



## **Community Outreach**

The Council continues to reach out into the communities of Belknap County. The three Council meetings this last quarter have been held in Tilton, Belmont and Barnstead. Council members from these communities secured meeting locations and made additional connections to their communities on behalf of the Council. This type of outreach begins to put a face on the Council and establishes local connections, by local people, as opposed to organization-to-community.

Additionally, one on one interviews with key community and organization leaders have generated the following contacts:

John Sanfilippo – Warden, LRF/DOC Tilton Library	Carolee Longley – Union-Sanborn School Jim Carroll – Former City Prosecutor
Glenna Heath (Alton PD) & Rev. Bolster	Ingrid McIver (JPPO – Belknap County)
Scott Andersen (Superintendent – SAU 2)	Gilford Middle School Youth
Barbara Belmont (Victim Witness Coordinator)	Bob Champlin (Superintendent – SAU 30)
Miami Blake (Belknap County Teen Center)	John Graziano (Superintendent – SAU 4)
Laurie DeTrude (Special Education – SAU 30)	Linda Dunn (CASA)
Chris Santaniello (Family Support – LRCSC)	

Formal Council presentations made over the past quarter include the following:

- Channel 11 segment (Reclaiming Futures) taped interview with Judge Martin and Alan Robichaud
- Stand Up and Shout! – Leadership Lakes Region Forum (200) – Gil Schohan
- LRGH presentation to Medical Safety and Healthcare Management Team (20)
- Meredith Rotary Club (50)
- Lakes Region Education Administrators Group (13)
- Partners In Health – Dartmouth Medical Center Project (12)
- Public Defender’s Office (10)
- Newfound Area Principals Group (10)

Additional Community Outreach Activities

- Asset-Based learning and community engagement w/Lakes Region Community Services Council
- GALA – Gilford Master Planning update and community issues forum
- NH Rural Development Council meetings and forums
- Olmstead (Supreme Court case on inclusion) Planning Session
- Weekly Rotary Meetings – Member of Laconia Rotary Club
- Alternatives to Violence – The Warner Group
- Community Care Centers – Concord Forum sponsored by NH DHHS
- Community Development Clearinghouse
- Child Study Group – Laconia High School
- Youth Services Bureau – Presented Prospectus on Belknap County Mediation Program
- Community Technical College Board of Trustees and CTC/Laconia Craft Committee
- Memorial Middle School Substance Abuse Assembly
- Meeting with Belmont PD Chief David Nielsen – Data Reporting
- Spaulding Youth Center – Dottie Treisner Executive Director – Program directions
- Alton Superintendent, Don Parks w/Dick Wallace – Community & Youth Development

## **Program Development**

The Council has been extremely busy in supporting and/or facilitating activities for program development and funding. Included in these activities are areas initiated by the Council and others in which the Council has been identified as a partner.

*JAIBG – (Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant)* – Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Council developed and submitted, on behalf of the Sheriff’s Department and the Juvenile Probation and Parole/Belknap County District Office, a grant to provide a Juvenile Offender Locator Team (JOLT) program. Governor and Council approved this grant at their meeting of June 26 and the program commences immediately. A second year grant has also been submitted

by the Council and will expand to include more communities within Belknap County. This has been a frustrating experience but one that has succeeded through the collaborative efforts of the local JPPO, the Sheriff's Office, Laconia Police Department and the NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services. Judith Buswell, Planning and Research Coordinator for the Council has performed admirably throughout this process and is credited for its final approval.

*Reclaiming Futures* - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) grant to the NH District Court System has begun in earnest. A State Project Coordinator, Maria Gagnon, has been hired to oversee the project. Because New Hampshire has only been awarded a one-year planning grant for this project, the Advisory Committee has submitted a request to rearrange the budget to continue the project for a second year. This necessitated the State Coordinator's position being reduced by 25% and the two site coordinators becoming half-time positions. We are pleased to announce that the Belknap County site coordinator has been selected. Working with the PACT program (Parents and Children Together), the Reclaiming Futures project has hired Miami Blake, Teen Center Director, to serve as the site coordinator.

The Council met with the Site Team from the National Project Office for the Reclaiming Futures project and received a warm welcome for its efforts on behalf of the foundation. Noting that New Hampshire was the only one of eleven projects funded that represents a statewide model, the site reviewers acted enthusiastically to our proposed project. We sensed there would be a good deal of advocacy for this project at the national level even though this was intended to only be a one-year planning grant.

*New Hampshire Charitable Foundation* – An attempt to secure funding through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for the 'Evolving Community Justice' course, being introduced during the fall semester of the NH Community Technical College/Laconia, was unsuccessful. This fifteen week course will combine the skills and talents of many of the program directors offering services to youth in Belknap County with a unique educational opportunity for residents of the area. Enrollees will be able to take the course for credit, or enroll for a certificate of completion toward accumulating CEU's for professional development requirements, or simply sit in and contribute to the discussion of emerging trends in community justice. This course is the culmination of months of work by the Council and the College's Craft Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood Development. The Curriculum Committee approved this course in May for the fall semester. Council member Andre Paquette was instrumental in preparing this curriculum for ratification by the college.

*Restorative Justice Advisory Committee* – Council member Leo Sanfacon, continues to represent the Council on the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee. This committee has met monthly to give direction to the Director of the program relative to policies, procedures and data reporting. Andre Paquette and staff continue to lend their support to this committee as well.

*Reentry Grant*- While we continue to wait to hear the outcome of months of work on the part of the NH Department of Corrections, the Council has continued as a member, through its staff, of the Advisory Committee. The Council, along with the County Commission, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for this grant as we have been identified as a pilot site should this grant be approved. Additionally, the Council facilitated the sign-on of six of our area's nine school Superintendents to this MOU.

The Council inquired and now has approval to request access to the Program Initiatives line item of the County budget for upfront costs required of such grants as the JOLT program under the JAIBG grant. The Executive Committee of the County Convention approved this matter at a recent meeting. Thanks go to Commission Chairman Mark Thurston and Nancy Cook, Administrative and Finance Officer, for their recommendation to the Executive Committee.

*Early Learning Opportunities* – The Council participated in the review of the grant proposal to the US Department of Education for the Lakes Region Community Services Council's submission to enhance early learning and literacy for children of Belknap County. There are many features to this grant including the establishment of a family resource center for families to receive support in parenting, resource library and other parent support functions. The Council submitted a Letter of Support for this grant.

*Mentoring* – The Council provided technical assistance to two area programs interested in submitting an application for mentoring programs. The PACT (mentioned earlier) and the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project were invited to discuss their intent for applying for a Mentoring grant from the US Department of Education. Mimi Bergere of the Granite State Youth Mentoring and Maria Gagnon of Reclaiming Futures attended a preliminary meeting with Council staff and PACT representatives and offered sound advice as individuals considered applying for this grant. Judith Buswell provided an extensive review of the grant requirements for the two organizations to use as a template in completing their applications and has continued to provide numerous hours of follow-up in reviewing and modifying various stages of proposal development.

*Mediation* - The Council convened a group of interested parties to determine the feasibility for re-establishing a mediation program in Belknap County. The first meeting consisted of representatives of the Juvenile Probation and Parole Office, two Council staff and two youth program representatives. When it was determined that such a program was needed, the Council sent out a call to all known former mediators to discuss their level of interest and commitment in resuming mediation sessions if a sponsoring agency could be found.

A small number of individuals reconvened and it was determined that there was sufficient interest on which to go forward. Council staff was requested to approach the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) for possible interest in developing a new program. The Council Director developed a prospectus for presentation to the Board of Directors of the Youth Services Bureau. To date there is high interest on the part of YSB and the Executive Director is currently pursuing resources for the program. In the interim, former mediators are providing services to a family referred by the Restorative Justice program. This collaboration is paying dividends and the mediation is being offered to this family at no cost. We must now support YSB's quest for core program funding in order to reestablish a sound mediation program for Belknap County.

*Evolving Community Justice*- The Council has successfully negotiated the design and development of a fifteen week session on Community Justice through the Community Technical College/Laconia. This series offers an opportunity for the many agencies and organizations serving youth in Belknap County to showcase their programs and to involve participants in public discourse on prevailing issues in community justice. Helping to demystify the juvenile justice system, this series will combine options to include fee paying student enrolled in a three credit course, with professionals seeking CEU credit for professional development requirement, and members of the general public who wish to enroll in one, several or all of the sessions as independent workshops. This rare combination of student participants is desired to stimulate public discussion on current operations and future trends in community justice. This course is open to the public.

## **System Coordination**

The Council has taken a lead role in several areas of system coordination. Key to the planning effort, the Council needs to rely on data that supports its efforts in planning, coordination, advocacy and resource development. The County, as well as the State of New Hampshire, is often referred to as being 'data poor', a result of a system (e.g. Juvenile justice) which has historically been fragmented and under-resourced. The Council is actively pursuing a number of initiatives in partnership with other agencies to alleviate gaps in services. Some of these initiatives are discussed below.

*Juvenile Integrated Information System (JIIS)* – Funds secured from the Annette Schmitt Foundation provided the opportunity for a team of six individuals to attend a two-day session on Juvenile Integrated Information Sharing in Boston on April 22 and 23, 2002. Funded under a grant from the OJJDP, US Justice Department, the Center for Network Development provided training to four states' team in how to create an integrated information system. This part one of a two-part program was attended by a New Hampshire contingent made up of the Laconia District Court (Diane Lane), Juvenile Probation and Parole (Jay Apicelli), Behavioral Health (Ray Barrett), Youth Development Center (Ken Goonan) and Citizens Council on Children and Families (Wes Colby and Alan Robichaud).

From this training, a larger Juvenile Integrated Information System subcommittee of the Council's Planning Committee was formed. Two large group sessions have been convened by Chair Wes Colby and

we have begun the arduous task of determining who keeps what data and why. In order to address today's pressing problems of juvenile justice, we need to understand what is going on with youth in communities and schools across Belknap County. The Council is in the process of identifying and compiling data elements from multiple agencies involved with juveniles. The degree of success in this endeavor will result from the degree of collaboration from our community and state partners and their willingness to take small steps towards data sharing as bigger data systems are being constructed such as the BRIDGES system utilized by the NH DHHS and the J-1 system implemented by the NH Department of Safety. Thus far, we have realized a great deal of interest and cooperation among agencies.

*Courthouse Renovation Project* – One of the hallmarks of Council visits to Deschutes County, Oregon was the seamlessness that appeared to exist in the juvenile justice system. This in part was successful because of the proximity several of the services were to the youth and families involved with the system. Combined with the safety and security dilemmas faced by our local District Court use of the current Court House building, the Council has become engaged in an effort to study possible renovations and expansion within the Laconia District Court building. Seated among the interested parties are representatives of the court (Judge Willard Martin, Diane Lane, Darlene Dolloff), City of Laconia (Mayor Mark Fraser), Main Street Project (David Stamps), US Rural Development (Anne Getchall), and Citizens Council (Leo Sanfacon, Wes Colby, Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud). Additional meetings have been planned to continue the dialogue about possibilities to expand the utilization of the District Court Building.

*Upstream* - The Council Director has met with Upstream representatives numerous times to seek clarity on the role Upstream should/could play in the Council's need for convening a professional advisory committee. At a recent meeting with Upstream, participants were apprised that the Council has opted, for the present time, to use a directory for convening professionals around topical areas of need (i.e. Education, Family Support, Family Violence, Vocational, Juvenile Crime, Substance Abuse, Mental Health and others). Initial response to this method of professional involvement has met with good success and agencies and organizations are responding positively to the Council request to submit their names for inclusion in our registry. The Council looks forward to continuing its working relationship with Upstream and assisting Upstream in clarifying its own priorities for the future.

### **Training and Technical Assistance**

Staff and Council members have had the following opportunities to participate in training and technical assistance activities over this past quarter.

- JAIBG grant preparation - Laconia
- Structured Decision-making model, Department of Children Youth and Families / Laconia District Office – Laconia
- Connections for Success – Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery (DADAPR) (Trng.) - Concord
- Juvenile Integrated Information Sharing Workshop – Boston
- Restorative Justice Training – Laconia
- Observations of Drug Court – Laconia

### **Concluding Remarks**

In anticipation of its future planning initiatives and full activation of its newly formed committee structure, the Citizens Council will develop its core messages to use in conjunction with future promotion of the emerging community justice system in Belknap County. Further, it will seek the consultation services of our sister county and program in Deschutes County, Oregon to develop a planning structure that will be successful in Belknap County communities.

The Council continues to make strong progress toward the development of a comprehensive system of support to children and families of Belknap County and welcomes all citizens to join in our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan J. Robichaud*

Executive Director

## APPENDIX A

# COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Ending December 31, 2002

### Legislative and & Advocacy

Meeting Date/Time: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month @ 4:30 P. M.  
**Committee Chair:** Mary Alice Warner  
Rep. to Exec. Comm: Mary Alice Warner  
Members: Alida Millham, Jim Pilliod, Gil Schohan,  
Susan Smith, Mary Alice Warner

### Public Relations & Awareness

Meeting Date/Time: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month @ 4:30 P. M.  
**Committee Chair:** Linda Brewer  
Rep. to Exec. Comm: Kevin Washburn  
Members: Linda Brewer, Mark Condodemetraky, Leo Sanfacon,  
Dick Wallace, Kevin Washburn, Sheila Weeks

### Planning Committee

Meeting Date/Time: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each Month @ 3:30 P. M.  
**Committee Chair:** Peter Michaud  
Rep. to Exec. Comm: Peter Michaud (Susan Smith - alternate)  
Members: Scott Andersen, Cathy Apfel, Evelyn Auger, Jim Carroll,  
Wes Colby, Peter Michaud, Alida Millham, Andre Paquette,  
Gil Schohan, Susan Smith

### Finance & Grants

Meeting Date & Time: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every "even" Month @ 4:30 P. M.  
**Committee Co-Chairs:** Bob Rovella & John Irwin  
Rep. to Exec. Comm: Wes Colby  
Members: Wes Colby, John Irwin, Peter Michaud, Bob Rovella,  
David Russell

### Executive Committee

Meeting Date/Time: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each Month @ 4:30 P. M.  
**Committee Chair:** Gil Schohan  
**Committee Vice-Chair:** Bob Rovella  
Members: Mary Alice Warner, Kevin Washburn, Peter Michaud, Wes Colby

## APPENDIX B

### CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

#### COUNCIL TERMS

##### **Term Expiration – December 31, 2002**

**Total of 4 years**

James Carroll	Laconia	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Wes Colby	Laconia	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Alida Millham	Gilford	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Andre Paquette	Laconia	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Leo Sanfacon	Gilford	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Gil Schohan	Belmont	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)
Sheila Weeks	Gilford	Eligible for Second Term (12/05)

##### **Term Expiration – December 31, 2003**

**Total of 5 years**

Cathy Apfel	Barnstead	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
Evelyn Auger	Sanbornton	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
Peter Michaud	Center Harbor	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
James Pilliod, MD	Belmont	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
David Russell	Gilmanton	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
Dick Wallace	Alton	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)
Kevin Washburn	Tilton	Eligible for Second Term (12/06)

##### **Term Expiration – December 31, 2004**

**Total of 6 years**

Scott AndersEn	Center Harbor	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
Linda Brewer	Meredith	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
Mark Condodemetraky	Belmont	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
John Irwin	Laconia	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
Bob Rovella	New Hampton	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
Susan Smith	Gilford	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)
Mary Alice Warner	Center Harbor	Eligible for Second Term (12/07)