

Director's Report... 01/07/02 - 01/25/02

Reflections

Looking back on the first three weeks of my tenure here, I can honestly say "It's everything I thought it would be...and more!" Since day one, staff has been busy getting ready for the inauguration, attending some people's meetings and hosting others. The word is certainly out there that the Council is up and running. Before I go any further, let me say that Sheila arrived safely in Florida. We wish her the most relaxation she can possibly get and hope that she finds everything she's looking for! Special thanks to her and Judy for planning and coordinating a fantastic inaugural event. People who attended are still talking about it and those that didn't attend but heard about it, wish they had attended. The video got rave reviews and we are expecting any moment to receive an updated version with a new spelling for Belknap County!

Of another special note, Jim Carroll was honored with the Jim Irwin Award by the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday (1/24) evening. Way to go Jim. Most deserving for all you have done for so many years!

Here is a list of activities over the past three weeks. Should anyone want additional information on any of these, please don't hesitate to call me (528-3185).

- 1/7 Meeting with Deb Guyer and introduction to Laconia High School Administrative Team.
Meeting with Dept. of Health & Human Services Commissioner, Donald Shumway.
- 1/8 Meeting with John Bunker, Executive Director, New Futures
- 1/9 Interview Council Candidates with County Commissioners
- 1/10 Meeting with Carol Schonfeld, County Human Services Administrator;
Interview & Selection of Council Candidates with County Commissioners;
Meeting with the County Delegation Executive Committee re: Council status
- 1/11 Last meeting of the Belknap County Juvenile Justice Initiative
- 1/14 Attended SB 55 Commission meeting re: Detention facility planning w/ Wes Colby;
Meeting w/Joe Diamant, Director, Division of Juvenile Justice Services, et. al. w/Wes Colby.
- 1/15 Inaugural event at Chase House, Meredith.
- 1/16 Meeting with the Lakes Region Community Development Clearinghouse
Consultation with David Stamps re: computerization and office systems
- 1/17 Meeting w/Early Connections Community Team;
Meeting with NH Rural Development Council Director
- 1/18 Meeting w/Community Technical College/Laconia Human Services Craft Committee;
Interview with prospective Alton Council Candidates
- 1/19 Presented Council budget to County Delegation Budget Sub-committee

- 1/21 Implemented weekly staff meetings
- 1/22 Attended Restorative Justice program meeting w/Justice Works re: data component; Meeting w/Linda King of New Futures re: Community Leadership Initiative
- 1/23 Meeting w/Diane Lane re: District Court procedures, tour of Court House and observations of adult and juvenile hearings; Public Access TV interview w/Ester Peters re: Citizens Council
- 1/25 Restorative Justice Advisory Committee

During this time period, new office supplies and equipment were ordered and received adding to the capacity of the office to function separate from the BJJ Initiative, billing procedures established with Annette Schmitt Foundation to cover the interim period of County approval of the Citizens Council department, contract for computer technical assistance and training, and renovations negotiated and begun to relocate the offices to the second floor of the One Mill Plaza. Relocation should occur somewhere around the week of February 4th.

I would like to extend a tremendous thanks to Judge Martin and all of his fine staff at Martin, Lord and Osman for their welcoming and constant support during this transition phase of the Council. Their support has been truly amazing and most important in getting the Council off to a speedy start. Special thanks to Joe, Bill, Becky, Cathy, Karen and Lu for tolerating my endless questions and interruptions! Finally, most gracious thanks to the Annette Schmitt fund for going over and about in its support of the Council and the BJJ for all those months. Unbelievable and unprecedented support from Judge Martin! Thanks Judge.

Projections

Upcoming activities and events include the following:

- 1/28 Weekly staff meeting; Program Collaborators Meeting (hosting) including Diversion Programs, Restorative Justice, START, District Court, Citizens Council; Meeting w/Jay Apicelli re: Orientation to JPPO structure and services
- 1/29 Consultation w/David Stamps re: computer training and technical assistance; Interview and taping w/Kinney O’Roarke’s show: “Asked and Answered”
- 1/30 Meeting w/CARE NH re: Children’s Mental Health issues; Meeting with Eileen Mullen re: DCYF services and resources
- 1/31 New Futures Press Conference in Concord re: release of new data and publication; Meeting with Judy Colla of Dartmouth Partners in Health Program

Additional interviews will continue throughout the next weeks to establish a base of contact with key informants and partners in Juvenile Justice and related program areas. Additionally, staff will be preparing for the Orientation session on February 8th.

Again, should you have any questions about any of these activities or any other matters, please do not hesitate to call me. Have a great weekend!

Alan

