

Commission on Children & Families
October 16, 2007
5:30 p.m.—ESD Conference Room

Minutes

Members Present: Lois Allen, Les Esparza, Bonnie Ford, Bruce Justis, Barbara Matthews, Shirley Pettersen, and Sandi Smick

Members Absent: Dave Lee and Dan Forbess

Others Present: John Ayer, Michael Kurtz, Kelly Southern, Pauline Martel, Jerry Waybrant

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg, Gail Phillips, and Debbie Wheeler

Lois called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She said the first portion of the meeting would be dedicated to a public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Douglas County 2008-2014 Comprehensive Plan for
Children & Families.**

Lois Allen opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. She said that the Douglas County Commission on Children & Families is conducting a public hearing to obtain citizen comments on the *Douglas County 2008-2014 Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families*.

John Ayer said that he thought the Commission's plan would not work because too many changes would occur before 2014. Lois responded that the guidelines for a six year plan were given to us by the State Commission. Gillian added that updates are also done periodically.

Pauline Martel commented that a focus area on juvenile justice issues should be added. She indicated that the Douglas County Juvenile Department was currently working on a juvenile justice focus issue. Additionally, she added that she is working with the Health Department on a focus issue around children's mental health.

Linda Clary, on behalf of the League of Women Voters Umpqua Valley, submitted written testimony to the Commission prior to the public hearing (*attached*). Gillian Wesenberg distributed this testimony to the members.

Lois thanked those who testified, and reminded the audience to e-mail their comments to the Commission office. She closed the public hearing portion of this meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Regular Commission Meeting

Lois asked those present to introduce themselves.

Minutes: Lois asked for approval of the May 15, 2007, minutes. Bruce Justis made a motion to approve the May 15, 2007, minutes; Les Esparza seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. Lois asked for approval of the September 18, 2007, minutes. Sandi Smick made a motion to approve the September 18, 2007, minutes; Shirley Peterson seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's Report:

- ***Runaway & Homeless Youth:*** Lois reported that the State Commission on Children & Families will be releasing a Request for Proposals under their runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative. The maximum award amount is \$250,000 and the minimum award amount is \$50,000. She said the Executive Committee recommended that our local commission apply for these funds as part of the work that is being done with the Douglas County Homeless Youth Coalition.

Motion: Sandi Smick made a motion that the Commission apply for these funds in collaboration with the Douglas County Homeless Youth Coalition. Bonnie Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- ***Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan:*** Douglas County prepared and submitted a juvenile crime prevention plan in 1999 and an update in 2001-03. At the Commission's September 18, 2007, meeting Christina McMahan and Janet Holland asked that the Commission review the current plan. At their October 4, 2007, meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed this request. Lois said the Executive Committee recommends that the Douglas County Commission on Children & Families charter a task group to make recommendations as to updating the High-Risk Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan. Bruce read the names of the individuals being recommended for the task group:

- A. Lois Allen, Commission Chair
- B. Steve Allanketner, Options Counseling Services
- C. Jack Banta, District Attorney
- D. Phil Bowser, Retired School Psychologist
- E. Steve Darling, Oregon Department of Human Services
- F. Trista Hagar, Parent
- G. Rep. Bruce Hanna
- H. Jon Hill, Douglas Education Service District
- I. Janet Holland, Douglas County Mental Health Division
- J. Bruce Justis, Retired Winston Police Chief
- K. Senator Jeff Kruse
- L. John Lahley, Superintendent Sutherlin School District

- M. Pauline Martel, ADAPT
- N. Christina McMahan, Douglas County Juvenile Department
- O. Lee Paterson, Roseburg School District
- P. Matt Newey, Options Counseling
- Q. Pastor Steve Schenewerk
- R. Sharon Stanphill, Cow Creek Tribe
- S. Jerry Waybrant, Oregon Department of Human Services
- T. Susan Whited - Parent
- U. Duane Yecha, Superintendent Winston-Dillard School District
- V. Youth [two]

Motion: Sandi Smick made a motion to accept the Executive Committee’s recommendation; Les Esparza seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director’s Report: Gillian Wesenberg said that she and the staff have been working diligently on the comprehensive plan, plus the Build Our Kids Campaign. She thanked the staff for their efforts.

Youth Advisory Board Update: Kendra Wilson of the Boys & Girls Club reported on behalf of the Youth Advisory Board. Kendra said that many of the YAB members have left, and she is in the process of recruiting new members. She introduced Jeremy Gegenhuber, who is a sophomore at Roseburg High School. Jeremy said that he is very interested in becoming the Commission’s Youth Liaison.

Motion: Sandi Smick made a motion that the Commission recommend Jeremy to the Board of County Commissioners for the Youth Liaison. Bruce Justis seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Douglas County 2008-2014 Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families: Gillian provided a power point presentation on the draft plan. In order to complete the plan, the commission needs to make some key decisions at its October 16 meeting:

Decision #1. Does the commission affirm Douglas County’s vision statement?

Douglas County’s vision statement for children and families was developed in 1994 and affirmed during the 2001-07 planning process. The commission needs to again affirm the vision statement or offer direction on how a new vision statement should be developed. The existing vision statement is:

Douglas County will be a place where there is a safe, nurturing environment, where all children will flourish, and grow to their highest potential.

Motion: Les Esparza made a motion that the Commission affirm the vision statement. Sandi Smick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Decision #2. Should the commission add three new high level outcomes to the list of nineteen that the commission has tracked historically?

State plan instructions expand the possibilities of data sets for counties to track. Several pages of high level outcomes are offered for counties to consider. Three outcome areas appear to have benefit to Douglas County's strategic directions and could be tracked in addition to the nineteen high level outcomes that we have tracked in the past. Note that one outcome was identified which was not included on the state list. While advocates have recommended a mental health outcome at the state level, the Progress Board has yet to agree on such an outcome to date.

The following three new high level outcomes are proposed:

a. Outcome #20 - ***Mental Health***. Propose adding a measure related to mental health.

Rationale: There has been an increasing recognition of mental health needs and how they impact children in many systems: juvenile, health, public safety, child welfare and education, for example. An outcome about mental health would continue to highlight this important area. The commission would need to work with partners to develop such an outcome.

b. Outcome #49 - ***Positive Youth Development***. Percent of Oregon teens who report positive youth development attributes.

Rationale: The Douglas County Commission on Children and Families advocated for this high level outcome in prior planning processes. We observed that the youth outcomes focused on deficit areas: youth substance abuse, teen pregnancy, suicide, juvenile crime and school failure. The state responded with a new high level outcome that is still in development. With the commission's emphasis on asset building, this outcome would highlight the strengths of youth, rather than solely youth problems.

c. Outcome #56 - ***Homelessness***. Number of Oregonians that are homeless on any given night.

Rationale: This high level outcome encompasses all homeless people, not only homeless youth. However, having such an outcome does focus attention on the issue and relates to Douglas County's concerns about homeless and runaway youth.

Motion: Bruce Justis made a motion to approve adding the three proposed high level outcomes to the 2008-2014 plan. Les Esparza seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

Decision #3. Which focus issues should the plan set forth to measure and report?

State planning instructions require local plans to identify three to five focus issues that the county will address, measure, track and report to the state over the next six years. Plan instructions give the following direction: "Develop measurable, intermediate outcomes. Set targets. Collect intermediate outcome measurement data every six months, beginning on or after July 1, 2008 for each focus issue."

Based on state plan instructions and discussions with state commission staff, the following criteria were proposed to participants at community forums to use in selecting Douglas County's focus issues. The criteria are (1) Is the need supported by data? (2) Are the strategies

measurable? (3) Is the strategy a collaborative, multi-agency approach? (4) Is there community buy-in? (5) Is the issue sustainable over the next six years? and (6) Can the focus issues and strategies generate data in 2008?

This decision is especially important as the selected issues will form the basis of information that Douglas County will use to show the legislature that we are making progress. Community forum participants ranked seven proposed focus issues and were provided an opportunity to add new focus issues to the list.

The following are the four focus issues that received the highest rankings based on the overall combined tally:

1. Comprehensive adult substance abuse intervention and treatment (includes methamphetamine strategy);
2. Parent education and support;
3. Comprehensive youth substance abuse prevention; and
4. Mental health.

Motion: Bruce Justis asked that the Commission also add a focus area concerning juvenile crime. Les Esparza made a motion to approve the four highest ranked focus issues, plus the addition of a focus issue on juvenile crime, that Douglas County will measure and report to the state over the next six year. Sandi Smick seconded this motion; the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission directed staff to bring measurement plans to the November commission meeting for review and approval.

Decision #4. Which topics should be selected for success stories to highlight in the plan?

State plan instructions ask that the plan highlight real-life examples of impacts that our collaborative efforts are having on improving outcomes for children and families. Douglas County has a number of recent successes that we could highlight. Examples are:

1. League of Women Voters study on homeless and runaway youth which resulted in Homeless & Runaway Youth Coalition and the OSU study.
2. DCEPC parenting brokerage which resulted in sustainable parenting classes throughout Douglas County.
3. Methamphetamine Task Force planning which resulted in a successful \$450,000 COPS grant.
4. Winston Area Partnership initiatives which resulted in expanded services, activities and a new community center in Winston.
5. DC CAPS efforts which resulted in Truth, Lies and Videotape public service announcements and expanded efforts around drug-free workplaces.

The commission may submit more than one success story. Topics are not limited to the above list; these are only examples.

The Commission members discussed which success stories to include.

Motion: Bruce Justis said that the Commission has been in many successful projects over the years, and made a motion to also include information on the following with the five suggested stories:

- ▶ Warmline
- ▶ Family Resource Center efforts (i.e. Sutherlin Family Resource Center)
- ▶ After school programs
- ▶ Build Our Kids/Asset efforts
- ▶ Youth Advisory Board efforts

Les Esparza seconded this motion; the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission directed staff to bring success stories to the commission in November for review and approval.

Other: Gillian announced that Douglas County received a grant from the Federal Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in the amount of \$450,000. These funds will support the implementation of a county wide community response strategy to reduce the manufacturing, distribution, transportation, and chronic use of methamphetamine (Meth); and greatly increase resources for children affected by Meth. These additional assets would be available throughout Douglas County, Oregon, including the city of Roseburg.

Adjournment: Lois adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Debbie Wheeler

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FROM THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UMPQUA VALLEY**

As you are aware, the League of Women Voters Umpqua Valley is very interested in homeless and runaway youth. To that end, we championed a local study and advocacy project at the local level and the state level. Because of the energy we (The League, the Commission and other stakeholders) generated in Douglas County on behalf of these young people, Douglas County set an example for the rest of the state to follow as the League of Women Voters Oregon conducted a statewide study addressing the needs of runaway and homeless young people. The League's publication "Oregon's Homeless Youth" has been distributed widely throughout the state and may have influenced the governor's allocation of funds towards this population.

It is the League's sincere wish that these young people will be included in the CCF's final Comprehensive Plan for 2008- 2014. Focus Issue #18 in the current draft discusses strategies to address this vulnerable and fragile group of people. The League supports these approaches and suggests a pro-active robust approach to the creation and ongoing operation of an Emergency Shelter and coordinating services between the service providers.

The League looks to the local CCF to continue to set the "gold standard" for rural Oregon as we care for these future citizens. They must not be ignored and deserve our attention. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Linda F. Clary, Co-President
League of Women Voters Umpqua Valley
541.464.8883