

**Lincoln County Commission on Children & Families
Self-Assessment – October 2008 - September 2010**

Local Commission Function #1

Comprehensive, Community, Planning and Implementation (*Leading strategically*)

- *Lead and coordinate a local planning process that promotes shared organizational leadership.*
- *Convene and engage broad, community participation that values inclusiveness and diversity from both informal and formal partners.*
- *Facilitate the local process of compiling and analyzing data, mapping services, referencing existing plans and gaining understanding of the underlying issues. Identify issues, gaps, barriers, needs, strengths and review information on proven and best practices to determine actions.*
- *Develop collective strategic actions to address issues, gaps, and barriers across multiple disciplines and share leadership on implementing planned actions.*
- *Determine LCCF investments of time and resources to advance plan implementation.*
- *Promote shared leadership among agencies, community organizations to implement and monitor the comp plan and related service plans.*

Accomplishments

- ***Comprehensive Plan Update*** - In December 2009, the Commission approved the update to Lincoln County's 2008-2014 Comprehensive Plan for Children & Families. The document begins with a brief overview of the County, discusses the biennial update process and provides information on community participation. The Comprehensive Plan and Update can be viewed at www.lincolncountyccf.com.
- ***Data Analysis*** – Commission staff collects and monitors data throughout the year. Oregon Healthy Teen Data from 2007, 2008 along with the 2010 Oregon Student Wellness Survey have been compiled and reviewed for all areas of the County to determine changes and emerging trends. Presentations on analysed data are made regularly to advisory groups, community members and other interested parties.
- ***Collective strategic actions to address Childhood Obesity***- The Commission is engaged in the CHIP process, guided by Samaritan Health Services to create a strategic action plan to address Childhood Obesity in Lincoln County.
- ***CCF Investments to address focus issue surrounding Substance Abuse***– LCCF supported the successful Drug Free Communities application for the community coalition-Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PAADA). Commission Director acts as the Executive Director and Fiscal Agent for this five year grant of \$125,000/year. PAADA began the third year on October 1, 2010. Commission leveraged an additional \$12,000 in 2010 to include East County Community Partnership, CEDARR and East County law enforcement to address Enforcement of Underage Drinking. Support from Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund is funding the expansion of Prescription Drug take back program into Toledo and Lincoln City. Initial program was funded by PAADA at the Newport Police Department.

- ***Gaps, Barriers, Community Issues*** – The lack of a cohesive, unified alcohol and other drug prevention structure was identified as a gap in Lincoln County. The Commission initiated the move of the County Alcohol, Drug and Gambling prevention services to be transferred to the Commission. As of July 1, 2009 these prevention programs are under the supervision of LCCF. With the Drug Free Communities Grant awarded to the Commission in September 2008, this is a good fit.
- ***CCF Investments to address focus issue surrounding Homelessness***- LCCF was one of eight counties to successfully receive funding to assist in building a state-wide continuum to address Runaway and Homeless Youth. In 2008, LCCF received \$89,000 to reinforce the local system.
- ***Homeless Education Literacy Project (HELP)*** - In 2010, with reduced State RHY funding, LCCF and the LCSD have invested braided resources to expand the Homeless Education Literacy Project to all four areas of Lincoln County. A HELP center is now located in each of the four major population areas of the county (Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Waldport). The school district has hired a Homeless Outreach Program coordinator and each HELP center has a full time HELP advocate. The HELP advocate staffs the center and provides resources and assistance to families and youth living in poverty and those families or youth who are living homeless. This assistance includes educational support, provision of basic needs, and connection to other resources and services.

Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund has supported the efforts of Project Homeless Connect for three years, along with support for Emergency Family Warming Centers. In 2010 over \$10,000 was leveraged from community resources to fund Project Homeless Connect.

Oregon Department of Education provided \$20,000, and United way has provided \$8,000 for the development and implementation of 211info. LCCF staff is working with Linn and Benton County to build a sustainable hub.

- ***Promote shared leadership***- Commission staff participates in over thirty planning and advisory boards/councils, coalitions and other committees. Conversations continue throughout the year to speak to identified community issues.

Local Commission Function #2

Policy Development (*Shaping Policy & Law*)

- *Provide leadership and expertise on children, youth and family issues.*
- *Develop policy recommendations to address needed changes in law, practice, procedures, protocol and rules to address issues, fill gaps or bring solutions to barriers that affect children, youth and families.*
- *Provide information and resources regarding best practices for programs and policies in the county.*
- *Advise BOCC on policy reform regarding children, youth and families, including alignment of policies and resource allocations to ensure accessible and effective service delivery and on legislative and other state actions that affect county programs, policies and procedures.*

Accomplishments

- ***Leadership and Expertise*** - The Commission is considered the “community expert” regarding children and families issues. Media routinely contacts the Commission for insights on children’s issues and programs. Stakeholders also contact the Commission to gather information or request facilitation around service gaps or issues. LCCF staff provides leadership in grant procurement.
- **House Bill 2062** - During the 2009 legislation session, ORS 339.377 was amended to require all education providers to provide school employees, parents, legal guardians and students training each year on the prevention and identification of child abuse and sexual conduct. The Commission collaborated with the School District to provide this mandatory training for every LCSD staff member in the 2008/09 school year. Cory Jewell Jensen was brought to Lincoln County to train all administrators in the delivery of the program, “How to Protect your Children: Advice from Child Molesters” which addresses sexual abuse awareness. This training was also delivered to parents through several schools.
- **Lincoln County School District “Code of Conduct” Policy**-To address graduating seniors participation in underage drinking parties, the Commission strengthened the school policy regarding walking in graduation ceremony. The Life of an Athlete program, developed by the American Athletic Institute was implemented into the Lincoln County School District in the fall 2009. The comprehensive community and school approach titled “Pure Performance” included a school policy change that strengthened the consequences to chemical use for both student athletes and students involved in any co-curricular activities. This policy change also requires mandatory student and parent meetings regarding chemical use prior to participation. This program is building a community/school environment that leads to clear and consistent expectations, enforcement and sanctions. In 2010, an online training was added. Parents and youth are required to complete the training, and provide documentation of passing the quiz prior to participation.
- **Lincoln County School District “Adolescent Sexual Health” Policy**- Members from the Public Health Advisory Committee, Lincoln County Health and Human Services Department, Commission and community members worked to expand the community school-based health clinics services to increase access to family

planning services by pursuing the dispensing of contraceptives on site. In 2009, the School Based Health Centers at Newport, Taft, Toledo and Waldport policy change allowed them to provide full service family planning access for students with the provision of physical exams, counseling and the dispensing of contraceptives.

Local Commission Function #3

Community Mobilization (*Organizing Change*)

- *Engage community members in addressing issues facing children, youth and families, while promoting respectful inclusion of all community members.*
- *Strengthen links between the community and formal service networks.*
- *Build community awareness, knowledge and advocacy around children, youth and families issues, identified needs and effective actions.*
- *Facilitate development of community solutions and partnerships for addressing children, youth and family issues.*
- *Celebrate community success in impacting children, youth and family issues.*

Accomplishments

- **“Homeless” Awareness and Advocacy** – Reducing the number of homelessness youth that drop out of school was identified as focus issue in the 2008 biennial plan. The Commission is leading an initiative to promote community awareness of the growing number of homeless youth and their families. The Commission invested in an AmeriCorp VISTA in 2009-2010 who engaged community members, strengthened networks, and built awareness and advocacy.

Commission activities included numerous speaking engagements, print media and radio talk shows. In addition the 2009/10 AmeriCorp VISTA created a Photo Voice project, organized community viewing of “Where God Left His Shoes”, assisted in the Taft High School Homeless youth Summit, and organized the “There But For a Fortune” fundraiser with Frank Jones at Café Mundo. The first annual “Greater Oregon Coast Pot Luck Off” was a collaboration of churches who came together to raise money for Project Homeless Connect. LCCF has played a lead role in organization and finding financial support for Project Homeless Connect for the past 4 years. In 2009/10 the LCCF AmeriCorp VISTA wrote a PHC Organizational manual for rural communities to implement Project Homeless Connects.

In November 2008, a group of volunteers organized to provide an overnight warming center for homeless single adults during a cold spell. The center operated at the main Exhibit Hall of the Lincoln County Fair Grounds. It was staffed entirely by volunteers, who also provided breakfast for those using the shelter. Lincoln Commission on Children and Families has been successful in obtaining operating funds from the Siletz Tribal Contributable Funds. A local church in Newport has taken on this need. Work is underway, by the 2010 AmeriCorp VISTA to facilitate the development of an emergency weather shelter in Lincoln City, Toledo, Waldport and Siletz.

The Commission invested in an AmeriCorp VISTA in 2010/11 to continue this work. One of the first projects, Project Homeless Connect was a great success. Almost 190 persons were served at the 2010 Project Homeless Connect event. Event was funded entirely by approximately \$10,000 leveraged cash dollars, \$20,000 of donated dental services, and over 100 volunteers.

- **Community Engagement – Drug take Back:** In partnership with the Newport Police Department, members of both the Addictions, Prevention and Recovery Committee (APARC) and Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (PAADA) a Prescription Take Back program was implemented January 2010. This program was later extended to the Lincoln City Police Department and Toledo Police Department. All three police departments now have permanent collection boxes. The County participated in the National Drug Take Back day in 2010, which included an additional temporary collection box that was used by the Sheriffs office in South County.
- **Community Engagement-Hunger:** With concerns regarding hunger the Commission applied for and has been awarded an AmeriCorp VISTA for the service time of August 2009-August 2010 to address food insecurity. The VISTA is focused on reducing hunger by addressing the access and availability of food resources. The goals of this project are to increase the access and usage of Lincoln County food programs by children & families (this includes the Back Pack program), increase community support and awareness of meal sites and to improve communication and resource sharing among new and existing sites. The AmeriCorps VISTA will serve not only to coordinate meal sites, but work to increase the number of these sites.
- **Almost A Coalition-** Due to the increasing Hispanic population with language and education barriers Commission staff organized a Coalition to build a group of Hispanic community leaders that are willing to carry accurate information into the community. A Promotora Leadership Model will be used to bring critical information to the community.
- **Model Court Team-** Commission has been active participants in the Model Court Team facilitated by Juvenile Judge Sanders. This Team is addressing the needs of Foster Youth. A video was completed by the Commission in efforts to reduce the anxiety and fear of youth entering foster care. Other areas of work: increased visitation for families close to reunification, and foster parent respite services.
- **Recovery/Wellbriety Celebration-** In partnership with the Confederated Tribe for Siletz Indians, prevention program the Commission annual supports the Recovery/Wellbriety celebration in September. Over 150 people join hands each year, spanning about 1/3 of the Yaquina Bay Bridge to celebrate those who have kicked alcohol and drug addiction, and those who support them. The “Hands Across the Bridge” event is followed by a celebration of music and food.

- **Annual Red Ribbon Celebration-** Annual community celebration for those who provide prevention services throughout the year. Over 80 persons attended luncheon in 2009 where several partners were recognized for their outstanding community work.
- **Teen Court-** Partnership Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse, along with the Commission are working to build community support to reinstate teen court which lost county funding in 2009. A fund raising event with David Ogden Stiers is in the planning stages along with an awareness video.

Local Commission Function #4

System Development (*Bringing services together*)

- *Work together across multiple disciplines and partners to develop and assure a comprehensive continuum of services across the age and delivery continuum*
- *Act as a catalyst for system delivery improvement through increased effectiveness, efficiency and innovation.*
- *Build community capacity to better manage and develop resources and to ensure the sustainability of service delivery systems, including regional partnerships where common interests exist.*
- *Facilitate mediation and other alternative conflict resolution approaches for community groups seeking to develop collaborations or partnerships.*

Accomplishments

- **Part of 10 Year Plan Governance/Steering Committee-** In response to the rising numbers of homeless individuals and families in LC, a Housing Summit was held in October of 2005. More than 100 people, including several people currently or formerly experiencing homelessness spent the day discussing the entire spectrum of needs in LC. Resulting from this summit, the Board of County Commissioners appointed two-groups who were charged with development of 10-year plan to end homelessness: a steering committee to oversee the project, and a larger stakeholder group to gather data and develop solutions and timelines for implementing them. Of the prioritized items identified in the plan was the need to make sure children stay in school independent of their living situations.
- **Runaway and Homeless Coalition-** Upon completion of the 10 year plan, the LCCF formed a Homeless and Runaway Youth Coalition Of primary concern to current members of the continuum is strengthening and expanding current efforts through the centralized coordination and development of regularly scheduled meetings (*staffing*), expanding partnership diversity (e.g. acquiring Hispanic and Tribal youth representatives), creating a coordinated one-stop resource for targeted youth, RHY case-managed coordinated activities including family reunification efforts, the involvement or expanded involvement of community-based service clubs and concerned citizens in support of basic needs targeted by the Coalition and efforts to locate short-term emergency housing and long-term transitional housing as needed. All of these efforts are to help decrease current gaps in services.

- ***Children’s Mental Health Advisory Board-*** was created in response to the Oregon’s Children’s Initiative. This Board is a locally governed committee formed through the partnership of child serving agencies and family members in Lincoln County. The Council advises and provides oversight of the local mental health policies and programs for the Lincoln County Service Array (ISA). The council’s goal is to establish and blend community based and family focused services into a comprehensive, integrated continuum of care, building upon the strengths of children, youth and their families. One recent accomplishment of this group was the development of Lincoln County’s first therapeutic foster home.
- ***211-*** Worked with primary lead partner agencies (United Way, CSC, RSVP) to sponsor and help with implementation of 211info referral system which links people in need to existing resources. Leverage \$20,000 from ODE and \$8,000 from United Way. AmeriCorp VISTA to work on outreach and awareness. Expected date to go live is December 1, 2010.

Local Commission Function #5

Service Delivery Improvements (*Ensuring Quality and Accountability*)

- *Identify services and service delivery improvements needed in communities.*
 - *Improve existing services through promotion of evidence based practices.*
- Invest LCCF resources for the implementation of programs and initiatives that address issues identified in the comprehensive community plan and monitor, evaluate and manage those resources.*
- *Monitor and evaluate local comprehensive plan effectiveness.*

Accomplishments

- ***Home Visiting*** - The Commission participates in the Lincoln County Healthy Start/Family Home Visiting Advisory Board, chaired by Shelley Paeth, R.N., Public Health Department. The advisory board approves revised policies and procedures documenting best practices for the screening and intensive services components.
- ***Early Childhood Development*** - The Commission continues to convene the Lincoln County Early Childhood Coordinating Council (ECCC), by providing leadership and staff support. ECCC promotes best practices in parenting and other early childhood services and serves in an advisory role to various entities seeking expertise on early childhood issues.
- ***Childcare Health Consultation-*** Project began with the goal to improve the social, emotional and physical health and safety of children in childcare settings. Commission staff worked to bring an early childhood mental health specialist to the program.

- ***Newport Childcare Committee-*** The commission assisted in building a collaborative group to address the need for additional infant, toddler and odd hour child care slots, The results of this was the opening of the Central Coast Child Development Center in the fall of 2009.
- ***Babies to Boomers-*** Through the Oregon Community Foundation Learning Community project, the commission partnered with the LCSD to submit a successful grant application. This grant will assist us in exploring how to improve the recruitment and deployment of baby-boomer-age volunteers in the HELP project.
- ***Homeless Education Literacy Project (HELP)-*** LCSD and the Lincoln Commission on Children and Families have invested braided resources to expand the HELP project to all four areas of Lincoln County by providing a HELP center in each of the four major population areas of the county (Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Waldport). The school district has hired a Homeless Outreach Program coordinator and each HELP center has a full time HELP advocate. The HELP advocate staffs the center and provides resources and assistance to families and youth living in poverty and those families or youth who are living homeless. This assistance includes educational support, provision of basic needs, and connection to other resources and services.
- ***Parenting “Hub” Grant*** – ECCC members have held two preliminary Parenting “hub” meetings. They have determined an interest in participating in the next round of the Oregon Parenting Education Collaborative regional parenting education hub grant. The goal of this grant is to work with community partners to deliver parenting education services while building stronger and more coordinated parenting education systems in Lincoln County. Encouraging partnerships to enhance and build on the work that is already happening or to fill in gaps.
- ***Youth Service Teams Restructuring-*** Commission staff has recently been asked to assist in facilitating restructuring of Lincoln County’s Youth Service Teams. During this time of financial re-alignment we are attempting to streamline processes and funding structures and at the same time improve services to children and their families. We all know one of the key systems we have to support children & families is the Youth Service Teams. Regional planning meetings have been held with school administrators, family advocates, health services advocates, HELP advocates, and community partners to align the process, define roles, and clarify how various resources can be accessed and/or allocated.
- ***Controlled Party Dispersal volunteers-*** trained through a EUDL grant secured by the Commission to address the enforcement of underage drinking were incorporated into the Volunteer in Policy program of Newport Police Department. This will assist in the effectiveness and sustainability of this program.