

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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November 10, 2010

Umatilla Morrow County Head Start, Inc Training Room, Hermiston, OR

Members present: Anne Doherty, Sheri Maze, Kim Weisenfluh , Vickie Read, Joyce Turner

Members absent: Arron Swenson, Nora Kramer, Crystal Long, Theresa Elisoff, Jami Niord (all excused)

Staff present: Shelley Ena

Guests: Dave Hughes, Exec. Dir. Agape House

5:30 p.m. – OPEN MEETING

No quorum, so approval of October minutes was tabled till next month. Sheri is acting as meeting facilitator in Theresa's absence.

URGENT BUSINESS

Member contact info: members were asked to make sure that Shelley had all of their contact information correct and complete on the spreadsheet that she provided them with.

Calendar and location of upcoming meetings was not discussed due to the lack of members in attendance. It was decided that the December meeting would be in Pendleton. Location TBD.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION (ORGANIZING CHANGE): ISSUE OF THE MONTH: HUNGER / FOOD INSECURITY

➤ Dave Hughes was asked to attend this meeting to report to us what services Agape House is involved with. He announced receiving some recent grants that would be able to be used to support operational expenses (Walmart grant 39,000) and the Weekend Backpack Program (Juan Young Trust 5,000). They are also entering into an agreement with Tex Ross to purchase 2 acres north of their property. They will announce a campaign to move their accumulation of household materials to a 2nd warehouse that will be built there.

They have been in existence for 25 years. On Dec. 5th they will have a celebration marking their 5th year in their current location. The community is invited to drop in from 2:00-6:00 to see the facility and what they do. Dave also was recently recognized in the top 50 out of 1500 applicants for the "Purpose Prize Fellow" award. He wishes he had made the top 10 because they came with cash awards. But he's right up there with the best of them!

The backpack program started 3 years ago in January to fill a need that was recognized in the schools. Counselors notify him how many are needed and the Agape House and volunteers from different churches and the Altrusa Club prepare and deliver them to local elementary schools in

the West End of the county. What started with 15 backpacks has grown to 110 each week. He identified faith community partners involved with this program are Faith Presbyterian, Umatilla Baptist and Echo Methodist churches. When the local Altrusa Club got involved that led to the Pendleton Altrusa Club adopting the project and spearheaded it in the Pendleton Area. (Vickie mentioned that Pendleton Altrusa also provides backpacks to youth in the middle and high schools)

Agape House also distributes food boxes for needy families. They can receive one box each month. The contents are based on the need, ranging from individuals to families with enough food for a 3-5 day supply. They purchase about \$10-12,000 worth of food, and receive generous donations from local farmers and processors. He identified Bellinger Farms and Steve Walker Melons, several potato growers, Brown and Sons Produce in Milton-Freewter, Hammell Trucking, Coke and Pepsi, and local individuals who grow gardens and bring their excess to them. He beamed that they are able to meet the need in our area because community members are willing to share.

Hermiston, Umatilla, Irrigon, Ukiah and Echo residents receive food from their supplies. They help with supplies for the Open Table lunches 5 times weekly and also help with Senior Centers in Irrigon, Umatilla, Stanfield, Hermiston and the Echo Kiwanis Food Bank.

He highlighted some of their fund raising community activities that are fun and lucrative and invited our members to attend the following: Hermiston's Got Talent in February, July 2-3 Lavender Festival, and the Murder Mystery Dinners.

He indicated that Larry Hanson had now joined his board of directors and Dave thought that he could probably find someone in the community to apply for our board. In closing, he remarked that with an annual budget of \$300,000 they are able to provide over \$4 million worth of food to local residents. That is amazing. Ann asked if they provide any shelter services. No, he said.

- Holiday giving in local communities: Shelley provided a handout that listed numerous local opportunities for holiday giving. Members also included some others. Shelley will add them to the list and re-distribute. Anne suggested that this would be good to be published in the newspaper.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT (SHAPING POLICY & LAW):

- Ending homelessness: Project Community Connect will be debriefing on November 16 at 1:00 at the CAPECO Airport facility. Anne attended the event held at St. Anthony's Hospital and was introduced as the representative of the CCF and she was very impressed with the services that were provided and the number of individuals that were able to access them. Also the number of community partners that supported the effort was commendable.

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS (ENSURING QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY):

- Local Program evaluations: No members were ready to report, though Joyce indicated she is getting close and should have something next month. Anne would like to have us develop a schedule so that members have a target date at which they know to be ready by.

- Commission on Children and Families System: Coalition of CCFs update, OCCF “Critical Choices” meeting report. We discussed the various proposals (Blue, Salmon, etc.) and the establishment of a committee that includes local and state staff and commission representation to further refine and make recommendations to be ready to present at the AOC committee meeting in Eugene on Nov. 16. The Coalition’s proposed “game changer” is to insert language that allows local commissions to “provide services” since current statute language prohibits delivery of “direct services”. It was recognized that the hope is to have a “framework” developed, not necessarily a full-fledged proposal. Anne stated that she will be attending the AOC conference and plans to be at the Human Services Committee meeting. She also may be able to go to the Coalition of CCF meeting prior to that meeting. In light of that, Shelley will not attend and Anne, as the alternate voter, will handle any decision-making for us.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (BRINGING SERVICES TOGETHER):

- Early Childhood: Briefly discussed the intention to insure that the entire age continuum (0-8 yrs) is represented by CCF member involvement such as Sheri and Nora having an early childhood emphasis and expertise.
- Youth development/Juvenile Crime Prevention: Briefly discussed the intention to insure that the entire age continuum is represented by member involvement that has the age group from 9-18. Perhaps Kim, Vickie, Anne & Jamie are members that have a vested interest in that population group.
- Parenting Education Hubs Project: This effort will attempt to make Parenting Education a community norm. This is supported by foundations and OSU. An RFP will be forthcoming that county teams can apply for.
- Wraparound Program Progress: NA

COMPREHENSIVE, COMMUNITY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION (LEADING STRATEGICALLY):

- JCP Prevention funding Technical Assistance: Kim briefly explained that she and Shelley have met with JCP Group Plan applicants to provide Technical Assistance to get them ready to conduct the Youth Risk Assessment and discuss quarterly reporting requirements.
- Comprehensive “Healthy Communities” Assessment (C.H.A.R.T.): County Public Health has contracted with Dr. Gail Friedly to coordinate this activity and she has met with several different groups to discuss the process. Shelley passed out handouts that Dr. Friedly shared with UCCRUD on Chronic Diseases and Related Risk Factors.

Sheri adjourned the meeting at 7:45

Respectfully submitted by Shelley Ena