

Director's Report



3rd Quarter 2004

“Promoting Community Justice in Belknap County so that children and families can live with dignity and respect.”

HIGHLIGHTS

The Grants are coming...the Grants are coming!...Partnership activities...Community Outreach ...Coming Events.

INTRODUCTION

The third quarter has been filled with many efforts to build on the numerous coalitions and partnerships the Council has created and to develop strategies in response to the ever-changing landscape in Concord and Congress. We continue to hear of constant movement and relocation, with the Department of Health & Human Services, of individuals we have worked hard to develop working relationships. The snowball effect of reorganization causes slow down and disruption at the community level as well, as these working relationships take time to develop. Similarly, the Council has participated in efforts to keep funding flowing from Washington in the vital programs that serve our region. Restoring and preserving funding in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has been an important advocacy effect throughout the state and the Council has tried to sustain its effort in this arena. That said, the Council continues to work closely with all partners at the state and local level to assure Belknap County's unwavering efforts to support children and families, develop strong affiliations with our state partners, and create community alliances with as yet unknown associations. In these changing times, Belknap County continues its persistence toward building safe and healthy communities. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who assist us in this mission.

The Grants are Coming...The Grants are Coming!

Well, we've been reporting to you that the Council, and its partners, has worked on several grants. We are now able to give you the results of these efforts. The "hurry up and wait" period is over. Here's what has happened as a result of the constant and consistent collaboration and willingness to work together on behalf of children and families.

Granted	Grant Description	Amount	Lead Agency/Contact Person
✓	Alcoa Foundation – Noyes Fiber Systems Establish matching fund to promote social entrepreneurial experiences by Belknap County youth. Funds are matched with Youth Venture funds to support youth-driven projects.	\$5,000	Youth Venture Jim Hamel
✓	Family Mediation – OJJDP Final year funding to continue development of countywide mediation services. YSB will sustain program beyond this year.	\$28,940	Youth Services Bureau (YSB) Holly DeWald
✓	CoRe PLUS - SAMHSA Create a Countywide prevention response to alcohol and substance abuse by youth. Renewable up to 5 years.	\$100,000	CoRe (Inter-Lakes School District) Renee Hill
✓	Belknap County Mentoring Initiative – US DOE To make and sustain up to 150 adult-to-youth mentoring matches in Belknap County. Renewable up to three years	\$200,000	The Friends Program Jim Doremus

To remind our readers of other successes in procuring grants this year, Belknap County has secured the following resources in addition to the above round of announcements:

- NIMH – **Co-occurring Disorders Curriculum** used to send six partners to Annapolis, Maryland for training and technical assistance.

- **Youth Attendant Program** – Belknap County Sheriff’s Office began this program October 1, 2004. Program will provide short-term detention in County facility. Unanimously endorsed by all law enforcement agencies in the county. OJJDP funded.
- **Parents As Leaders in Society** – Parent leadership and local network development. Grant from NHCTF
- Consultation Agreement with national leader in Community Justice, **Dr. Gordon Bazemore**. JAIBG award.

(Acronyms defined: NIMH – National Institute of Mental Health; OJJDP – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; NHCTF - New Hampshire Children’s Trust Fund; JAIBG – Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant.)

As we move into the fourth quarter of our third year, the Council will continue building consensus and coalition efforts around such initiatives as an **Adolescent Treatment Initiative**, a five year phased-in system of care providing research-based services for youth through the age of 21. This initiative will be funded by **New Futures** and the **New Hampshire Charitable Fund**. Additionally, we will work toward constructing a directory of community opportunities for youth involved in the juvenile justice and drug court systems. As a pilot site for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s, **New Hampshire Reclaiming Futures** project, Belknap County will elicit grant support for continued efforts in the **Asset Based Community Development** ventures that engage youth in pro-social experiences within their communities.

Each of the above initiatives currently funded or potentially fundable, will succeed only to the degree we are able to engage all sectors of our communities throughout Belknap County and the extent to which members of our communities contribute time and energy to investing in the futures of our youth. Professional organizations, service agencies and more important, youth, families, private citizens and local business leaders will be on our team as we move forward with our Community Justice agenda for Belknap County. What an exciting time to be living in this region.

COUNCIL WORK GROUP UPDATES

Council members continue their work on Goals and Objective set out in our plan. (See grid below)

Work Group	Activities
Balanced and Restorative Justice System (BARJ) WORK GROUP #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work group has completed discussions with Chiefs of Police in each community in Belknap County. A written report will be completed and distributed through the Council in coming weeks. ✓ Elements of the Juvenile Justice Report Card have been developed and will be addressed by local providers. ✓ Data Management group is reviewing strategies for moving toward a more Restorative Justice across juvenile-serving agencies.
Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) WORK GROUP #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A formal partnership with Youth Venture is being developed ✓ Working with Reclaiming Futures to provide pro-social funding opportunities and training in developmental assets of the ABCD and Search Institutes. ✓ Beginning stages of developing directory of pro-social resources and opportunities for youth in the juvenile justice system.
Prevention Practices WORK GROUP #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work with CoRe and Mentoring Grants to assure program success and outreach to all Belknap County communities. ✓ Work with the NH task Force on Women and Addiction to assure gender-competency in service delivery. ✓ Support the evolution of the Family Violence Prevention Council.
Communications and Infrastructure WORK GROUP #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Work with PR specialist to develop a comprehensive communication plan for the Council. ✓ Support the <i>Voices</i> recovery project of Horizons and Addiction Task Force. ✓ Facilitate a process for creating an Adolescent Treatment Initiative proposal for the region.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS

The Council is [recruiting for more members](#). We currently have four vacancies and we will be losing several of our veteran members after next year due to term expirations. If you or someone you know would like more information on becoming a Council member, please visit our website www.bccj.org or call the Citizens Council at 528-3185. Become part of the change you want to see in your community!

On October 5, 2004, [Renee Hill of CoRe](#) (Community Response) and the Citizens Council, will co-sponsor a [Belknap County Prevention Coalition](#) breakfast inviting directors and a Board member of each of the eight prevention coalitions that operate within Belknap County. Based on recent identification by the Division of Public Health Services of prevention coalitions serving communities throughout the state, the Council extracted those indicating service to Belknap County communities. The meeting targets those specific coalitions with the intent to identify what resources are and can be expended to assist local schools, communities and families. This is an important first step in implementing the Prevention Network grant received by CoRe. Special thanks to Renee Hill, the [CoRe Board, SAU #2](#) (Inter-Lakes School District) and to the [Lakes Region School Administrators Association](#) for signing onto this exciting endeavor.

Now that the [Mentoring](#) grant has been received by [The Friends Program](#), we will need to get maximum exposure to public forums, media, community groups and individuals in order to begin the recruitment process. Procuring the grant is the first part. Now the real work begins...we need people who are willing to become mentors for youth. To schedule presentations for either the Prevention Network or the Mentoring Initiative, call the programs directly or contact the Council at 528-3185. Recognition is paid to [Jim Doremus and Russ Bloch](#) of the Friends Program and each of the [Superintendents throughout Belknap County](#) for signing Partnership Agreements to help facilitate this school-based initiative.

Preliminary discussions are taking place with representatives of the local [Chambers of Commerce](#) to develop opportunities for youth to become exposed to various community services and competency enhancement venues throughout the county. With the receipt of the [Alcoa Foundation](#) grant through [Noyes Fiber Systems](#) in Belmont and a partnership with [Youth Venture of New Hampshire](#), the Council will begin discussions to create avenues for pro-social experiences for youth. We gratefully acknowledge the support and encouragement of [Laura Moore](#) of Noyes Fiber Systems for championing the grant to the Alcoa Foundation and [Jim Hamel](#) of Youth Venture for enthusiastically joining onto the framework for establishing a local fund to support youth opportunities in our county.

A wonderful grassroots initiative is emerging in Barnstead under the guidance of [Dawn McCartney](#) and a group of dedicated citizens. Called the [Barnstead Community Resource Team](#), the group seeks to meet the needs of local citizens by calling upon the goodwill and resources of neighbors and town agencies in a collaborative of volunteerism and social capital. This group is one to watch for ways rural communities meet the needs of local folks. Good stuff happening here!

The Council recently held exhibits at the following venues: New Hampton Old Home Day, Multicultural Market Day, and the NH Children's Trust Fund Annual Smith Award for Excellence in Concord. Thanks to Council members [Christie Corrigan, Bob Rovella, Katy DeCarteret, Sue Smith, Gil Schohan, Alida Millham and Jim Pilliod](#), these opportunities were well covered and gave the Council ample community exposure. Many Council members are now heavily involved in local and county-wide efforts to promote the work of the Council. We thank them all for their outstanding efforts on behalf of children and families in Belknap County. We also extend a special thanks to [Bob Rovella](#) of New Hampton as he departs for North Hampton, Massachusetts. Bob brought tremendous knowledge of finance and grants management to our table and his thoughtful and discerning demeanor will be sorely missed. Thanks Bob for the hours and knowledge you contributed to us all. You shall not be forgotten!

[Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families](#) is a reference to an emerging annual event that combines multi-agency efforts toward issues confronting families and youth. By combining resources, many agencies are able to come together to convene their annual meetings and to gather for exhibits and speakers of common interests to

agencies, organizations, families and youth. Last year, Laura Nissen, Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Reclaiming Futures project served as keynote speaker for a combined gathering of the Citizens Council, UpStream and their guests. Each agency convened their respective Annual Meetings preceding the keynote and over 100 guests assembled to share information during the exhibitors' hour. This year, the [Family Violence Prevention Council](#) will share in this event, conducting their first Annual Meeting that evening and attending the keynote presentation by [Russ Thibeault](#) who will be discussing the *Impact of the Economy on Children and Families*. For ways that others can join this annual convocation, please contact the Alan Robichaud at the Citizens Council (528-3185).

UPCOMING EVENTS

UpStream Fall Conference	<i>Strengthening Families and Communities</i>	October 16, 2004
Parent Leadership Series	<i>Parents As Leaders in Society</i>	October 16, 2004 thru March, 2005
Attorney General's Office	<i>Conference on Child Abuse</i>	October 21 & 22, 2004
DADAPR	<i>The NH Substance Abuse Conference</i>	October 26 & 27, 2004
Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families	<i>Impact of the Economy on Children and Families</i>	January 11, 2005

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Citizens Council Meetings	2nd Friday of the Month	8:00 AM	Busiel Mill, Laconia
Center for Civic Engagement	2nd Friday of the Month	12:30 PM	NH Com. Tech. Coll.
Addictions Task Force	4th Monday of the Month	8:30 AM	Busiel Mill, Laconia
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee	4th Friday of the Month	8:00 AM	Busiel Mill, Laconia

Meeting times and place are subject to change. Please confirm your attendance ahead of time. For more information about any of these meetings and events...please contact the Citizens Council at 528-3185.

Respectfully,
Alan Robichaud