

MINUTES

Commission on Children and Families
CASA —174 Deadmond Ferry Road, Springfield

April 23, 2008
5:30 p.m.

- PRESENT:** Judith Hampton, Chairperson; Chuck Boyer, Marty Beyer, Elizabeth Clewett, Sharri Da Silva, Debi Farr, Karen Hamilton, Teresa Kintigh, John Radich, Ryan Stroup, Andy Whitmore, CCF Members; Alicia Hays, Robin Schaefer, Christine Rogers, Serafina Clarke, Diana Avery, Nancy Bischofs-Reeves; DCF staff.
- ABSENT:** Debra Depew, Abigael Fender, Rob Jerome, Angel Jones, Kitty Piercy, Kevin Maloney, Joachim Schulz, Peter Sorenson, Faye Stewart and Shirley Swank
- GUESTS:** Vena Williams, Lane Family Connections; Carol Freitas, Birth to Three Healthy Start; Helen Walton, Relief Nursery Healthy Start; Megan Friese, CASA; Erika Goldsmith, UO Intern, Heidi Haskell and Erin Owen, Health Policy Research NW
- HANDOUTS:** March 19, 2008 CCF Meeting Minutes
CASA Budget & Strategic Plan Forecasting 2008-2009
Lane County's Six-Year Priorities for Children, Youth & Families (SB555)
Lane County Home Visiting Program Questionnaire
CCF Self-Evaluation Memorandum
Key Outcomes from Oregon's Healthy Start Program 2006-2007
Healthy Start of Lane County-Implementation & Data Outcome Report 2006-2007
Lane County Preliminary General Fund Recommendations

I. WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Judith Hampton opened the meeting at 5:45 one short of a quorum.

Vena Williams, Director of Lane Family Connections thanked the Commission for its recent allocation of funding to the Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

II. CASA WELCOME – Megan Friese

Ms. Friese described the work of Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) as a national non-profit organization that provides advocates for children in the legal system. She supplied a brief history of the CASA house. It was the birthplace and family home of Harold Rice and later, of his wife, Leona, as well. When Sony purchased the house to move it off their building site, the company offered it to CASA for the agency's use. Ms. Friese reviewed the key factors that are going into CASA's budget & strategic plan forecast for 2008-2009 (see handout).

Mr. Radich thanked Ms. Friese and CASA for hosting the meeting; he expressed the importance of CASA's presence in child welfare cases.

III. COMMUNITY FOCUS AREA UPDATE

Serafina Clarke handed out a summary of the progress made in the year-long process for the SB555 plan, stating that work has now begun on the final top three focus areas: Reduce Child Maltreatment for high risk families, Increase quality childcare for 0-3 year olds and Transitional services for psychiatrically impaired youth/young adults ages 16-24 (see handout). This work is being done through the Early Childhood Planning Team and the Mental Health for Transitional Youth Group.

The ECPT has been focusing on the first two focus areas. Vena Williams announced that on May 8 there will be a Provider Appreciation Day and that BRING would facilitate an art workshop for the children at the event. Erin Owen and Heidi Haskell from Health Policy Research Northwest handed out drafts of the Home Visiting Program Questionnaire and asked the Commission for input. The goal of the survey is to gain more specific information from providers on home visiting services (see handout).

Teresa Kintigh announced that she attended her first meeting of the Mental Health for Transitional Youth group, which meets biweekly at Lane County Mental Health. She was impressed with the number of people representing different parts of the mental health community, including representatives of several Lane County Mental Health programs, The Trauma Healing Project, DHS, and several mental health therapists. She described the group as being in its first phase; currently, the group is determining its mission statement.

IV. CCF SELF-EVALUATION

Ms. Rogers administered the Commission's second annual performance evaluation review, distributing electronic voting apparatus also known as "clickers" to each of the members. The members voted to indicate their degree of satisfaction on a number of issues that were displayed on the screen. The information has a dual purpose and will be used for County and State performance measures (see handout).

V. HEALTHY START UPDATE

Ms. Bischofs introduced a seven-minute film on Healthy Start put together in Marion County.

Ms. Freitas distributed copies of a report entitled *The Implementation and Outcome of Healthy Start 2006-2007* and the results of a telephone survey posed to Healthy Start participants. During discussion, she mentioned that their organization has taken on a part-time bi-lingual employee to help with screening.

Ms. Bischofs emphasized the importance of biculturalism in their offices when 67 percent of Latino families with Healthy Start stay for the long haul, generally, a period of about three years. She asked for feedback from the Commission on the survey used to assess Healthy Start services and expressed

particular interest in learning about gaps or duplication of services by other home visit agencies, and ways to increase outreach. The Commission discussed ways to make future surveys more effective

Ms. Hampton commented that she would like to see the Executive Committee help with outreach, perhaps through increasing publicity and asked staff to put it on the agenda of the Executive Committee's May 5 meeting. Ms. Hays suggested that the Early Childhood Team put together a proposal.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

The group attained a quorum when Ms. Farr arrived at 6:50 p.m.

The minutes of the March 19 meeting should be amended to include the presence(s) of Ms. Kintigh and Ms. Beyer.

Mr. Boyer's motion to approve of the minutes as amended was seconded by Mr. Radich. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In response to a request from Ms. Hays, Mr. Radich reported on child trauma imposed when a parent is incarcerated, whether he or she is present during the arrest or comes home from school to find the parent removed. He said that a joint sub-committee consisting of members of the Public Safety Coordinating Council and the Commission on Children and Families had drawn up a questionnaire asking Law Enforcement and perhaps others about their protocol in dealing with children in these situations.

Ms. Rogers said that the information would actually be put together during an interview conducted with a staff person, but that sending out the survey in advance would give participants an idea of what to expect as well as a chance to collect the requested information.

Ms. Hays reported that Commissioner Green had suggested the letter go out on CCF letterhead rather than that of the Safety Coordinating Council.

A motion from Ms. Hays that Chairperson Hampton compose such a letter was approved by consensus.

Ms. Hays reported that she, Chairperson Hampton and Heather Murphy presented before the Board of County Commissioners for Child Abuse Awareness month. The Board proclaimed May Child Abuse Awareness Month in Lane County.

Ms. Hays said that staff met with Priscilla Gould and Success by Six to talk about how the Commission's three top focus areas fit with those of the latter group, and possibly doing some work together. Ms. Hays said the groups plan to continue that discussion.

Ms. Hays reported that she submitted their annual input to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families and expressed her commitment to:

- Continuing to increase basic capacity and flexible funds
- Continuing to support an increase in the program funds for Healthy Start, Relief Nursery and CASA.
- Continued lack of funds for Runaway Homeless Youth.

Ms. Hays said she expected a decline in state funds, but that she believed itemizing priorities made it harder for government agencies to make cuts in those areas

- **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Hays passed out copies of the handout she had been giving to State legislators with whom she has been meeting now that they're not in session. Her topics include CCF's planning process, focus area and the survey. She commented that people had asked for copies of the survey "or at least, links."

Ms. Avery added that staff had had received "a very nice response" from the governor's office regarding the Commission's leadership around a DHS budget issue for the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Hays said that the Legislative Committee will re-commence its meetings when the State Legislature convenes in Salem.

- **MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS**

The Executive Committee will meet at noon on May 5th.

The Commission will next convene in Florence at 5:30 p.m. on May 28. Ms. Hays encouraged members to ride share. Ms. Clarke said she had been notified that local childcare providers were planned to address the Commission and suggested that the meeting take on a Florence flavor.

The June meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday, June 25.

VIII. PLANNING FOR COUNTY BUDGET MEETING – Alicia Hays

Ms. Hays reported that the County Commission's plans for the budget included cuts to:

- Sheriff's Department
- WIC
- Domestic Violence Supervision
- Human Service Commission (currently funded by the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County)

Ms. Hays said that CCF would present its proposed budget on May 6. This will be followed by an hour of public comment, which will be divided among those wishing to speak. She said that groups in the community were mobilizing in support of human services, but she suggested that the case might carry more weight if presented by the Commissioners. She suggested that rather than speaking, members of the

public in attendance wishing to show their support wear red and stand up as a body when asked to do so by one of the speakers.

She said she had heard that a group of Human Service providers are considering an initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

(Recorded by Carolanne Sudderth)