

**Valley Sentinel
Coquille, OR
02/16/2005**

Commission hosts Children First

⁵⁰³³ The Coos County Commission on Children and Families will host Ms. Beth Kapsch, Policy and Outreach Associate of Children First for Oregon, during their regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the Education Service District, 1350 Teakwood, Coos Bay.

Each year, Children First for Oregon, a non-profit, non-partisan group, produces a report card for Oregon based on the states over all services to children in the previous year. The organization also produces a book that examines each county, as well as selected services to children. In the 2004 book recently unveiled by the group, Coos County had mixed reviews when compared overall to the state. In the area of child abuse and

neglect of youth ages 0-17, Coos County was 189% worse than the state. Threat of harm to victims ages 0-17 was 20% less than in previous years, however, the county was still 13% worse than the rest of the state. The report was not all negative for Coos County. Teen pregnancy was 26% lower than the state rate and showed a marked improvement for the county. The same can be said for juvenile crimes against persons which were at 10 per 1000 youth and 12% better than the state rate. The overall juvenile arrest rate at 14.1 per 1000 youth was 19% better than the state rate.

For further information, please contact the Commission on Children and Families at 396-3121 ext. 392.