

Commission on Children and Families

Regular Commission Meeting

February 17, 2009

5:30 p.m.—Douglas ESD

Minutes

Present: Lois Allen, Les Esparza, Barbara Matthews, Suzie McAmis, Jeremy Gegenhuber, Bruce Justis, Shirley Petterson, Steve Schenewerk, Gillian Wesenberg and Dawn Smith

Absent: Dave Lee, Dan Forbess, and Bonnie Ford

Others: Harry Mullins-DCYHC, Jerry Waybrant-DHS, Father Juniper-Casa de Belen, and Victoria Rodriguez-Confidence Clinic

Lois Allen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

Minutes: Steve Schenewerk made a motion to approve the January 20, 2009 minutes. Les Esparza seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chair Report: Lois Allen started the meeting with a discussion about the Build our Kids (BOK) Steering Committee meeting. Suzy McAmis made some suggestions on how to attract kids and parents to the website by showing them what the BOK website could offer."

Lois stated that the Build our Kids Initiative is about building kids' self-esteem and seeing that they have as many Developmental Assets as possible. The BOK Initiative has started with three public service announcements on local television stations. Next, the BOK Initiative will also be going into communities to build community youth development around the 40 Developmental Assets.

Steve Schenewerk talked about the Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets training held by the Winston Area Community Partnership (WACP) in December of 2008. James Vollbracht (Search Institute) facilitated the training for school administrators, teachers and support staff from the Winston/Dillard School District. The training was also open to community members.

Gillian reported that there are five Build Our Kids (BOK) community pilot programs in Douglas County (Winston, Riddle, Drain, Oakland and Phoenix School).

Director's Report: Gillian reported that she attended the Human Services Ways and Means Legislative budget hearings on February 9, 10 and 11. Gillian also announced that Lois and she would be attending the Commission on Children and Families Human Services Ways and Means hearing in Salem on Wednesday, February 18.

The Commission on Children & Families is working with the BOK pilot sites and Janet Carlson for the evaluations.

Youth Advisory Board Update-Jeremy Gegenhuber: Jeremy shared the Keystone Club's past and present volunteer opportunities.

- **Dance:** On January 30, 2009, the Keystone Club chaperoned a dance at the Boys and Girls Club.
- **ChocolArt:** On January 31, 2009, a ChocolArt fundraiser was held at the Boys and Girls Club. This annual fundraiser is to purchase educational equipment for handicapped students.
- **Parents' Night Out:** On February 13, 2009, the Keystone Club chaperoned kids so that their parents could have a night out.
- **Celebration of Literacy:** On February 21, 2009, the Keystone Club will be assisting Project Literacy at the Boys and Girls Club. The Altrusa Club sponsored the Celebration of Literacy.
- **Pizza Sale:** On March 14, 2009, Joseph Lane Middle School is hosting a Basketball Jamboree where the Club will hold a pizza sale.
- **Keystone/YAB Club Recruitment:** On February 10, 2009, the Club had two new people attend their meeting.

Update on Douglas County Homeless Youth Coalition (DCHYC) by Harry Mullins: The DCHYC began providing services in mid June 2008 at the Boys and Girls Club and moved into their permanent location at Casa de Belen on October 2, 2008. Since beginning operation, the Drop In Center has provided 631 hours of service and had 777 visits. They have served 57 youth ages twelve to twenty. In the month of January, the Drop In Center had fifteen new kids. The ethnicity of the youth includes Native American, Hispanic, Asian-Pacific, Afro-American and Caucasian.

Three females and one male disclosed sexual abuse; two of the cases were referred to law enforcement and two had already been adjudicated. Three runaways were voluntarily reconnected with their families.

Outreach work has covered the major County population areas with 650 hours of work. Information on the Drop In Center program was provided to over 1,000 youth. In November 2008, the Drop In Center added a part-time peer mentor. She is at the Center fifteen hours a week.

There have been tours of the Drop In Center by four schools. Presentations have been made at two high schools, five service clubs, eight church groups, and four community-networking meetings.

The DCHYC will start a mentoring program on Saturdays in March at the Drop In Center. The hours of operation will be 11 a.m.-2 p.m. The program is designed to help youth enrolled in grades six to twelve or attending a GED program. The DCHYC will be marketing this program to Phoenix, Roseburg, Winston, and Sutherlin Schools.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition is having its quarterly strategic and sustainability meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 23 in Room 310 at the Douglas County Court House.

Presentation on Options-DHS Self-Sufficiency Program to provide Family Support and Connections by Kelly Southern: The Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Program funds the Family Support and Connections Program. Options of Oregon provides a worker to help families with everyday issues like:

- connecting to resources
- emergency services

- finding childcare
- children's behavior issues
- housing assistance
- budgeting
- alcohol and drug treatment
- family counseling
- finding support groups
- getting an education
- finding transportation
- job issues
- crisis intervention
- mentoring
- parenting
- advice on family challenges
- medical and dental issues
- goal-setting

Family Support and Connection workers believe that every family has its strengths and needs. The families are the real experts on their strengths and challenges. Sometimes all a family needs is someone to listen without judgment. Workers provide a helping hand to families who are challenged and need help with parenting skills. The workers will work with families to develop a family plan.

The Family Support and Connection worker visits each family weekly at their home. The worker is available to the families twenty-four hours a day, seven-days a week.

Other: The 14th Annual Father/Daughter Dance at the Douglas County Fairgrounds will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009.

Lois thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment: Lois adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Smith