

Director's Report... 04/01/02 - 04/30/02

Reflections

Since the submission of the Quarterly Report in early April, I have been delinquent in keeping you posted via the Director's Report. I apologize for this lapse in continuity but didn't want you to think I have forgotten. What follows are the highlights of our work for the month of April. The Council continues to work hard and I feel is making some good progress. Following our initial internal organizational discussions, we will soon become active in our community planning approach.

Outreach contacts during the month of April have included the following:

One on one interviews with Carolee Longley (School and Family Coordinator, Winnisquam Regional School System), Jim Carroll (Council member and former City Prosecutor), Ingrid McIver (Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer), Scott Andersen (Council member and Superintendent of SAU 2), and Barbara Belmont Victim Witness Coordinator, Belknap County Attorney's Office).

Meetings with individuals and community representatives included Tilton Town Library; Alton church and law enforcement officials (with Council member Dick Wallace); convening a meeting to restore Mediation services to Belknap County, Facilitated small group discussions at the Gilford G.A.L.A. event; attendance at the District DCYF Office public forum; attendance at a statewide Family Resource Center forum; participation in the Department of Corrections grant planning group (Going Home) and facilitation of local resource gathering; NH Community Technical College System Board of Trustees meetings; meeting with Dolly Powell of the Warren Group re: Alternatives to Violence program; and attendance at Memorial Middle School Substance Abuse Assembly.

Council members Dick Wallace and Jim Carroll have been meeting with Alton representatives around establishing a teen center modeled after the Belknap County Teen Center located in Laconia. Local people are committing to addressing local needs. Council member Alida Millham has volunteered to convene a meeting to explore the need for affordable housing in Gilford as part of the G.A.L.A. event of April 5 & 6. Council member Scott Andersen has continued to lead a major community effort on substance abuse prevention in the Inter-lakes school district. Many of our Council members are active residents of their communities and we are proud they were selected to the Council.

Additionally, we have been active with the NH District Court Administrative Office of Judge Edwin Kelly, in the interview and selection of the state coordinator of the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) "Reclaiming Futures" grant that will have a presence in Belknap County. Marie Gagnon, formerly of the Nashua Youth Center has assumed the position and is currently attending a conference sponsored by the RWJ Foundation, in Portland, Oregon. Also attending is our own Judge Martin who, we are proud to acknowledge, has been

selected to participate in a Judicial; Fellowship program which is a component of the RWJ grant. This is a nice testimony to Bud's outstanding commitment to families and youth and we are proud that he will help to shape the future of court involvement with youth.

Andre Paquette has been instrumental in designing a proposal for the Community Justice Institute (CJI) which is under consideration by the Community Technical College of Laconia for inclusion in their fall line-up of courses. Fashioned along the lines of a leadership series, this fifteen week program will allow students and members of the public to attend classroom forums for both credit and general awareness. Using the CJI model, local area providers will serve as instructors thus orientating participants to their respective slice of the juvenile justice system as well as promoting the field as a career possibility for student. The partnership with the college adds an extra level of professionalism to the plan and creates a wonderful partnership with the Council and the array of service providers. Andre's years of educational experience in curriculum development and evaluation has added a great deal to this project.

Presentations during April have included the following:

Taped interview with Channel 11 with Judge Martin and Alan Robichaud for purposes of promoting the recent Robert Wood Johnson grant and the emerging community justice concept in New Hampshire.

Participation at the Leadership Lakes Region "Stand Up and Shout" forum where Council Chair Gil Schohan spoke out for the Council, youth and families.

Training opportunities, in conjunction with other state and private organizations included attendance at a Grants Management Seminar in Hilton Head, South Carolina (Judy Buswell) and participation at a Boston workshop conducted by the Center for Network Development on Juvenile Integrated Information Sharing (Wes Colby, Council member; Jay Apicelli (DJJS/Laconia District Office; Diane Lane, Laconia District Court; Ray Barrett, Genesis Behavioral Health; Ken Goonan, NHDJJS; and Alan Robichaud). Attendance at both of these events was sponsored by the Annette Schmitt Fund and personal contributions of those attending.

Additional training included staff attendance at a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant workshop (Laconia) sponsored by the Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS). A local meeting with an official of the DJJS regarding the development of a Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition (also attended by Jay Apicelli, Holly DeWald, Diane Lane, Brian Loanes and Bonnie Wrisley of the DJJS). Finally, staff attended a workshop sponsored by the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery titled: Connections for Success, a workshop delivered by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. Also attending this workshop was Council member Alida Millham.

Administrative functions for the month included convening the full Council hosted by the Winnisquam Middle School, courtesy of Council member Kevin Washburn; conductance of two Executive Committee meetings, one involving a broad audience including law enforcement, NHDDJS and others, for a discussion of the HB 179 (Age of Majority); meeting with Mary Alice Warner and Evelyn Auger to review recent Council

developments; attendance at Rotary meetings; attendance at Restorative Justice Advisory Council meeting with Council member Leo Sanfacon; approval and hiring of our second full time staff member Judy Buswell in the position of Planning and Research Coordinator, by County Commissioners; and approval of a working By-laws document by the Council.

The Council also approved the following Vision Statement at its April 12th meeting:

“Belknap County is a safe community where children and families can live with dignity and respect.”

Looking Ahead

Scheduled meetings and presentations for the upcoming days include:

5/2 LRGH Medical Safety and Healthcare Management Department

5/3 Convene Juvenile Integrated Information Sharing Steering Committee

5/3 One on one Interview with Bob Champlin, Superintendent, SAU 30

5/10 Council meeting at Corner Meeting House, Belmont

5/15 Lakes Region Community Development Clearinghouse

5/15 Session with Carl Dunst (University of North Carolina) at Congregational Church

5/15 Youth Services Board of Directors re: Mediation Program coordination

5/17 Community Technical College Craft Committee re: Community Justice Institute

5/17 Early Learning Opportunities grant group conducted by Lakes Region Community Services Council.

Please call the Council office (528-3185) should you have any questions or wish to have additional information and any of the above items.

Alan