

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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September 8, 2010

Rm 22 Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton

Members present: Nora Kramer, Anne Doherty, Sheri Maze, Arron Swenson, Crystal Long, Theresa Elisoff, Jami Niord, & Vicki Read

Members absent: Kim Wilson-Noisy & Joyce Turner (both excused)

Staff present: Shelley Ena

Guests: Val Gawf, representing Child Welfare

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Shelley introduced new members and they had two minutes to tell about themselves.

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES: Amended by Arron to note that in addition to the reason not to meet during July and August was that not only was it to recruit new members but also because there had been no election of officers at the June meeting. So his suggestion to take the summer off and come back together after the County Commissioners appointed enough members to make a full legal board so that officers could be elected: (8 members and 1 chair). Theresa moved to approve the minutes as amended, Arron seconded, motion passed.

REPORTS:

1. Coordinator report & Calendar of upcoming events: Calendar passed out to members and acronyms discussed. Summer saw a new grandchild and the wedding of her youngest child. Vacation time was greatly appreciated and much needed.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

➤ Chair and Vice Chair:

Began with nomination for Chairperson:

Theresa nominates Arron, he declines

Theresa nominates Crystal, she declines

Anne will not accept any nominations for some personal reasons but also because she is currently the only person representing the West End and wants to be able to have her vote count.

New members, Jami and Vicki, are uncomfortable in accepting a leadership role at this time considering tonight is only their first official meeting as new members.

It appears that we have a problem. Question as to why can't a professional be the chair? It may need to be addressed with a change in our by laws. At least a call to Peg for her advice is needed. All members present agreed it best to table the election of officers. Arron recommends that staff express to the County Commissioners that we need them to assist in recruitment from

the private sector for non-professional lay representation in order to get a full slate of volunteers to select from.

COMPREHENSIVE, COMMUNITY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION (LEADING STRATEGICALLY):

- Community Level Focus Issue: Reducing Child Abuse and Neglect of children age 0-6 yrs: Val brought stats on current numbers of children in foster care. Discussion about how this reduction is also reflective of some policy changes that provides in-home services to work with parents and takes fewer kids out of the home.
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Planning: Though she was not in attendance Kim has indicated to CCF staff that she will assist with the process to recommend JCP Prevention funding to include Group Specific services that were identified in the JCP planning process for communities that identified a need; i.e., community accountability boards, CARE coordination, mentoring program, youth employment training, afterschool/evening youth support and skill building groups etc. CCF has requested time on the BOCC agenda on Sept. 22 at 10:00 to discuss this matter.
- Early Childhood Planning: Sheri is planning to write up a brief report regarding this and will email it to the group. Shelley reported that the ECPT meets regularly and is working on establishing by-laws.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT (SHAPING POLICY & LAW):

- Establish funding priorities: Discussion of the current reductions being required to be taken in the remainder of this biennium. Members received this via email attachments. It is understood that local programs funded with flexible dollars have contracts that end Sept. 30th. Considering the reduction in funding needed to balance the state budget, we are being required to reduce our budgets for the remainder of the biennium. Regarding the 2011-13 OCCF budget: The OCCF budget work group has met & made recommendations to the state commission's executive committee, all counties have been asked to review and comment on their recommendation. The full state commission meets next week to act on it. Arron expressed frustration with the small amount of flexible funds verses the significantly larger designated program funds (Healthy Start, CASA, Relief Nursery) that we have to use to advance our community plans. Our focus issue is reducing child abuse and neglect. So if we take our local flex funds and backfill the "big" grants at the expense of small local programs then he questions why local board members are even needed. Our board did not reach consensus on the matter of establishing funding priorities. Further analysis is needed and a discussion with Peg, OCCF regional coordinator, might be helpful.
- Establish funding policies that promote geographic parity to the greatest extent possible: This policy is one that is important to our county commissioners. CCF has been mindful of that yet does not limit access or set caps based on which town a family is from.

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION (ORGANIZING CHANGE):

- Raising Community Awareness: Did you know...Altrusa looks to expand backpack program to include middle and high schoolers this year in Pendleton Schools, as stated in an article in the EO dated Aug. 25. Members also added local input. Anne provided copies to members of an article from the Aug. 22, 2010 Oregonian titled "Should the Oregon Commission on Children and Families be Eliminated?" Being new to the CCF board, she was unclear if the message was pro or con, for or against local or state CCFs. Some

discussion ensued. It raised awareness of the local members that Oregon's money crisis is requiring hard choices that our legislators will debate. The resources that local commissions can provide in local communities are vital to help fill the gaps that exist. But when does filling gaps become enabling bad behavior?

- Comprehensive Health Assessment Update: refer to issue brief
- Project Community Connect: refer to issue brief
- Free Clinic Steering Committee: refer to issue brief
- Celebrate Families Festival: Commission discussed that the goals for this event have been met. Now that communities are stepping up and taking the lead to implement similar, focused events that connect families with services now is the right time for CCF to back out and not sponsor this event in Pendleton this November. Consequently the need to appoint committee chairpersons for this event does not exist. Shelley will inform the Convention Center and past non-profit vendors/participants by email that the November event will not take place.

Meeting ended at 7:25 when members started leaving to attend other functions or go home. No Chairperson designated to adjourn meeting. Remainder of the agenda is tabled till next meeting.

SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (BRINGING SERVICES TOGETHER):

- Parent Education Hubs Project Shelley/discussion (5 min)
- Wraparound Program Progress Shelley/discussion (5 min)

SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS (ENSURING QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY):

- Healthy Start Evaluation (Nora next time) NPC Research (2 min)
 - Local Program evaluations Sheri (5 min)
 - CCF Self Assessment (due date Oct. 15) Action (10 min)
- (Reminder that members were asked to complete their personal assessment of CCF and were given the "Self Assessment Template" at the Board Retreat in March)

ISSUE BRIEF WAS SENT WITH AGENDA
SELF ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE WAS SENT WITH AGENDA

Respectfully Submitted by Shelley Ena