

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

Director's Report #8 ... 01/11/02 – 06/14/02

Looking Back ~

Outreach contacts during this reporting period have included the following:

6/3 – Council members Leo Sanfacon and Wes Colby, along with staff Judy Buswell and Alan Robichaud, participated with several other individuals interested in discussing future prospects for the use of the building currently housing the Laconia District Court. The meeting was hosted by Diane Lane of the District Court and was attended by Mayor Fraser, David Stamps representing the Mainstreet Project, Judge Martin and others. Guest at the meeting was Anne Getchell of US Rural Development who will be available to provide technical assistance to the group as our discussion progress.

6/5 – Dropped into the Laconia Area Community Land Trust Open House at their new location on Union Avenue, Lakeport. This group was recently recognized as recipient of a Community Champion Award for their efforts in affordable housing. They are a great resource to our county and have recently been asked by the Town of Meredith to apply their skills to that community.

6/5 – Staff met with Jay Apicelli (DJJS) and Rufus Chaffee (DADAPR) to learn about possible collaboration and grant sources to achieve Council goals. Jay requested the meeting and invited Rufus as an ongoing partner in the work we are all doing in Belknap County.

6/6 – Attended Rotary meeting.

6/6 – Hosted Executive Committee meeting of the NH Rural Development Council of which I am the Chair.

6/7 = Met with Chris Santaniello of Lakes Region Community Services Council (LRCSC) to discuss interagency collaboration. LRCSC is engaged in several initiatives throughout the county and we will work closely with them as we develop our work in communities.

Presentations during this time have included:

6/3 – Presentation to regional coordinators of the Partners In Health Project in affiliation with the Hood Center at Dartmouth Medical Center (12).

6/7 – Presentation was made to the staff attorneys of the Public Defender's Office (10). Explored were areas in which we hope to engage representatives in our planning processes (e.g. Integrated Information Systems; Court House Preservation; service linkages, etc.

6/10 – Met with the Principals of the Newfound Area schools (10). Explained the purpose the Council and ways that we want to work with communities. Positive reception and desire to stay connected even though the majority of schools reside in Grafton County and one in Merrimack County. One of the struggles they have is that their school system deals with three different court jurisdictions. Newfound schools have developed, in conjunction with their students, families and

communities, a new vision statement. They are committed to making their schools accessible and ascribe to the philosophy of Community Schools, responsive to the needs of the entire community.

Administrative

An ad hoc committee of the Council was established to develop a communication letter and form to be sent to the professional providers' community in the order to proceed with the movement toward a Professional Providers Advisory Council. Upstream is assisting in the distribution of the letter and form produced by the committee.

The Legislative & Advocacy Committee of the Council met for the first time (6/4) and set up its organizational guidelines (e.g. Chair, Executive Committee designee, roles and responsibilities, annual meeting schedule, etc.). Mary Alice of Center Harbor will serve as Chair of the Committee and will represent the Committee at Executive Committee meetings.

Alan Robichaud attended the Reclaiming Futures Advisory Committee to discuss how the one-year funding from Robert Wood Johnson could be used to stretch over two years, assuring that there be a coordinator and local support personnel to carry the goals and objectives out over a period of time exceeding the one-year planning cycle.

Met with Bill Wheeler who will be the coordinator for the Community Justice Institute this fall at the Community Technical College/Laconia. Discussed were details on further work needed to prepare for the upcoming course. Bill will be a great coordinator of this effort as he is the formal head of the department of Human Services at the Laconia campus and is currently serving as the Training Director for the Department of Corrections in Concord.

6/4 - Met with Council Member Jim Carroll and Miami Blake of PACT (Belknap County Teen Center), Maria Gagnon (Reclaiming Futures), and Mimi Bergere (Granite State Youth Mentoring) to discuss prospects for developing a proposal for a mentoring grant. As a result of the discussion and one of the Council meeting later in the week, Judy Buswell committed a great deal of time to reading the grant announcement in the Federal Register and compiling an outline and critical timeframes for people who would be submitting proposals.

6/6 – The Public Relations and Awareness Committee conducted its first meeting. (See Legislative and Advocacy Committee notes above). Linda Brewer of Meredith was elected to Chair the Committee. Kevin Washburn of Tilton will represent the Committee at the Executive Committee meetings.

6/7 – The Council held its June meeting at the Barnstead Town Hall. Donna San Antonio of the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project was guest presenter. Of particular note was Donna's comments made during the Public Comment session of the meeting. She observed that "listening to this diverse group, all participating, was very interesting and enjoyable." Everyone was actively involved. She encouraged Council members "not to jump too quickly to unity and solidarity. It is difficult to stick with diversity in any form."

Staff facilitated discussion of the Mentoring grant that is available at this time. Present for discussion were Miami Blake (Teen Center), Donna San Antonio (Appalachian Mountain Teen Project), Holly DeWald (Belknap County Youth Services Bureau), and Brian Loanes (Belknap County Restorative Justice). The review packet that Judy Buswell had prepared from her review of the grant was distributed and discussed. Miami and Donna discussed their programs and project initiatives and Holly and Brian expressed the need for there to be mentors for kids in

Belknap County. Given the needs of each program and the short time frame for proposals to be written, Council staff offered their assistance to all parties however they wished to request support in brainstorming, partial writing, reviewing drafts, and other technical assistance that might be needed.

Council members were also informed that now we have schedules assigned for the whole year and we know who is serving on which committees. We will need to begin to enforce our by-law regarding attendance. July 1st starts the clock.

6/7 – The Planning Committee held conducted its first meeting. (See Legislative and Advocacy Committee notes above). Peter Michaud of Center Harbor was elected to Chair the Committee and he will serve as representative to the Executive Committee meetings. Susan Smith is alternate to the Executive Committee in the event that Peter is unable to attend.

6/10 – The Finance and Grants Committee conducted it first meeting. (See Legislative and Advocacy Committee notes above). Bob Rovella (New Hampton) and John Irwin (Laconia) will serve as Co-Chairs of the Committee with Wes Colby (Laconia) serving as Executive Committee representative.

All Committees have determined their meeting times and dates. Schedules for the year have been produced and distributed to all Council members and the County Commissioners' Office. Unless otherwise noted, all Committee meetings will be held in the Busiel Mill, Laconia. The Planning Committee due to its size, will meet in the 4th Floor Conference Room while all other committees are scheduled to meet in 2nd Floor Conference Room. The full Council meetings will continue to be rotated around the county.

6/11 – An ad hoc Retreat Committee met to piece together plans for conducting a Council retreat as approved at the Council meeting. An outside facilitator will be sought to lead the Council through a five hour session tentatively scheduled for Friday, July 12 starting at 7:30 A.M in New Hampton. (Site to be undetermined). Peter Michaud, Gil Schohan and Sheila weeks (by phone) and staff met to discuss arrangements.

6/12 – Met with Maria Gagnon (Reclaiming Futures to discuss ongoing administrative features of the project and implications for the County.

6/13 – Participated in Early Learning Center Grant discussion at Lakes Region Community Services Council. Developed Letter of Support for Executive Committee review.

6/14 – Attended web-based resource development group at Community Health & Hospice.

Looking Ahead ~

Several meetings are planned over the next couple of weeks. Included among them are discussions with other agencies regarding a “Model Community” grant announced by the NH Department of Health & Human Services. A total of \$270,000 over three years is up for distribution to a single contractee.

The Planning Committee meets again on June 17 and the Integrated Information System subcommittee meets on June 19th. This multi-agency collaborative, facilitated by Council

member Wes Colby, is starting to generate a great deal of interest. People are seemingly quite willing to work toward a collective data system that will inform our discussion and decision for services effecting children.

Council member Dick Wallace and Alan Robichaud will be meeting with Superintendent Don Parks of Alton to discuss how we can work closely with the school system. With the merger of Alton and Barnstead schools in a new high school in a couple of years, this is an opportune time to have this discussion.

The 5th Annual Children's Summit sponsored by the NH Children's Advocacy Network and the NH Children's Alliance, will be held in Concord on June 20th. The Legislative and Advocacy Committee, through Council member Jim Pilliod, will invite Steve Varnum of the Children's Alliance to its next meeting to discuss partnerships with the Children's Advocacy Network.

Future Outreach entails scheduled meetings with Upstream, the Lakes Region Facility of the Department of Corrections and Linda Dunn of CASA, out of Plymouth.

Please call Alan Robichaud if you have any questions or wish to have additional information about any of the above items.

Glossary of Terms:

DJJS – Division of Juvenile Justice Services

DADAPR – Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery

CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates

Alan