

Wahkiakum Community Network
Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 6, 2008, 7:00 PM
River Street Meeting Room

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chris Holmes at 7:00 PM at the River Street Meeting Room. In attendance were Nicole Tarabochia, Karen Fleming, Carole Lewis, Linda Hartung, Colleen Theisen, Carrie Kennedy, Aimee Pino, Virginia Shofner, Kassy Burdick, Beth Hansen, Jennifer Leach, Blair Brady, guest – Wahkiakum County Commissioner, Lori Benson, guest - Crime Victim Advocacy Program, Wayne Flohr, guest – Wahkiakum County Commissioner candidate, Joy Niemela, guest – citizen at large, and Lia Sealund - Director. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

Previous Regular Board Meeting minutes were reviewed; *Kassy moved to approve; Karen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

Guest input - Wayne Flohr Candidate for Wahkiakum County Board of Commissioners District 2 spoke on behalf of his candidacy. His vision is to see Wahkiakum County with healthy community involvement. Wayne discussed his view on diversifying the county's tax base. Questions were asked about other funding sources. Wayne was very concerned about the WSU extension cuts, including 4-H.

Lori Benson from the Crime Victim Advocacy Program of Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties discussed their efforts to help victims of crimes find a normalcy in their lives. Lori offered information on a free training offered to the community on identity theft and victim advocacy and the impact of crime. Flyers were passed around. The training will be presented by Mary Gould of the Attorney General of Washington. The training is Tuesday, October 14th 9:00 – noon at the Kelso Three River Mall Community Room. For questions contact Lori at 575-9513 or lorib@cascadenetworks.net. Linda suggested that we organize a local meeting about identity theft for our county, similar to the one being presented in Kelso. Lori offered her assistance if there is an interest in hosting a training locally.

Training Summaries – Since key attendees were not present, training summaries were tabled from the following groups: Family Policy Council Leadership Training: September; Northwest Alcohol Conference: July; CADCA Conference: July

Review of Community Efforts Networking Cafe - Lia discussed the evaluations and feedback from the September 8, 2008 Review of Community Efforts (Network Café). The feeling was positive to cluster the focus by groups to help refine the format of the meeting. The meeting focused on Family Preservation and the general feedback was “excellent”. Chris stated that he felt there were many good ideas shared and hoped that at the next café, time was allowed to respond and/or clarify the comments on the cards by the groups who presented issues they were dealing with. Chris also felt that with the present economy situation that we focus on helping people who are interested in funding issues.

Public Relations Committee – Carole presented feedback from the Public Relations committee: celebrating the Dr. Embry workshops; brief discussion of change of date for Brag night; and future fundraising plans.

Allocations Committee – Kassy presented the information that the School Resource Officer position was cut from the county budget. Therefore, the funding remaining in the Network's grant awarded to the district would be available to the community for new proposals to reduce substance abuse and violence in Wahkiakum County. We discussed this issue for quite a while about how to use these funds. The board needed to decide on the process and decision making in how to use these funds by June 30, 2009. The board agreed to make the funds available through a formal Request for Proposals which will

be advertised in the Wahkiakum County Eagle on October 16th and will be due to the Network by October 30th. The Request for Proposals will include approximately \$14,000 from Family Policy Council "Performance Award". This award has no stipulations as far as direct service funding. Additionally, there is \$7,000 to \$18,000 from Community Mobilization, of which was part of the Meth Initiative. Kassy recommended the funds be released for new proposals. *Karen moved to release the above funds to the community in an RFP; Kassy seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

Administrative – Lia shared the results of the Wahkiakum Community Network Community Mobilization Scorecard 2008. There was agreement that this tool gave positive feedback to the network. This will be an annual tool for the board to assess the function of the board.

Community Norms Initiative – Lia gave an update on environmental strategies on reducing underage drinking. Several Network board members attended a meeting with the Wahkiakum Fair Board in August. The fair board declined Network financial assistance for this year because the fair was funded for 2008, but would like to meet with the Network during 2009 to discuss other possibilities of collaborating on fundraiser ideas. The Network offered financial assistance to the fair to use in exploring other sustainability options, on the pretense that they refrain from including alcohol at the fair to ensure there are healthy, family orientated activities offered throughout the community. As a result, the fair board decided against having a beer garden at the Wahkiakum Fair this year but has asked they be able to provide adult-focused fundraising throughout the year that may offer alcohol in adult-only venues. The most recent fundraiser is an Oktoberfest October 18th. Blair reported it is an adult event and will include a beer garden, food, and games. Linda pointed out that it was still showing young people that drinking is where adults have fun. Lia agreed, but commented our initial request was to promote family events free from alcohol and that changing community norms needs to come in incremental steps. Carole commented she agreed, considering the view point the owners of the Riverview Restaurant had when we asked them to refrain from hosting a beer garden on Main Street during Bald Eagle Day's. They had the perception the Network was trying to shut them down. For the community to view the Network as a resource, the Network needs to maintain a positive, working relationship with the community at large. This will help pave the way to doing so.

Wahkiakum School District superintendent Bob Garrett reported that Wahkiakum High School cheerleaders declined to participate in the Ducks Unlimited fundraiser event this year. This was a request earlier this year by Wahkiakum Community Network as part of its effort to reduce community norms on underage drinking after the Network discovered that youth, representing Wahkiakum School District, were participating in an event where alcohol was readily available and being consumed by adult participants at the event. Jennifer commended the board on their good work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Lewis
Secretary