

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

## *Director's Report #7 . . . 05/11/02 – 05/31/02*

### *Reflections*

**Outreach** contacts during this reporting period have included the following:

5/13 – Meeting with Belmont Chief David Nielsen to discuss role of law enforcement in Integrated Information System.

5/15 – The Director observed three cases of Drug Court.

5/16 – Meeting with John Graziano, Superintendent of SAU #4 (Newfound Area School System). Purpose of the meeting was to have John sign on to Department of Corrections Reentry grant, to give him an overview of the Council and to conduct a one-on-one interview to determine collaborative roles. John has some great activities going on within the school system and is looking at ways to convert traditional school models into “Community Schools”. New Hampton is the only school district in SAU #4 that lies within Belknap County. The other six communities are located within Grafton County. In discussing how the Council could best work with SAU, John felt that the entire school district would need to be considered and not carve out just New Hampton.

5/17 – Staff attended a planning session for an Early Learning Opportunities grant convened by Lakes Region Community Services Council. We will continue to collaborate in this process.

5/20 – Meeting with Laurie DeTrude, Student Services Director, SAU #30. Laurie indicated there are 430 coded students in SAU #30. Issues include lack of foster care, transportation and transition issues between agencies.

5/21 – Staff and Council members attended an “Early Learning Lasts and Lifetime” presentation at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center.

5/29 – Meeting with Miami Blake of PACT to explore collaborative role of Council in pursuing Mentor grant.

5/30 – Met with CEO of Spaulding Youth Center to explore future potential collaboration for short term residential interventions (e.g. shelter beds), community service opportunities, and other possible partnerships.

**Presentations** during this time have included the following:

5/15 – Presentation to the Lakes Region Administrators Association (13). The purpose of this presentation was two-fold. First, to present the video and overview of the BCCCCF to the local Superintendents' group as a prelude to the second reason, that being to get as many Superintendents as possible to sign on to a Memorandum of Agreement for the Department of Corrections' Reentry Grant. We were successful in getting 6 of 9 Superintendents to sign on. Approval notice on this grant is pending.

5/15 – Attended Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors' meeting to discuss feasibility of re-establishing a county Mediation program. The Board was receptive to the notion but will do further inquiry as to the costs and associated responsibilities of conducting such a program. The meeting was the result of recommendations made by a steering group comprised of former mediators and other interested parties.

### ***Administrative***

The Belknap County Commissioners approved the policies submitted to them by the Council. Policy areas included Conflict of Interest, Council Support of Grant Applications, and Support for Training and Education. They also approved the transfer use of Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant funds from the Youth Services Bureau Upswing Program to the Belknap County Juvenile Offender Locator Team (JOLT). Judy Buswell has been working diligently on reformulating the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) proposal to provide a Juvenile Offender Locator Team program among law enforcement agencies and Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers throughout Belknap County. We have had a great deal of difficulty in processing this application for consideration by the Governor and Council (G&C) but we are currently hoping for consideration at the G&C meeting of June 12.

On May 1, a conference call was conducted with two members of the Deschutes County Professional Advisory Council re: operational procedures, relationships, membership, etc. Participating in the call for the Council were Gil Schohan and Alida Millham, staff members Judy Buswell and Alan Robichaud and Ray Barrett representing Upstream. Purpose of the call was to help frame the discussion of creating a professional advisory body for the Citizens Council.

As part of the Council's implementation of an integrated data system, the planning group was expanded at a May 20 meeting. The purpose of the group is to identify, coordinate and analyze data pertaining to children and families in order to identify service gaps and needs; define means to affect efficient interagency collaboration; determine effectiveness of current services; and to plan for future capacity which is data-supported and research-based. The meeting was attended by 19 people representing a wide range of state and local agencies involved with youth issues. The group was facilitated by Wes Colby.

Staff met with Maria Gagnon, newly appointed Director of the Robert Wood Johnson grant, *Reclaiming Futures* acquired through the New Hampshire District Court System. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role Belknap County Citizens Council will play in the development of the grant as it pertains to this region. Exact parameters and responsibilities will continue to be examined as the project moves forward.

A site review team of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (*Reclaiming Futures* grant) visited New Hampshire on May 13 & 14. Several members of the Council and other invited guests of the Belknap County attended a luncheon meeting at the Mill to greet and discuss our project with the team. They were excited about the work of the Council and the prospects for the future.

The Executive Committee of the Belknap County Convention received an update on activities of the Citizens Council and approved the Commissioners ability to access a line item of the budget (program initiatives) on behalf of the Council at times that require prompt action to activate a grant requiring upfront expenditures, as does the JOLT program.

At a craft committee meeting, of the Human Services Department of the Community Technical College/Laconia, it was announced that Bill Wheeler, former head of this same department and know training officer for the Department of Corrections, will be the Instructor for the Community Justice Institute which the Council has put forth to the college. Members of the college and the Council will now begin marketing and planning throughout the summer for the startup this fall.

Council Executive Committee met to discuss Professional Advisory Council organization and other Council committee. Members will be asked to determine regular meeting schedules for the

following committees: Executive Committee, Finance & Grants, Planning, Legislative & Advocacy, and Public Relations & Awareness.

### *Looking Ahead*

The Council will conduct its June meeting on the Friday, June 7 at the Barnstead Town Hall beginning at 8:00 A.M.

A series of Council committee meetings will begin to clarify and formulate our role in various arenas of community justice in the months ahead. We will continue to resolve and implement efforts to establish the Professional Advisory Council (PAC). Through the PAC and other committees of the Council, we will continue to invite participants from among multi-agency partners and we will continue to conduct presentations and one-on-one interviews to further our understanding and capacity building throughout Belknap County communities. The committee meetings are scheduled as follows:

Legislative & Advocacy Committee  
Facilitated by Mary Alice Warner  
Tuesday, June 4th  
4:30 to 6:00 PM  
2nd Floor Conference Room, Busiel Mill

Planning Committee  
Facilitated by Peter Michaud  
Friday, June 7th  
10:00 to 11:30 AM (following Council meeting)  
Barnstead Town Hall

Finance & Grants Committee  
Facilitated by Bob Rovella  
Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 to 5:30 PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Busiel Mill

Public Relations & Awareness Committee  
Facilitated by Linda Brewer  
Thursday, June 6th  
4:30 to 6:00 PM  
2nd Floor Conference Room, Busiel Mill

We will participate in ongoing Reclaiming Futures Advisory Committee meetings to bring that project on-line. We will monitor the Juvenile Offender Locator Team (JOLT) grant through the Division of Juvenile Justice Services and will also monitor the status of the Department of Corrections Reentry grant as we also have “pilot site” role in that grant.

We have a meeting scheduled with a representative of the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery (DADAPR) to discuss future prospects for grants in substance abuse areas and we will be discussing future mentoring possibilities with the Granite State Youth Mentoring program.

Outreach activities will consist of presentations to the SAU #4 Principals’ group, the Public Defender’s Office and others.

Upcoming training sessions include:

Strategic Planning 201: Finding Allies and Achieving Outcomes

June 18, 2002

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Sponsored by the NH Div. of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery

Restorative Justice Train the Trainers

July 10 to July 19

Harvard Divinity School

Boston, Massachusetts

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

*Alax*