

Together For Children

A publication of the Washington County Commission on Children & Families



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Update From Commission Chair



Christine Murray, Chair

I would like to tell you about two exciting events that the Commission hosted in October.

The 4th Annual Youth Summit took place on October 8th at the Beaverton

Foursquare Church on Walker Road.

350 students from Washington County school districts gathered to learn how to develop projects to address student-identified issues in their schools or communities.

Grants of up to \$800 per proposal were made available to support their work. A culmination event to view results will be held in May.

The Fourth Annual

Candidate Forum was held October 14th, at the Hillsboro Civic Auditorium.

The forum provides a great way for Washington County residents to meet their candidates and hear what they have to say about issues affecting children and family.

For more information on next year's Youth Summit or Candidate Forum contact Sunny Ross at 503-846-8031.

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Looking For Fun? Look For Orange Shirts!



As a way to increase youth involvement in the summer food program, as well as promote healthy lifestyle choices among youth, a tri-county partnership was formed and was awarded a three year grant from United Way in 2006 to implement *Start Smart*.

Partners included Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas County Commission on Children and Families, OSU Extension Service, and Oregon

Hunger Relief Task Force.

Four interns were hired to provide nutrition education, lead arts and crafts projects, teach games and sports and serve as youth mentors.

Interns were easily identified by the bright orange shirts they wore which, to program participants, soon became the signal for fun.

In 2008 the Start Smart program was offered in nine schools, parks and apartment complexes in Beaverton, Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Tigard. This was an increase from only two participating school districts in 2006.

Program changes that occurred during the three year period included geographic locations, increased participation, an expanded outreach and marketing campaign and the variety of activities offered on site.

Over the operational period the program experienced a 76% increase in participants. This was due to both an increase in the quality of the program and an expanded marketing and outreach campaign.



Commission Members:

Christine Murray, Chair (Beaverton)
Susan Bender Phelps (Beaverton)
Martha Brooks - (Aloha)
Anna Geller - (Beaverton)
Kristine Harris - (Hillsboro)
Marilyn Harrison - (Banks)
Nancy Kingston (Hillsboro)
John Leeper - (Bethany)
Donna Maddux - (Tualatin)
Marv Ott - (Forest Grove)
Jill Raichel - (Hillsboro)
Doug Riggs - (Tigard)
Katie Riley - (Hillsboro)
Ene delia Schofield - (Hillsboro)
Dick Stenson - (Forest Grove)

Ex-Officio Members:

Jill Archer, Mental Health
Erin Calvert, Juvenile Department
Kelly Jurman, Health Department
Karin Kelley-Torregroza, VAN
Janet Kretzmeier, CCF Coalition
Tom Vlahos & Shirley Vollmuller
DHS/Child Welfare

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Update: School-Based Health Center Initiative

Over the past two years, the Washington County Commission on Children and Families has provided leadership and staffing to a broad-based collaboration focused on improving the health of children and youth in Washington County. In October 2006, the Commission and its partners formally organized the Washington County School Based Health Center (SBHC) Initiative.



Governor Kulongoski speaks at Health Center opening

To date, the SBHC Initiative has involved over 25 community partners, including school districts and higher education institutions, health systems and hospitals, health and mental health providers and other private and public sector funders and organizations.

The mission of the Washington County SBHC Initiative is to support development of SBHCs throughout Washington County. SBHCs are a proven strategy for increasing access of children and youth – particularly those who are uninsured and underserved - to culturally and developmentally appropriate prevention, primary health and mental health services.

This Initiative is unique for three reasons: 1) the breadth and depth of collaboration among organizations

and across systems in Washington County; 2) the commitment among these partners to community mobilization for increasing access to healthcare, including outreach efforts to increase the enrollment of eligible children and youth in the Oregon Health Plan; and 3) a robust model of care, supported by integrated electronic medical records, and a sustainable business plan that both is innovative and replicable.

The Initiative projects that SBHCs can be financially self-sustaining within three years: maximizing program income by billing public and private insurers while minimizing the need for ongoing grant support.

When the Initiative began there was only one SBHC in Washington County. It was located in an alternative high school and accessible to fewer than 100 of the more than 83,000 students enrolled in Washington County's seven school districts.

As a result of the SBHC Initiative, a new Tigard High School Health Center was opened in April 2008. Now primary health and mental health services that are offered through the Tigard SBHC are accessible to 2,000 students enrolled at Tigard High, and also are available on an appointment basis to the other 11,000 students in the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

In winter 2009 the SBHC Initiative will open its second new SBHC, at Forest Grove High School. This SBHC will increase accessibility to health, mental health and substance abuse services for over 8,000 students in the Forest Grove, Banks and Gaston

School districts.

During the next three school years, the SBHC Initiative plans to develop another SBHC in the Tigard-Tualatin School District, at Tualatin High School, as well as two new SBHCs that will be sited at mainstream high schools in the Beaverton and Hillsboro School Districts.

The Washington County Commission on Children and Families has contributed \$10,000 of Children, Youth and Families flexible funds to the SBHC Initiative, and dedicated significant time by Commission staff, funded with Local Basic Capacity funds, to support coordination of the Initiative, community planning efforts, SBHC budget and resource development and operational technical assistance.



Commission Director William Thomas presents awards to community partners

To date, these investments have leveraged more than \$1.4 million in grants and financial commitments, from 15 different public and private funders, to expand the development of SBHCs and increase healthcare access in Washington County.

Governor Kulongoski Visits *The Outpost* at Shute Park

Governor Ted Kulongoski attended the July 16th celebration event for summer food at *The Outpost* at Shute Park in Hillsboro.

The event was held to honor the 18 partner organizations and agencies that made the summer food program not only possible but hugely successful.



Governor Kulongoski and State Representative Chuck Riley greet youth at summer food event.

The summer food program was developed to help bridge the gap in nutritional services by providing meals to children while school is out of session.

As well as providing lunch *The Outpost* at Shute Park offers kids a variety of fun activities including arts and crafts, water games, sports and free books.



Governor Kulongoski serves lunch at *The Outpost* at Shute Park

The Governor volunteered his time by greeting and serving lunch to children at the site.

Other notables helping out at the event included State Representative Chuck Riley and Commission on Children and Families Chair Christine Murray.



Governor Kulongoski and Commission Chair Christine Murray

CCF Welcomes New Intern Jean Laschever

My name is Jean Laschever and I'm in my final year as an undergraduate at Pacific University. I am a Social Work/Sociology major with additional coursework in Psychology and Political Science.

A pet subject of mine is the issue of abstinence-only versus comprehensive sex education.

My senior thesis in sociology is addressing whether parents are equipped to be the primary reproductive health educators for their children, whether

there are gaps in their knowledge, and how we better prepare parents to effectively discuss this difficult topic.

I chose to pursue an internship with the Washington County Commission on Children and Families because I am interested in addressing social problems at the community level. I am particularly interested in how to create a safer more enriched environment in which children and teenagers can grow.

Post-graduation plans will

hopefully take me into the Peace Corps. I have always been interested in performing community work abroad and recently submitted my application.



Poverty in Washington County

Information provided by Community Action Organization

One in 10 Washington County residents are living below the federal poverty guidelines and while the population grew 15% between 2000-2006 the number of people living in poverty grew by 55%.

The 2008 minimum wage in Oregon is \$7.95/hour, or \$16,536 annually.

According to 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines, a family of three (i.e. one adult, two children) would be living below the poverty level if the family's only source of income is a full-time job paying minimum wage.

Housing costs in Washington County are among the highest in Oregon. In order to afford an average 2 bedroom rental a family must earn at least \$27,720 annually. This housing burden puts families at risk for financial crisis. One unexpected expense can be catastrophic.

Additionally, child care costs in Washington County are among Oregon's highest. For two children in child care annual costs can be as much as \$10,200 in family child care to as much as \$16,008 in a child care center.

Approximately 70% of people

living in poverty work for a paycheck and less than 12% receive federal assistance.

Even with sound budgeting, government assistance to families is not the only economic solution because it does not provide sufficient aid to meet basic needs.

For example, the average monthly allotment of food stamps is \$74 per month, per person, or about \$.82 per meal. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the average cost of a meal at home is \$1.56.

There is no single solution to poverty, as there is no single cause, but if you'd like to help you can begin by donating your time, your talents and your goods and services.

For more information on poverty in Washington County, <http://www.caowash.org/povertyinfo.php>

To donate or to find volunteer opportunities call the Washington County Information and Referral line at 211 (most Washington County phones) or 503-222-5555. Call takers speak English or Spanish.

Washington County Resources to Address Poverty

Resource and Referral Line - 211

(if 211 doesn't work on your phone dial 503-222-5555)

Community Action Organization

503-648-6646 www.caowash.org

(provides numerous resources and research on poverty)

Family Resource Centers (FRCs)

(provides a variety of resources including food, clothing, education)

Banks FRC 503-324-5686

Beaverton FRC 503-649-0367

Forest Grove FRC 503-359-2598

Hillsboro FRC 503-844-1063

Tigard-Tualatin FRC 503-603-1585

For more information about poverty

U.S. Census - 2007 Washington County Fact Sheet

<http://factfinder.census.gov/>

Federal Poverty Guidelines, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/07poverty.shtml>

Community Nutrition Institute

<http://www.consumeraction.org/csq/service.php?serviceID=svc753>

Federal Poverty Guidelines, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>

Parenting Class Schedule

Washington County
is now available on the Commission on Children & Families Website

www.co.washington.or.us/ccf

To add classes please contact Sunny Ross at
sunny_ross@co.washington.or.us or 503-846-8031
The calendar will be updated and distributed seasonally

The Washington County Commission on Children & Families meets

7:00 - 8:30 PM

October 9, November 13, December 11

Room 1411 E

Capital Center, 18640 NW Walker Rd.
Beaverton, 97006

CCF Contact Information

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