



Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: December 29, 2003

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National Speaker Addresses Community Conference

Mark Condodemetraky
Belmont

LACONIA: Dr. Laura Nissen, PhD., Director of Reclaiming Futures Project, a 21 million

Katy
Kannaly-DeCarteret
Sanbornton

dollar, national initiative of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will be the featured

Peter Michaud
Center Harbor

speaker at the upcoming, community-oriented conference titled, "Making Safe & Healthy

Alida Millham (*Chair*)
Gilford

Communities Everyone's Business". Collaboratively planned by the Belknap County

Andre Paquette
Laconia

Citizens Council on Children and Families, Reclaiming Futures, UpStream, and The

Rep. James Pilliod
Belmont

Center for Civic Engagement, the event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th from 5-

Nancy Porosky
Gilmanton

8:30pm at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center in Lakeport. Dr. Nissen will discuss

Robert Rovella
New Hampton

innovative solutions to teenage substance abuse, one of the largest barriers to safe, healthy,

Leo Sanfacon
Gilford

and productive communities throughout the country, sentiments echoed numerous times in

Gil Schohan
Belmont

Belknap County by law enforcement personnel, educators, civic leaders, parents, and

citizens.

Susan Smith (*V. Chair*)
Gilford

Laura Nissen, in her role as Director of the Reclaiming Futures project, works closely

Richard Wallace
Alton

with New Hampshire, selected two years ago as one of ten pilot sites for this initiative.

Mary Alice Warner
Center Harbor

Belknap County is one of two NH counties participating in this project. The Reclaiming

Kevin Washburn
Tilton

Futures project is an innovative approach to helping teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs,

alcohol and crime.

Alan Robichaud
Executive Director
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Ms. Nissen has devoted more than 16 years to the study of youth involved in the

Judith Buswell
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substance abuse and juvenile justice arenas. She established the Center for High-Risk

- more -

Page 2 – Community Conference

Youth Studies at the Metropolitan State College of Denver and was a member of the founding team of the Denver Juvenile Justice Integrated Treatment Network, a pioneer of some of the ideas now promoted by Reclaiming Futures. Over the years, Laura has been a consultant and presenter for federal and state organizations. She is also an associate professor of social work at Portland State University's Graduate School of Social Work. Laura received her doctorate and master's degree from the University of Denver and her bachelor's degree in psychology from Metropolitan State College.

The busy evening begins at 5pm with an opportunity for networking and viewing of the numerous exhibits related to the health and wellness of children and families. At 5:15pm, both UpStream and the Belknap County Citizens Council will hold their individual Annual Meetings, followed at 6pm by a catered Cape Cod Chicken dinner. Special presentations, including the prestigious Annette P Schmitt "UnSung Hero Award", will accompany dessert. Dr. Nissen will conclude the evening.

Parents are encouraged to attend with their teenage family members. The cost for the evening is \$12.00 per person and limited scholarships are available. Registrations are now being accepted via mail, telephone, or email at the office of the Belknap County Citizens Council in the Busiel Mill in downtown Laconia. Call 528-3185 or visit www.bccj.org for additional information.