

Commission to host child care speaker

The Coos County Commission on Children and Families will host Beth Kapsch, the policy and outreach associate of "Children First for Oregon" at its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, at the Education Service District, 1350 Teakwood, Coos Bay.

Each year, "Children First for Oregon," a nonprofit, nonpartisan group, produces a report card for Oregon based on the state's overall services to children in the previous year. The organization also produces a book that examines each county and 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 age 0-17, Coos County was 189 percent worse than the state. Threat of harm to victims ages 0-17 was 20 percent better than in previous years, however, the county was still 13 percent worse than the rest of the state.

The report was not all negative for the County. In the area of Youth Development, the county's teen pregnancy rate was 26 percent better than the state and showed a marked improvement.

Kapsch will speak to these and other issues. Following her presentation, there will be a question-and-answer session. The public is invited to attend.

For information, those interested can contact the Commission on Children and Families at 396-3121, ext. 392.