

UMATILLA COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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June 3, 2009

Members present: Larry Hanson, Arron Swenson, Sheri Maze, Charles Logan-Belford, Toni Sloan & Teresa Elisoff

Members absent: Regina Marks (excused),

Staff present: Shelley Ena

May, 6 2009 meeting minutes: Sheri moved and Toni seconded to approve, motion passed.

Reports:

Shelley presented a calendar for June with meetings, activities, and vacation days designated. She added a 1:30 webinar tomorrow that OCCF will have.

Larry shared his activities.

Coalition of CCF's report: E-mails have been forwarded to members the coalition's secretary, Bill Thomas that originated from Dave Fiskum, the coalition's legislative liaison.

No site visit reports

Old business:

1. Local Healthy Start Program: We received the go ahead to issue a Healthy Start Request for Application. Shelley modeled the application from one that Clackamas County used. The executive committee approved it and it was released on June 1st. It can be found on the county "public notices" website. Two organizations requested notification of its release which was done. Due date is noon on June 26th. Volunteers for the RFA Review Committee were solicited. Toni and Theresa volunteered. Genni Lehnert, Health Dept. Administer is willing to also be on the committee. Larry suggested that Karen Crowder would be a good person to add to it and asked Shelley to issue that invitation to her. Shelley also indicated that she had been contacted by a couple of healthy start parents when they heard that the program would not continue at the health department. Maybe one of them would be willing to sit on the committee. Regina also indicated that she would be willing to be an alternate if necessary. This committee makeup was approved by all members present by consensus.

2. JCP planning process: The final version of the JCP planning guidelines were emailed to members. Our Youth Services director recognizes that three separate versions of the process are necessary to adequately address the needs from the west end, east end, and central areas of the county. Chuck explained that he will be asking Judge Pahl to issue a formal invitation for participants in this process. Chuck will ask the police chiefs of Hermiston, Pendleton, and Milton-Freewater to partner with him in organizing a series of forums to set the stage. Members will be kept informed and asked to participate to represent their communities.

3. Child Welfare re-design: Joyce shared information about this effort to bring parity to the foster care reimbursement process. Currently the rate at which foster parents are reimbursed is “all over the board”. There is a wide discrepancy depending on where you live. They are attempting to equalize this by establishing a base rate that is the same all over the state. They still don’t know if the legislature will go for it though. Theresa also shared some of the challenges that her office faces with tribal foster care and relative placements; certified foster care versus specialized foster care; etc.

New business:

1. Capacity building ARRA grant: Shelley discussed the opportunity to apply for these federal funds. Connie gave the go ahead if the board agrees that we want to do it. Shelley notified Theresa Ellissoff of the grant and asked that she consider a joint proposal with the tribes. She has received approval from her superiors to go ahead. By collaborating on this with them it should stand out from other applications and hopefully make for a stronger application. The CCF board were all in agreement by consensus that this should be done and gave their approval for Shelley to request that the county commissioners be informed of this plan and issue a resolution.

2. ESD Wraparound Project Update: The group continues to meet. Sub-committees have formed. A Governance Committee is at the head and committees addressing Early Childhood Pre-K, School based services, Therapeutic classrooms, Communications/Technology. There is another meeting tomorrow of the full group.

3. The CASA and Healthy Start re-design: These programs are in the process of going through a series of discussions in committees to improve efficiencies and effectiveness in order to get the biggest bang for the buck. The concern though is that counties with smaller population base will lose out to the metro counties. Representation on those committees by directors of small counties is occurring and hopefully their voices will be heard.

4. The CCF RFP needs to be prepared to be issued now that it looks like the OCCF budget will be approved. Shelley asked that a committee of three convene to see if the 2007 version needs to be changed. CCF members volunteering for that duty are Joyce, Sheri and Larry. (Arron will be an alternate).

5. Oregon Emergency Jobs Program project proposal: An e-mail was forwarded to members explaining this.

Next meeting is July 1, 2009
Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ena