

Director's Report

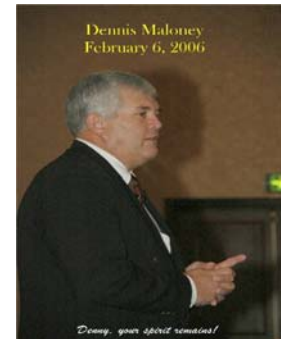


1st Quarter 2007

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

REMEMBERING OUR MENTOR AND FRIEND

We wish to dedicate this report to the memory of our good friend and mentor, [Denny Maloney](#). Denny was the chief architect in the development of the Community Justice model we have adapted here in Belknap County. His leadership, vision and innovation can only be capped by his resounding humor and humanity. Denny's advocacy for kids will serve to remind us why what we do, every day, is so important. Denny passed away on February 6, 2007.



To read a related article on Denny Maloney, visit this website:
<http://www.ktvz.com/story.cfm?storyID=18382>

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

We are very pleased to welcome [Betty Anson](#) as our newest Council member. Voted in at the February Council meeting, Betty comes to us as a resident of Laconia who has a diverse background in volunteerism, organizational development, marketing and family therapy that transects the North East region of the United States. In a personal statement added to her application, Betty had this to say: “I have been an active member of every community I've lived in. I am fortunate to have many experiences that may help my new community. I already find there is not a day that goes by that I don't use my business and past volunteer experience in helping families deal with out-of-control situations. I believe these same experiences will be useful in Belknap County.” We couldn't agree more and we are excited that Betty has decided to add her fine skills to the work we are doing here in Belknap County.

SPECIAL THANKS TO RICK BATSTONE

At its February meeting, the [Batstone](#) of the Belknap County Juvenile Justice Initiative, the supporter of the Belknap County enforcement on February 28, 2007 communities in which he served.



Council member Gil Schohan presents Rick Batstone with engraved glass plaque.

Citizens Council extended a special thanks to [Lt. Rick Sheriff's Office](#). Rick was a member of the Belknap precursor of the Citizens Council, and an avid Restorative Justice Program. Rick retired from law after three decades of dedicated commitment to the Thanks Rick and Best Wishes to you and your family!

COMMUNITY PREVENTION COALITION

In previous reports, we have mentioned work being done across the state, by the [Office of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention, Division of Public Health Services](#), in preparation of implementing Strategic Prevention Frameworks (SPF) as mandated by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#). In this effort, the state combined Belknap and Carroll Counties into one section for planning and implementation purposes. After several months of planning and preparation, the [Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health \(LRPPH\)](#) was notified of approval of a proposal submitted on behalf of the bi-county coalition. This means that the LRPPH will serve as Fiscal Agent and oversee the development and implementation of a strategic plan for prevention activity over the next two years. Next steps include final negotiations with the State, creation of a Governing Body and Membership Group, and procurement of coordination and evaluation capacity to meet the requirements of the grant. This initiative will bring well over \$500,000 in infrastructure resources to the two-county region in the next two years. While the Citizens Council has been actively involved in this process since its inception last May, we wish to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of [Kim Mahon](#) (Northern Human Services/Carroll County), [Shannon Swett](#) (Belknap County CoRe Coalition) and [Lisa Morris](#) (Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health) for their proficient planning and proposal writing skills that landed this grant for our region. Final negotiations with the state are in motion and final approval by the Governor and Executive Council will hopefully move along smoothly for implementation to begin July 1, 2007.

CoRe CHANGES

[Shannon Swett](#), Outreach Coordinator for the CoRe Prevention Coalition, left her position on March 16th to assume the director position of a similar coalition in Concord, NH. Shannon has been with CoRe for more than two years, with half of this time as the sole employee, serving as Interim Director. While with CoRe, Shannon supervised prevention activities with youth from both Prospect Mountain High School in Alton and Inter-lakes High School in Meredith. She managed all administrative tasks for CoRe, including reporting, oversight, and resubmission of state and federal grants. Shannon, along with Kim Mahon of Northern Health Services, co-wrote the first Strategic Prevention Framework grant for Belknap and Carroll Counties. She has left a legacy of positive and productive achievements for and with youth, the CoRe Coalition and Belknap County communities. She will be missed! Shannon was presented with an engraved glass desk plaque from the Citizens Council. While it's always difficult to say goodbye to those who have contributed so much to our prevention efforts, we wish Shannon the greatest success in her new position and know that Concord will be well served by her enthusiasm, expertise and dedication to youth. Thanks for all your hard work Shannon and our very best wishes to you!



Karen Morton-Clark and Shannon Swett at Annual Convocation - 2007

At the same time, Belknap County the Dover Police Coalition for worked with youth, families and prevention initiatives. Among other student involvement with the “Who helped to facilitate the “Yellow

school students, parents, and community members to talk openly about a variety of health and addiction issues, providing a wealth of resources through mailings and media campaigns. One of her first tasks as the new Core Coalition Director was to coordinate a Strategic Planning process among a host of the CoRe Coalition members and other interested parties. A planning session of over twenty people, held on March 26, 2007, was facilitated by Susan Gunther, a private consultant from Northfield, New Hampshire. For a full accounting of the outcomes of the planning session contact Karen Morton-Clark at 279-6162.

welcomes [Karen Morton-Clark](#), formerly of Youth. Over the past four years, Karen has community members on numerous initiatives, Ms. Morton-Clark focused on I Am Makes A Difference” program and Ribbon Program” which encourages high

PROJECT P. R. O. V. E. ~ I. T. OUT OF THE STARTING GATE

Last quarter we reported that the Council had contracted with a consultant group from the Plymouth New Hampshire area. [Project PROVE ~ IT](#) (Planning Resources through Outcomes, Validation and Evaluation, using Information Technology) is now in motion. Our consultants have met with services providers for pre-court, court-diverted and court-involved youth to review current and future needs in designing the basis for an automated juvenile information sharing system that will allow our providers and the Citizens Council to report program outcomes through the use of a case closing process. Used initially in the Council's 2006 [Juvenile Community Justice Report Card](#), this process will further allow our providers access to training and technical assistance in collecting, analyzing and reporting program outcomes; and essential requirement of funding sources in today's competitive environment. While we are still ramping up our first year grant project, the Council has submitted a proposal to continue Project PROVE ~ IT for a second year, beginning October 1, 2007. For a look at the Council's 2006 report, visit our website at www.bccj.org.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Council acknowledges the continued efforts of important resources to our communities and remind us that unless we take full advantage of them, there is risk that they can go away. The [Adolescent Treatment Initiative](#) funded in Belknap County by [New Futures](#), provides much needed screening, assessment and treatment access to our youth. With alcohol use being the biggest threat to the health of our kids, it is important that we provide interventions as early as possible. Working collaboratively in Belknap County, [Child and Family Services of NH](#) and [Genesis Behavioral Health](#) reach out to all of our local school districts in order to assure needed referrals are made. We know there are youth who need to access these services and we know that we need to constantly apprise our communities that such services are available. As this program is grant funded, numbers are important. More important however is that those who need services get them. We want to remind our readers that these services are critical in our attempts to keep kids safe and healthy. We all need to be aware of the need and services before we lose them; before we lose more of our kids. For more information about the Adolescent Treatment Initiative, contact [Ryan Barrieu](#) of Child and Family Services of New Hampshire (524-5835) or [Ray Barrett](#) at Genesis Behavioral Health (524-1100). The Citizens Council is represented on the Advisory Committee of the ATI.

Another emerging resource in Belknap County is one that looks at early engagement of families and kids through networks of early childhood development including health, child care, infant mental health, education and the like. The Belknap

County Early Learning Council, through various grant sources including the [Lakes Region United Way](#), has developed the [Community Partners for Children](#) initiative. While there are many initiatives underway by the Early Learning Council, a recently conducted strategic plan has identified the following targets of achievement for the next two years: launching early childhood initiatives with the community; engaging families and building relationships; expanding and enhancing access to services; and engaging consistent quality in early childhood settings. For further information on this initiative, contact Deb Rosato at 524-8811. The Citizens Council is represented on both the Early Learning Council and the Community Partners for Children.

CITIZEN COUNCIL WORK GROUP ACTIVITIES

The [Citizens Council budget](#) for fiscal year 2007 was approved by the County Convention on March 5, 2007. The significance of this year's budget as reported last quarter is that this marks the year in which the County is fully funding the Council completing the vision and agreement between the [County Commission](#) and the [Schmitt Foundation](#) to see the Council fully integrated into the county budget as a stand-alone Department. This accomplishment could only have been achieved through the belief and conviction that the Council's mission and successes are important to Belknap County children, families and communities. The Council wishes to thank our [County Commissioners](#) and [Convention](#) members and especially those who served on the Council budget subcommittee, for their oversight and understanding of our work. We invite anyone who wishes to know more about us to either call 528-3185 or visit our website at www.bccj.org.

Our [Balanced and Restorative Justice Work Group](#) as targeting a 5-year review of the Belknap County Juvenile Justice system as a major initiative this year. It's time to look back and review what is working well, where improvements can continue to be made, and where we have not yet been able to impact the issues facing children and families. This look-behind study will serve to refocus our balanced and restorative justice priorities for the future.

The [Victims' Rights Committee](#) continues to meet regularly to discuss how the committee and providers can become more responsive to victims of juvenile crime. Current activity centers on the development of staff development for school crisis teams, development of training materials for public presentations on victimization, and development of victims' satisfaction surveys.

The [Prevention Work Group](#) heard presentations by [Dr. Paul DeMinico](#) and [Jo Ellen Divoll](#), Superintendents of the Gilford and Franklin School Districts, respectively. Dr. DeMinico shared his views on the paradoxes of today's pop culture and traditional community values. His power point and discussion gave us insight into ways different age groups respond in today's culture and the importance of understanding and respecting diverse ways of thinking. Jo Ellen shared the history of how the Franklin Scholl District dealt with the Drop Out issues confronting their schools. Many innovative actions were taken over time to bring Franklin from having one of the highest drop-out rates in the state to one of the lowest. We wish to thank both of these Superintendents for sharing their expertise and perspectives on challenging issues in today's educational environment. We would highly recommend that others invite these folks to present to their organizations and community. More of these exchanges with our community leaders will grant better understanding of and define mutual response to issues that confront our youth, families and communities.

The Council would like to remind our readers that all of our committees, work groups, and other meetings are open to everyone who shares our mission and desire to promote positive outcomes for children and families in Belknap County. Please call 528-3185 if you have an interest in joining any of our efforts!

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY FORUMS

The Council continues to work with many community partners to bring educational opportunities to the county. During the past quarter, we have worked to engage people in the following efforts:

[Negotiation & Communication](#) - On January 20, [Dr. Howard Muscott](#) of Rivier College presented a day-long workshop on negotiation and communication skills to an audience of 50 people. This popular workshop has typically been a part of the annual [Parents as Leaders](#) series but this year we opened it up to the community so more people could benefit from Howard's expertise and interactive teaching style. The Council acknowledges the support of the [United Way/Upstream's Judi Taggart](#) and [Tammy Emery](#), and the [NH Community Technical College/Center for Civic Engagement's Don Morrissey](#), and the financial support of the [New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund \(Karen Carpenter\)](#) for their support and coordination of this workshop.

On 1/23/07, the Council and over twenty sponsoring agencies, conducted its annual [Convocation on Children and Families](#). This year's event was bigger and better than ever with over 260 people attending. The theme, "[Once Upon a Time... Everyone has a Story to Tell](#)", featured retired teacher and [Delta Kappa Gamma, Theta Chapter](#) representative [Lois Plimpton](#) as keynote presenter. Lois is a remarkable individual who enlightens the life of those she meets. As a retired

educator and long-time resident of our community, Lois brought her wonderful storybook project to the convocation theatre. This event began months before the January Convocation and, as with last year's convocation, involved youth and educators from schools throughout the county. Hours and hours of planning and coordination go into this event and the risk of leaving out any of the planning committee members necessitates a general thank you to them all. They are truly an incredible, committed group of individuals who work tirelessly throughout the year on behalf on children, youth, and families of Belknap County. There is however, another special group of participants who deserve public recognition for their outstanding contributions. These are our youth emcees and speakers. Once again, a key component of this annual event is highlighting the leadership and creative talents of youth. This year was no exception. We are very proud of their achievements and sincerely thank them for their time and commitment in making this year's event that much better. (Photos of this year's Convocation at the end of this report.)

The Council helped to coordinate an [Open Space Forum](#) on January 27 at the [New Hampshire Community Technical College](#). Open Space was facilitated by the [New Hampshire Teen Institute](#) and is an extremely effective means of engaging youth. Sponsored by the [New Hampshire Department of Education](#), this particular Open Space focused on the school drop out issue. For further information on the New Teen Institute and Open Space Forums, visit their website at www.nhti.org.

On March 9, the [Center for Civic Engagement](#) hosted [Reverends William Zeckhausen](#) and Festus [Kavales](#) who spoke on the topic of Spirituality. This was a very thoughtful discussion of the distinctions between religious dogma and inner "quests" for deeper understanding and relations beyond oneself. It was suggested that this discussion continue on a larger scale as it offers a reflection on many aspects of life and community. We wish to remind our readers that the Center for Civic engagement is open to all. Meetings are held at the [New Hampshire Community Technical College ~ Laconia](#) on the second Friday of each month from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Topics of interest to the community may be brought to the group for assistance in promotion, facilitation and discussion. For further information, contact Alan Robichaud at 528-3185.

Finally, the [Lakes Region United Way/Upstream](#), the [Laconia School District](#), and the [Citizens Council](#) sponsored an Education Forum on March 28th. The forum featured New Hampshire's [Education Commissioner, Lyonel Tracey](#), and [Dr. Russell Quaglia](#) of the [Qualia Institute](#), discussing themes of New Hampshire's [Follow the Child](#) and [Student Aspiration](#) initiatives. This was an exciting presentation and community discussion of important innovations in education in New Hampshire and right here in Belknap County. Three area school districts ([Laconia](#), [Prospect Mountain High School](#), and [Gilford School District](#)) are engaged in various stages of the [Follow the Child](#) initiative and all schools have conducted the [My Voice Survey](#). We highly encourage all members of our community to become aware of and involved in ways that support these education initiatives. The potential impact on the future of our children's education and communities' economic success, relies on our success in educating and keeping a qualified and competent workforce here in the Lakes Region. More information on these initiatives can be found at <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/> and www.qisa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A contingent of local panel members has been asked to present at the [National Child Abuse & Neglect Conference](#) on April 20, in Portland, Oregon. [Karen Carpenter](#) of the [NH Children Trust Fund](#) submitted a proposal on examples of how the level of collaboration in Belknap County represents a solid ecological model for building community safeguards against child abuse and neglect. The panel will consist of Karen herself, long-time District Court and Family Division [Judge Bud Martin](#), [Tammy Emery](#) of the [United Way Board, Upstream Advisory Team](#) and Board member of the [Greater Lakes Region Child Advocacy Center](#), and Alan Robichaud of the Citizens Council. Thanks Karen, for recognizing the hard and deliberate work of the multitude of Belknap County agencies, organizations and citizens helping to reshape the future of our youth, families and communities. We are proud to represent them all.

Save the date of May 12 for the [Children and Trauma: A Community Response](#), workshop. This half-day session will feature local efforts to address child abuse and neglect through the efforts of the [Greater Lakes Region Child Advocacy Center](#) and a recent grant initiative of [Genesis Behavioral Health, New Beginnings](#) and [Child and Family Services of New Hampshire](#). Funded under a [Victim of Crimes Act \(VOCA\)](#) grant, this initiative provides various levels of support to children impacted by trauma, throughout the greater Lakes Region area.

Thought to Ponder

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail." Ralph Waldo Emerson

For more information on the activities, events and initiatives of the Citizens Council, visit our website at www.bccj.org

"Once Upon a Time...Everyone Has a Story to Tell"

Convocation 2007



*Judy Buswell -Convocation
Coordinator Extraordinaire*



The Stephenson Family Singers



*Student Emcess -
Makin' Us Proud*



Face Painting at Exhibits



Joe Duplessie at the Mic



"I'm so glad I came"



Student Exhibitors



"Unsung Hero" - Wendy French



Honorable Judge Martin



Emcees Kayne and Danielle



Guest of Honor ~ Lois Plimpton



Belmont Elementary Chorus

