Director's Report

1st Quarter 2005

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

HIGHLIGHTS

This report features updates on several Council initiatives as we enter our fourth year as a County Department. As we reflect back on our foundation building and successes, we are pleased to report that the Belknap County Convention passed our budget on March 7, 2005. This report also introduces our readers to further progress being made in developing performance measures and reporting processes so that citizens will know how their tax dollars are being spent to keep children and families safe in Belknap County.

INTRODUCTION

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the County Commissioners and the Belknap County Convention for approving the Council's budget. We have been approved for 50% of our budget from the Annette Schmitt Fund and 50% from the County, as we continue to implement the funding agreement that established the Citizens Council (i.e. that the County would gradually absorb funding for the Council over a six year period with the Schmitt Fund providing full start-up funding for the first two years of operation). Our operating budget for FY 2005 is $295,000. Of that amount, $100,000 serves as an in/out account allowing the Council to accept and spend up to $100,000 in grant funding over the course of the year. There is no money in this line item unless, and until, a grant is received by the Council. Such funds can then only be expended on the intended grant purposes. Therefore, for all intents and purposes, the operating budget for the Council is $195,000 of which the county contributes 50% this year ($97,500).

INITIATIVES

The Council completed a successful 2nd Annual Convocation on January 11, 2005. This year's event held at the Winnipesaukee Expo Center hosted 250 participants in a series of activities including exhibit hall, local school youth art show, community awards, agency annual meetings, keynote address (Russ Thibeault), Annette Schmitt *Unsung Hero* Award (Judge Bud Martin) and the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Task Force Public Forum (Joe Harding). Special thanks go to area youth who served as our emcees. Trevor Chandler (Laconia), Meyghan Elliott (Prospect Mountain), Bobby Guidi and Kelsey Titara (Inter-Lakes). Student Art work from area schools was coordinated and displayed by Katie McKerley (The Friends Program/Foster Grandparents). Registrations and Exhibits were handled by Trudy Bantle (NH Catholic Charities) and Judi Taggart (Upstream) respectively. Decorations and donations were secured and set up by Katy DeCarteret and Publications by Kevin Washburn both of the Citizens Council. Youth involvement was coordinated by Renee Rockwell (CoRe). A fantastic Italian Buffet was provided by the Food For Thought Café under the able preparation of Chris Merritz and her culinary students (NH Community Technical College in Laconia). Logistics were conducted by Brain Loanes, John Egan and their able crew of youth adults (Belknap County Restorative Justice Program). Coordination of the Governor's Task Force segment was managed by Joe Hardy (Office of Alcohol Abuse and Recovery) and conference facility liaison was served by Kathy Eastwood (Winnipesaukee Expo Center). Overall direction and coordination of the Convocation was aptly provided by Judy Buswell of the Citizens Council. This was truly a collaborative event which promises to be bigger and better next year. So save the date: January 10, 2006 will be our 3rd Annual Convocation on Children and Families. The Winni Expo Center will again serve as the venue for the event. A snow date of January 12, 2006 will be our backup if needed. JOIN US!

Several individuals and organizations were recognized again this year for assisting in the many initiatives of the Citizens Council Community Associates and Partner Awards (see attached list at the end of this report. This year's deserving Schmitt Award recipient was Dawn McCartney, a community activist from Barnstead who founded the Barnstead Community Response Team (BCRT), an Early Reading Program at the public library, fundraiser/grant writer for community projects and volunteer child advocate who cares deeply for the citizens of her community. Dawn and the entire BCRT are tremendous examples of the

natural assets that exist in all of our communities of Belknap County. We thank and congratulate Dawn and her associates for their fine work and role modeling for today's youth and…the rest of us as well!

SPOTLIGHT ON COUNCIL MEMBERS

Richard Moed was appointed our newest Council member at the Annual meeting. Richard and his family have recently relocated to Gilford from Connecticut and he brings a multitude of experiences from the fields of healthcare, substance abuse and mental health. Richard's wife Patti, a professional writer, has also volunteered to produce some articles for the Council and is well underway with an emerging series of topics related to our work in Community Justice. Welcome to Richard, Patti and their son Alex. We are proud to have you in our community of Belknap County.

The following Council members were approved for an additional term: Susan Smith (Gilford), Mary Alice Warner (Center Harbor), and Sarah Fox (Sanbornton). Susan and Sarah were elected Council Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for 2005. The Council invites any interested citizen of Belknap County to contact our office (528-3185) to request information on becoming a Council member. We continue to seek Council applicants and applications may be found on our web site www.bccj.org. For further information or discussion of what is expected of Council members, please contact Alan Robichaud, Executive Director, 528-3185. Representatives from each community in Belknap County are being sought.

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME MEASURES

On January 5, 2005, a team of five people representing the data and performance outcome measures team of the Citizens Council, attended a training session on performance measures in juvenile justice services. Sponsored by the National District Attorneys Association, the American Prosecutor Research Institute in Columbia, South Carolina hosted the three-day training entailing review and discussions of the results from pilot programs around the nation. Representing the Council and leading the team was Andre Paquette who chairs the Balanced and Restorative Justice Work Group. Included on the team were Judge Willard Martin (Laconia District Court Justice), Jay Apicelli (Juvenile Probation and Parole Supervisor/Laconia District Office), Bill McGonagle (Quality Assurance/NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services) and Jim Sawyer (Laconia City Prosecutor). As a result of this training, the team developed a case closing form that will be used by all providers in the pre-court, court-diverted and court-involved programs. Information from case closing forms will be used by the Council to generate reporting to the county, state and community as to the success of services in establishing balanced and restorative justice practices that return youth offenders to good citizenship. At this writing, the case closing forms have been field tested and the data and performance measures team will make necessary modifications, refine definitions, and begin the implementation process in order to report results for 2005 at the end of the year. It should be noted that the above training was provided at no cost to the Council. Due to our continuous networking and contacts developed with people conducting national research, we are able to leverage other resources that assist us in attaining our goals. We wish to acknowledge Leo Sanfacon for identifying and tracking this resource for us, the members of the performance outcome team who, under the guidance of Andre Paquette continue to develop a sound data collection process in line with emerging national practices, and our service providers (Holly DeWald (Youth Services Bureau), Martha Douglass (Youth Assistance Program), Brian Loanes (Belknap County Restorative Justice) and Jay Apicelli (Juvenile Probation and Parole) for their ongoing cooperation in developing measurable outcomes for our juvenile justice system. This continues to be a major focus for the Citizens Council and one that has been cited by the NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services as a potential model for New Hampshire. We appreciate the support given us by Rod Forey, Director of DJJS, and his staff. This important partnership has increased our ability to reach our goal of reporting outcomes to the public.

ADOLESCENT TREATMENT INITIATIVE (ATI)

As reported in earlier Quarterly Reports, Belknap County is participating in the development of an Adolescent Treatment Initiative that will assure consistent and timely screening, assessment and treatment for youth involved with alcohol and drug use. Key to the success of this initiative is the engagement of local school districts as early detectors of substance use by adolescents. On February 22, 2005, the planning group of the ATI invited superintendents, principals and others from local school districts to participate in a

discussion for this initiative and to seek authority to participate with schools. Over thirty administrators and staff attended from all but a couple of Belknap County school districts. Breakfast was served by the Food For Thought Café of the Community Technical College Culinary Arts program. Amy Pepin of Child and Family Services and Alan Robichaud of the Citizens Council presented the overview of the concept submitted to New Futures for consideration in participating in this statewide project. Key to the concept was participation by school guidance and nursing staff in the early screening and referral phases of detection. The response was overwhelming. All attending school districts wanted to participate and at this writing, a work plan is being completed by Shari Landry of Child and Family Services, lead agency in the initiative.

By participating in this initiative, New Futures has placed certain requirements on those chosen to implement the project in their area. Assessment must be performed using the GAIN tool and treatment must be performed using research-based processes. Agencies must maintain fidelity to the model of treatment and participate with the overall project evaluator hired by New Futures. In addition to the use of the GAIN (Global Assessment of Individuals Needs), the Belknap County ATI project proposes to implement the CRAFFT (screening tool) at the school level, and will adopt the ACRA (Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach) as its primary treatment model. (See Attachment for schematic of the planning and implementation process). While the details of the final work plan are still being drafted, we expect to see training in the GAIN and the ACRA models being performed this summer for implementation once school begins again in the fall. We wish to thank each of our school districts for their support and participation in this important initiative. Though we may be unable to engage all districts in the initial roll-out stage, we will engage all within a year or two as this project gets into full swing.

UNDERAGE DRINKING INITIATIVE

A collaborative of CoRe, Belknap County Citizens Council, Belknap Council Sheriff's Office, Laconia Police Department, and others continues making progress on Project Monitor, an anonymous tip line to diffuse underage drinking parties before they occur. Renee Rockwell (CoRe) has been leading this effect under the auspices of the prevention grant that expands CoRe throughout Belknap County. The call line will be housed at the Sheriff's Office and operated by its dispatch center. This is another remarkable example of the level of collaboration among Belknap County agencies in providing safe and healthy communities for our youth.

In line with the Underage Drinking initiative, the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) is developing a 6 part series on this issue. Working jointly with the Community Technical College and Lakes Region Public Access TV, members of the CCE are compiling panels of local and state experts on the impact of underage drinking on our society (e.g. what's the scope of the problem, how it effects education and public safety and health, what are the social pressures confronting our youth and what can communities do to minimize the risk of alcohol use and abuse by our youth). Plans for airing this series is slated for the fall.

CAROLINE GROSS AWARD

Alan Robichaud, Executive Director of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families has been awarded the 2005 Caroline l. Gross Fellowship by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. This award allows the recipient to attend an intensive leadership program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The Senior Executives in State and Local Government is a prestigious program that assists community leaders to improve their skills in dealing with today's ever-changing world of politics, economics and social needs. This highly coveted award speaks well to the efforts of the leadership in Belknap County in establishing the Citizens Council. With this honor comes recognition for the tremendous work being performed by our citizen volunteers, our providers, schools and law enforcement on behalf of our families and youth. The foresight and courage of our County Commission to put their support behind such effort as creating the Citizens Council, is testimony to the leadership and concern they have for our communities. We thank them for their continued support and investment in the future of our children and families.

PARENTS AS LEADERS IN SOCIETY (PALS)

The PALS series was begun in October of 2004 and ended in March, 2005. By all accounts, the series was a total success and participants overwhelmingly support its continuation. The purpose of the series was to bring together parents from Belknap County who see themselves as becoming leaders, willing to serve the needs of others as well as their own families. Another true example of partnership and collaboration, PALS came together through a planning group consisting of representatives of the Citizens Council, UpStream's Parent Education Committee, the Center for Civic Engagement, and families throughout the county. In November of 2002, the Citizens Council conducted community forums to see what was on the minds of citizens relative to issues confronting children and families. Parent accountability was one of six main themes that emerged from those forums and the Council approached Upstream with a proposal for leadership development among families. Acknowledging the finger-pointing that many parents endure for the behaviors of today's youth, the Council and UpStream viewed this negative perception as placing additional burden on already stressed lives. By giving information to parents and encouraging them to seek out existing resources early on in situations that seem out of control, places responsibility and access in the hands of parents. The belief that parents possess the ability to be leaders and assume responsible roles for their families was reinforced time and again and the first graduating class from PALS proved that parents do care and do possess skills to change what they wish to change. Many of our participants were leaders before they came into the program but all left with renewed confidence, knowledge of existing resources, and an ability to create momentum for change in their communities by serving as connectors for other families. It is with great pride and admiration that we recognize the following PALS graduates of 2005: Jennifer Gagnon and Gretta Olson-Wilder (Belmont), Monica Sawyer, Heidi Lehr and Umija Gusinac (Gilford), Tammy Roberge, Kathy Calvin, Katherine Brisendine (Laconia) and Bernadette Haines (Meredith). These parents are dedicated not only to their own children but to improving the health and welfare of all families and children and have pledged to reach out to others in their communities to assist and connect as needs arise. GO PALS!

PALS was made possible in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund and matching contributions from the Citizens Council and Project EXTRA of the Laconia School District. Planning for the 2005/2006 series is in its initial phases. Whereas the coordination for last year's series emanated from the Citizens Council, this year's series will be under the direction of UpStream and the United Way of the Lakes Region. The Council will continue to work closely with the series during this transition year.

For more information about the PALS series, please contact the United Way office at 524-6864.

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COUNCIL

At the 2nd Annual Convocation on Children and Families, the Family Violence Prevention Council held its first annual meeting and voted in officers for 2005. Diane Lane (Laconia District Court) was elected Chair; Sue Roberts (J Jill), Vice-Chair; Kathy Keller (New Beginnings) Treasurer; and Alan Robichaud, (Citizens Council) Secretary. Other members of the Board of Directors include: Natalie Allen (NH DHHS), Trudy Bantle (NH Catholic Charities), Ray Barrett (Genesis Behavioral Health), John Bresaw (Public Defender's Office), Deb Coe (Horizons Counseling Center), Katy Gautsch (Community Health and Hospice), Jan Keith and Jerry Slagle (Ozanam Place), Faith Pappachristos (Laconia Area Community Land Trust), Melissa Pucci (Child and Family Services), Jim Sawyer (City of Laconia Prosecutor's Office). The Mission of the Family Violence Prevention Council is to *prevent the occurrence of family violence through education; community awareness activities and events; to advocate for batterers' education and intervention; and to promote safe and violence-free living environments for children and families throughout Belknap County.* The FVPC meets the first Friday of the month from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM at the Busiel Mill, One Mill Plaza in Laconia. Meetings are open to the public.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

"Whatever you are…be a good one." Abe Lincoln

Respectfully,

Alan Robichaud

Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families

RECOGNITION AWARDS

~ 2005 ~

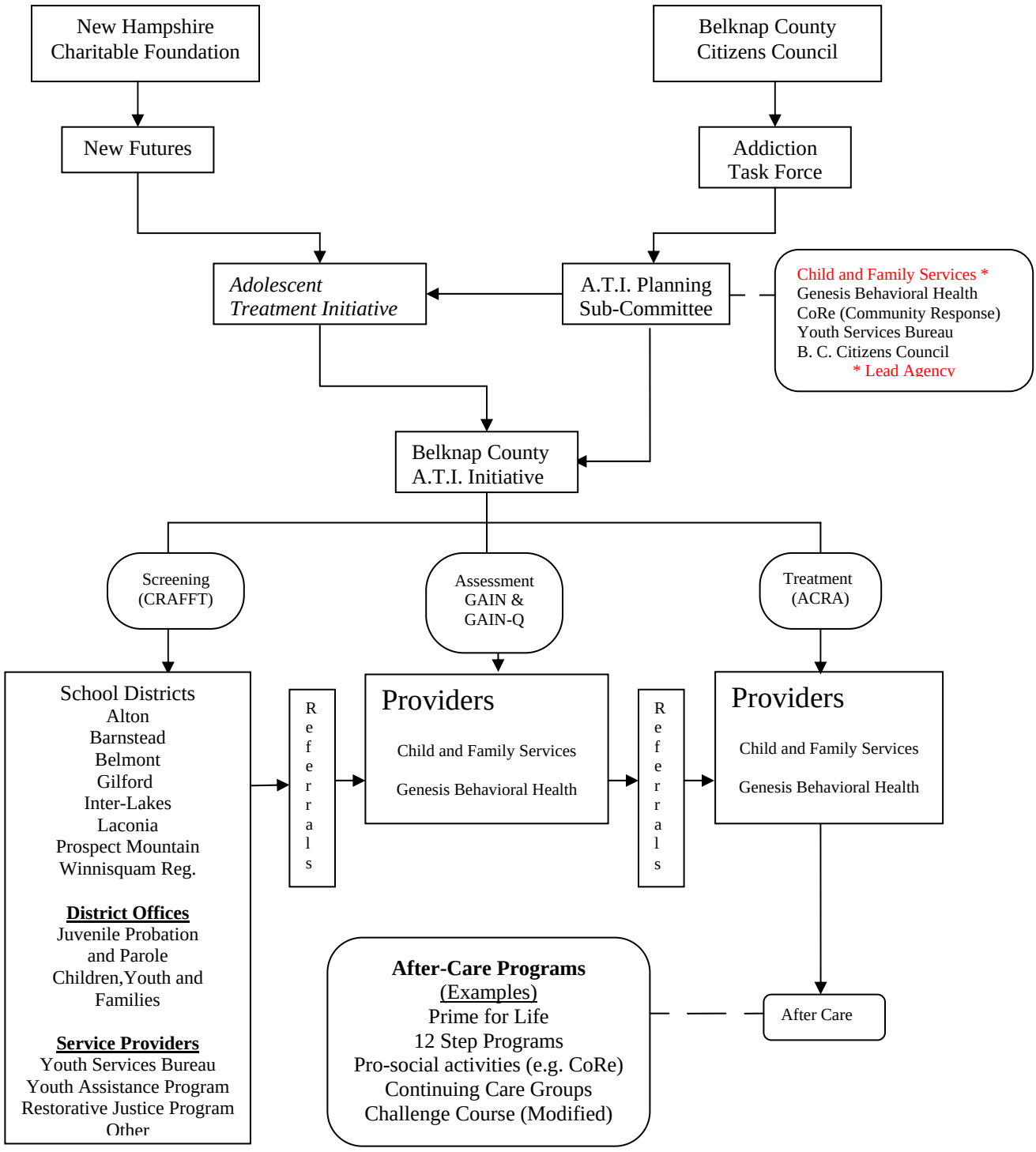
Presented by the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

Project or Initiative	Community Partner Award [1]	Community Associate Award [2]
Youth Ventures	Youth Venture NH Noyes Fiber Systems	Jim Hamel Laura Moore
B.C. Family Mediation	Youth Services Bureau NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services	Holly DeWald Pam Sullivan Mary Calise
B.C. Prevention Network	CoRe	Renee Hill-Rockwell
B.C. Mentoring Initiative	The Friends Program	Jim Doremus Russ Bloch Donna Odde
Community and Neighborhood Development	Barnstead Community Response Team	Dawn McCartney
Parents As Leaders in Society (PALS)	Upstream Project EXTRA/Laconia School District NH Children's Trust Fund	Judi Taggart Marie Ross Karen Carpenter
Family Violence Prevention Council	New Beginnings	Kathy Keller
Asset-Based Community Development	Reclaiming Futures/NH	Maria Gagnon Tym Rourke
Convocation on Child and Families	Winnipesaukee Expo Center	Kathy Eastwood

[1] Community Partner Awards are given in Recognition of those agencies and Organizations that have either participated with the Belknap County Citizens Council over the past year or which have contributed to the advocacy of safe and healthy environments for children and families throughout Belknap County.

[2] Community Associate Awards are presented to those individuals who, through their leadership and commitment, have fostered collaborative partnerships with the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families and/or the numerous networks, coalitions and associations now working collectively, throughout Belknap County, on behind of children and families.

BELKNAP COUNTY
ADOLESCENT TREATMENT INITIATIVE
Partnership Roles



BELKNAP COUNTY ADOLESCENT TREATMENT INITIATIVE

DEFINITIONS

ACRA

The Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA) is composed of ten individual sessions with the adolescent and four sessions with caregivers. The focus is on rearranging environmental contingencies so that abstinence from marijuana is more rewarding than using behavior. ACRA will teach participants how to build on their reinforcers, how to use existing community resources that will support positive change, and how to develop a positive support system within the family.

CRAFFT

The brief alcohol and drug screening test is known by a mnemonic, CRAFFT, based on the first letter of keywords in the 6 easy-to-remember questions:

Have you ever ridden in a **CAR** driven by someone (including yourself) who was "high" or had been using alcohol or drugs?
Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to **RELAX**, feel better about yourself, or fit in?
Do you ever use alcohol/drugs while you are by yourself, **ALONE**?
Do your family or **FRIENDS** ever tell you that you should cut down on your drinking or drug use?
Do you ever **FORGET** things you did while using alcohol or drugs?
Have you gotten into **TROUBLE** while you were using alcohol or drugs?

*2 or more YES answers suggest a significant problem.
This instrument was developed by John Knight, M.D., Boston Children's Hospital.

GAIN - Q

The Global Appraisal of Individual Needs - Quick (GAIN-Q**)** instrument is a general assessment used to identify various life problems among adolescents and adults in the general population. Designed for use by personnel in diverse settings (e.g. Employee Assistance Programs, Student Assistance Programs, health clinics, juvenile justice, criminal justice, etc.), the instrument is used to

- identify those in need of a longer, more detailed assessment;
- identify those who may benefit from a brief intervention; and
- guide staff to make effective referral and placement decisions.

PRIME for Life Under 21

This 12-hour course is offered for juveniles who violate drinking laws, school policy, drinking and driving laws, or simply make high-risk choices. It is designed to reduce risk for problems and focus on 3 measurable behavioral prevention goals: increase abstinence for a lifetime; delay the age of first use of alcohol; and reduce high-risk choices. The intervention goals include: facilitate self assessment of drinking and drug choices and progression; reduce high-risk use among people who do not already have alcoholism or other drug addiction; facilitate entry into evaluation to determine whether alcoholism or other drug addictions are present; facilitate entry into some form of treatment or a self-help group for those who have already developed alcoholism or other drug addiction; and support abstinence for all people with alcoholism and other drug addiction.