

Seeking Partners...

The Citizens Council:

- Is a catalyst for change,
- Believes Belknap County can be a safe place where all can live with dignity and respect,
- Encourages the opinions and participation of all citizens, and
- Seeks members and partners from all sectors and corners of Belknap County.

Council Members in 2004

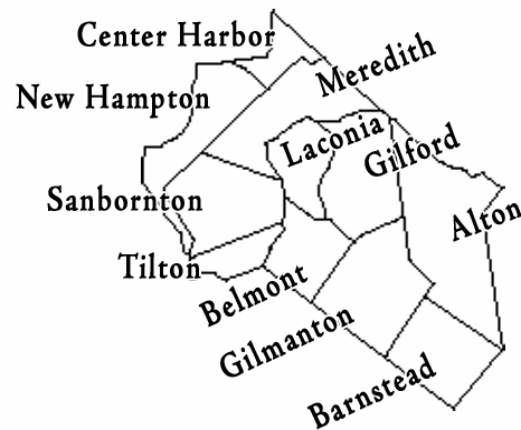
- ALTON—Richard Wallace
 - BELMONT—Jim Pilliod, Gil Schohan
 - CENTER HARBOR—Peter Michaud, Mary Alice Warner, Scott AndersEn
 - GILFORD—Alida Millham, (Chair) Leo Sanfacon, Sue Smith (Vice Chair)
 - GILMANTON—Nancy Porosky
 - LACONIA—Ruth Castonguay, Jim Carroll, André Paquette
 - MEREDITH—Steve Fountain
 - NEW HAMPTON—Christine Corrigan, Bob Rovella
 - SANBORNTON—Sarah Fox, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret
 - TILTON—Kevin Washburn
- STAFF**
- Alan Robichaud, Executive Director
 - Judith Buswell, Research / Planning Coordinator

BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL

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2004

A Year of Progress... A Year of Performance for Children and Families in Belknap County



BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

...Promoting Community Justice throughout Belknap County so that children and families can live safely with dignity and respect

GREETINGS!

Our mission, to promote "Community Justice" throughout Belknap County, is gradually coming into view! Even during this most challenging year of constant shifts in funding, organizational adjustments in state offices, and budget reductions to local programs, we are now many steps closer to our goal. These small but steady successes are the result of the cooperation, energies, and enthusiasm of many individuals and organizations throughout this county and state who have worked side by side with us to bring a quicker and more effective response to the needs of children and families in our communities.

The notion of involving citizens in the lives of youth and with the programs and services that affect children and families is a most promising area in our development. We plan to continue this approach throughout 2005. At the very center of Council efforts are the Council members themselves. Each one of them has given many long hours to the Council, demonstrating that personal responsibility, social capital, and civic participation are still cherished values in Belknap County.

Throughout 2005 and the years following, we invite all citizens to bring their talents forward and to join us in weaving the principles of Community Justice into the fabric of community life:

- How can we better prevent problems before they occur?
- How can we increase the focus on the restorative aspects of justice?
- How can we foster activities in our communities that grow out of our assets rather than our deficits?

The answers will not come from outside this County. Instead they lie within each of us. We hope you will join us in shaping the solutions.

Alida Millham
Council Chair

Alan Robichaud
Executive Director

Community Justice is...

- A philosophy that builds strong and united neighborhoods and communities by:
- Emphasizing the values of "Balanced and Restorative Justice" in the management of wrong-doings that occur,
 - Acting early to prevent problems before they happen, and by
 - Focusing on the specific strengths and resources that are unique to each community.



You Spoke... We Listened

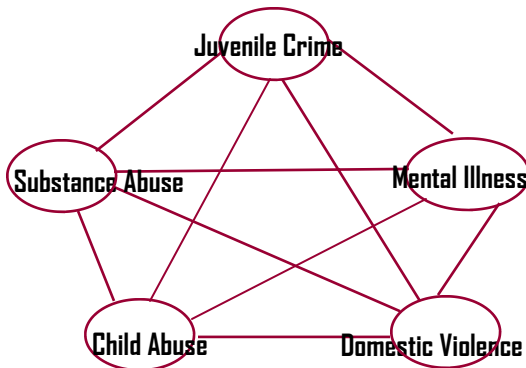
Collaboration is built on relationships and trust while programs and supports are built on resources. All are necessary, yet all take time to blossom and flourish. From developing an idea, to building a coalition, to writing grants and then waiting for approval, months go by with no visible promises.

Beginning with the Community Forums during the Fall of 2002, the Council has talked with hundreds of citizens. Key issues for children and families in Belknap County were identified:

- Reforming the Juvenile system
- Parental responsibility
- Reducing substance abuse
- Youth mentors
- Meaningful youth activity
- Communications across and within communities

These concerns are best seen as a “web” of interconnected challenges.

WEB OF CHALLENGES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BELKNAP COUNTY



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Citizens Council is not an “agency” and does not offer direct services to families. Instead the Council is organized to work carefully and thoughtfully with wide networks of citizens, professionals, and legislators to promote the principles of “Community Justice” throughout Belknap County. The Council and its many partners have introduced new ideas and some noticeable results in the following areas:

- Continuing **Juvenile Justice reform** and changes
- Intentional focus on the **responsibilities of parents**
- Increased awareness of the impact of **substance abuse** through collaborative efforts and foundation and federal funds to develop coordinated prevention and intervention programs in Belknap County
- New **adult-to-youth mentoring** program for Belknap County through federal grant funds and developing new networks
- New opportunities for youth to participate in **meaningful activities** through a partnership with Youth Venture NH
- **Improved communication** through intentional neighborhood and community organizing

FUNDING FACTS

Investing in the work of the Council is a wise choice! During 2004, Council activity has generated \$2.00 in new revenue for every \$1.00 spent on operating the Citizens Council.



\$186,085.*
2004 Operating Budget of the Citizens Council



\$388,000.
Resources generated in 2004 by Council activity and partnerships

* Annette Schmitt Trust Fund—75% and Belknap County—25%

NEW RESOURCES FOR KIDS & FAMILIES		
Source	Amount	For
US DOE	\$200,000.	Belknap County Mentor Initiative
US SAMHSA	\$100,000.	CoRePLUS Prevention Program
NH DJJS	\$ 44,000.	Belknap County Family Mediation
NH DJJS	\$ 23,000.	Youth Attendant Program
N.I.M.H.	\$ 6,000.	Co-Occurring Disorders Project
NH DJJS	\$ 5,000.	Restorative Justice consultation
NH CTF	\$ 5,000.	Parent Leadership Series
ALCOA	\$ 5,000.	Youth Venture NH
	\$388,000.	

ALCOA – The ALCOA Foundation
 NHCTF – NH Children’s Trust Fund
 NHDJJS – NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services
 NIMH – National Institute of Mental Health
 US DOE – US Dep’t of Education
 US SAMHSA – US Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

PARTNERSHIPS

The principles of Community Justice flourish best in an environment of collaboration, sharing, open dialogue, and a coordinated exchange of information and ideas. This is why most all initiatives and activities of the Citizens Council are planned and carried out in partnerships with others. In addition to Council Work Groups and Professional Advisory Committees, the Citizens Council participates in some way with the following new partnerships. In some instances the Council leads and manages while in others, the Council participates as a team member. All partnerships address the Web of Challenges and all reinforce the values of Community Justice:

- Reclaiming Futures
- Laconia District Drug Court Initiative
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Community Fellowship Initiative
- Youth Venture Program
- CoRe Program (*Community Response*)
- Belknap County Mentoring Initiative
- Laconia District Courthouse Initiative
- Belknap County Prevention Coalition
- The P.A.L.S. Project (*Parents As Leaders*)
- Child Advocacy Center Initiative
- Juvenile Justice Data Initiative
- Center for Civic Engagement
- Laconia Task Force ~Underage Drinking
- Belknap County Convocation—2005
- Family Violence Prevention Council
- UpStream Parenting Team
- Alton Information Exchange Team
- Barnstead Community Resource Team
- Lakeport Sanborn Park Initiative
- Laconia Human Relations Committee
- Belknap County Family Mediation