

Commission on Children & Families
Regular Commission Meeting
January 20, 2009
5:30 p.m.—Douglas ESD
Minutes

Present: Lois Allen, Les Esparza, Bonnie Ford, Barbara Matthews, Suzie McAmis, Dave Lee, Jeremy Gegenhuber, Bruce Justis, Shirley Petterson, Gillian Wesenberg and Dawn Smith

Absent: Steve Schenewerk, Dan Forbess

Others: Charlene Strasser-FDC, Jerry Waybrant-DHS, Father Juniper-Casa de Belen, Victoria Rodriguez-Confidence Clinic, Debby Burkholder-CCD, and Jessie Larner-Circuit Court

Lois Allen called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and introductions were made.

Minutes: Les Esparza made a motion to approve the October 20, 2008 minutes. Bruce Justis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Chair Report: Lois Allen-No Report.

Director's Report: Gillian reported that the Legislative budget hearings have started. The Stae financial forecast for the next biennium is usually due the first of March but this session was moved up to February 20. The State Commission's budget committee is asking all partners (local Commissions, CASA, Relief Nurseries, Juvenile Crime Prevention and Healthy Start) to create a budget for next biennium with twenty percent cuts in five percent increments including information on the impacts of the cuts. The DCCF Executive Committee recommended cuts across the board. The DCCF Executive Committee requested a motion to prepare the budget report that is due February 13, 2009.

Barbara Matthews motioned that the full board meet on February 3, 2009 and possibly February 10, 2009 to discuss the budget requirements and prepare a report. Bonnie Ford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Youth Advisory Board Update-Jeremy Gegenhuber: Jeremy shared about volunteer opportunities to create more awareness of Keystone/YAB. Members were asked to think of at least one volunteer opportunity to share at the next meeting. So far this school year Keystone Club has had:

- **Pizza Sales:** A successful pizza fundraiser was held on Jan. 17, 2009 at Joseph Lane Middle School.
- **Festival of Lights:** Members reported that they enjoyed helping at the Festival of Lights on Dec. 29, 2008 which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Roseburg.

- ***Holiday Sticks for Boys & Girls Club members:*** For the holidays on December 23, 2008, all of the Boys and Girls Club members received peppermint sticks. The Keystone/YAB Club enjoyed this event and would like to continue to do something each year for the Boys and Girls Club.
- ***Keystone/YAB Club Recruitment:*** Members were asked to come up with ideas to build Club membership. Currently, the Club has only eight members. It was decided that recruiting efforts should take place both at the Club and school. Members will design a flyer that will attract teens to the Keystone/YAB Club.

Presentation by Charlene Strasser-Family Development Center: Charlene stated the Healthy Start and Relief Nursery programs provide services to Douglas County families.

- ***Healthy Start:*** Healthy Start is Oregon's largest child abuse prevention program. State-wide in fiscal year 2006 – 2007 there were 9,788 first time families screened and services were provided to 2,857 children. In fiscal year 2007 – 2008, Douglas County Healthy Start served 311 families. One hundred seven families received Intensive Services. Most Healthy Start families have between thirteen to fifteen risk factors. The top eight risk factors are adult victim of child abuse; low self esteem-isolation; substance abuse, mental illness, criminal history; bonding and attachment issues; difficulty with basic expenses; unrealistic expectations of a child; potential for violence; and plans severe discipline use.

Healthy Start is a voluntary program for first time parents and serves families with children aged birth to three. Services are provided in clients' homes.

- ***Relief Nursery:*** In 2007-2008, the Relief Nursery had 401 children between age six weeks to five years, (264 families). The families are defined as being high risk if they have five or more risk factors. The average relief nursery family has between twenty-five to twenty-seven risk factors. The top ten risk factors for nurseries are high stress; self reported depression; adult victim of child abuse; poverty; child victim of abuse or neglect; low self esteem; domestic violence; mental illness; past or present drug and alcohol abuse; and criminal justice involvement.

Relief nursery services are all voluntary. Fifteen to twenty percent are self referred. The rest of the referrals come from Child Welfare and Police.

Lois thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment: Lois adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Smith