tasks for commission attention, and asked for volunteers to assist and lend their expertise. The following commissioner and partner volunteer assignments were made: Community Fair Booth – Kristen, Sonni, Ramona and Kathy; Comprehensive Plan Update Process – Dan and Donna; KZZR Open Mike Presentation – Ann; HCCCF Annual Retreat Planning – Ramona.

Commissioners  
Volunteer for Fall  
Projects, Events

Patty summarized the Big Buddy Mentoring Program information that Gwen Haigh provided, via letter, at the commission's request. Because of community partner leveraging, Gwen will be able to provide the program for \$6,000 this year. (That amount is less than we funded last year.) Ramona moved and Michelle seconded that the commission fund the Big Buddy Mentoring Program with \$6,000 of CYF funds.

Big Buddy  
Mentoring Program  
Discussion

There was further discussion. Lou stated that he would like to see the whole picture in order to make the best funding decision, and that perhaps we should put the entire CYF funding stream out to bid. Kathy offered her observations on the benefits of the Big Buddy Program, not

only for the important mentoring and bonding the “Littles” receive, but also for the community service opportunity provided for the “Bigs.” Dan stated that the issue before the commission is whether to put the entire \$11,250 CYF funds out to bid, or whether to fund the Big Buddy Mentoring Program for \$6,000 and make a separate decision on the remaining \$5,125.

A vote was taken on the motion to fund the Big Buddy Mentoring Program for \$6,000. A unanimous decision was made to fund it. Dan expressed his appreciation for Gwen’s admirable efforts in running such a good program and being so fiscally responsible.

Big Buddy Mentoring Program Funded

Laura Van Cleave, Director of the HOPE domestic violence shelter, was given the floor to speak. She inquired about the commission’s Request for Proposal (RFP) process and whether anti-violence programs were part of the HCCCF mission. Laura described the Second Steps program that involves training for teachers and ways to regularly reinforce anti-violence values and behaviors. Dan stated that a good way to proceed would be to first ask the schools if they have or want to take on a program like that. Patty and Debbie commented that Slater Elementary School may already have tried that program. Laura agreed and said she plans to approach School District 3 about the program. In response to Laura’s questions, Lou said that anti-violence programs do fall under the commission’s work and Patty described the RFP process that occurs every few years (and when needed). The commission puts out public notices and announcements, holds bidder workshops, allows time for proposal development, and evaluates the proposals.

Comments from Laura Van Cleave Regarding the Second Step Program and Anti-Violence Programs

Under Late Items, Dan addressed the topic of our annual retreat because Patty wanted to know what the commissioners prefer in the way of format. Dan mentioned that the retreat has often been a time for the commissioners to get together to brainstorm particular issues or set a strategic vision. Debbie asked about the list of issues and ideas that came from our January retreat. Patty said she’ll bring copies of that list to the next HCCCF meeting for distribution.

Late Items:  
Annual Retreat Comments

Lou asked if we could plan out our meeting topics to invite guests to share information about targeted areas of interest. Patty said she will notify local experts and try to schedule them for our October and November meetings. The November meeting will also be open for public at large input.

Future Meeting Agenda Topics

Donna spoke about the “Free to Grow” pilot program being introduced via training session in Hermiston September 20-22. Four people from Harney County will be attending. This program helps families learn ways to keep their children safe in their own neighborhoods by identifying problem areas, teaching parents how to address the problems, and learn to take incremental steps toward solving problems. The Community Action Team may be taking this effort on as one of its programs. Ramona mentioned stated that it’s a very good idea, but a hard one also. The City of Hines has been challenged in dealing with

Free to Grow Program: More Information and General Comments

these sorts of issues. Dan added that the County Court has had to wrestle with these issues also, and that a grassroots approach such as Free to Grow may be more effective than government telling people what to do. Kristen offered that PRIDE and its clean-up efforts may be able to tie into that.

Dan asked Susan how the Boys & Girls Club is doing. She said they are very busy, with an average of 40 kids a day participating in club activities, and that the funding situation is in pretty good shape this year.

Boys & Girls Club  
Programs Going  
Well

Meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm. Due to the dates of the Harney County Fair next month, it was decided to hold the next HCCCF meeting a week early, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 1:30pm in the State Office Building conference room.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Dorroh - Director