

Commission on Children & Families
November 18, 2008
5:30 p.m.—Douglas ESD
Minutes

Members Present: Lois Allen, Les Esparza, Bonnie Ford, Barbara Matthews, Steve Schenewerk, Suzie McAmis, Dave Lee, Jeremy Gegenhuber, Dan Forbess, Bruce Justis and Shirley Petterson

Members Absent:

Others Present: Meg Story-Adapt, Anne Brown-FDC, Jerry Waybrant-DHS, Father Juniper-Casa de Belen, Patti LaFreniere-Umpqua Partners

Staff Present: Gillian Wesenberg and Dawn Smith

Lois Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and introductions were made.

Minutes: Dave Lee made a motion to approve the October 20, 2008 minutes, Barbara Matthews seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chair Report: Lois Allen-No Report.

Director's Report: Gillian reported that the Commission on Children & Families held interviews for the Management Analyst position. Unfortunately, the successful candidate declined the position. Gillian stated last week Legislative Fiscal asked all the state departments to look at their budgets and see if they could make five percent cuts in the 07-09 Biennium. For the 09-11 Biennium, the commission system will prepare a suggested 20 percent cut in five percent increments. Presently, the Governor sees a shortfall of \$575 million. Gillian attended the Association of Oregon Communities meeting. The Governor's aide stated that the financial forecast could be as much as \$1 billion or more. The future looks bleak at this time for Oregon.

Gillian asked Steve Schenewerk about the schools in Winston. Steve said the prognosis could be better.

Jerry Waybrant stated that Southern Oregon has seen tremendous growth in its unemployment rate and request for services. Douglas County has seen an increase of nine percent in food stamp applications and eleven percent in TANF applications. That's a growth of 300 families in fourteen months. The demand for human services increases as the economy decreases. Bend, Oregon has seen a growth of 30% in the last ninety days for TANF. Gillian stated the Unemployment rate has gone up one percent—the largest increase in 25 years.

Youth Advisory Board Update: Jeremy Gegenhuber gave a report on the Keystone Club. The Club has been looking for volunteer opportunities. Keystone Club volunteered to work a fund raising dance. Two hundred middle school students attended. They had an auction and the Keystone Club students stacked three cords of wood for the highest bidder. They are looking at other opportunities such as Festival of Lights and Salvation Army bell ringing. As an incentive for Keystone Club member volunteer efforts, they plan to have a fun night of bowling or movies. The Club had a pizza sale fundraiser at Roseburg High School during the Basketball Jamboree.

At the last Keystone Club meeting they talked about how to do more for the families of the Boys & Girls Club. The Club decided to choose a child from the Boys & Girls Club and provide a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. They also wanted to give gifts for the children in the home.

Presentation by Patti LaFreniere of Umpqua Partners: Patti gave an overview: Umpqua Partners was formerly known as Douglas County Communities Aligned to Prevent Substance Abuse (DCCAPS). They now meet bi-monthly. Patti passed out the Drug Impact Index. The index was part of a major media event. It focuses on three substances: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Marijuana. Umpqua Partners takes a cautionary approach to include all other drugs. Their major focus is underage drinking because that seems to be the drug of choice among youth. Umpqua Partners has also seen an increase of prescription drug use among teenagers.

Umpqua Partners is starting a new campaign named the Anti-Energy Drink campaign. A lot of the new energy drinks on the market now contain alcohol. The advertising of these drinks is geared to teenagers and young adults. People are not aware how much of the drink affects them. The campaign will place stickers on the energy drinks informing the public that the drink contains alcohol.

Lois thanked everyone for coming tonight.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Smith