

Director's Report



2nd Quarter
2007

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

SPECIAL THANKS TO DAN COLLIS

The Council wishes to thank former Belknap County Sheriff, [Dan Collis](#) for his years of support and collaboration with our activities and initiatives. Dan was a strong advocate for justice and took great pains to see that all people were treated with dignity and respect; key values of the Council's Mission Statement. Dan had served on the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council and the Council's Victims' Rights Committee. Under his leadership, the Sheriff's department developed the Belknap County [Youth Attendant Program](#), a short-term detention service for youth, and provided a home base for the countywide [Project Monitor](#) deterrent to [Underage Drinking Parties](#). He was a member of the Laconia Rotary Club, served on the Boards of Directors of the Community Health and Hospice and Lakes Region United Way and gave so much to the youth of his community. We wish Dan the very best in his new professional venture. Thanks Dan!

PREVENTION PROGRESS

Lots has happened this past quarter. The [CoRe Coalition](#) has a new Assistant Director and has revamped its organizational structure; a number of school districts have either had or plan to have presentations on [Rachel's Challenge](#); the [Community Prevention Coalition](#) has appointed a preliminary Oversight Board; the [Youth Services Bureau](#) has released its long-awaited [juvenile justice resource directory](#) and will begin a [victim's empathy course](#); and plans are in motion for a [school crisis team seminar](#) on decreasing victimization within the school environment.

CoRe Coalition ~ [Jena Vincent](#), formerly of [Child and Family Services of New Hampshire](#), has been hired as the new CoRe Coalition Assistant Director. Being familiar with a host of youth and family services we are fortunate to have Jena bring her years of knowledge to the prevention field and enhance CoRe's initiatives in prevention of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use by adolescents. Welcome aboard Jena!



CoRe's leadership group has also spent the past several weeks revamping its organizational structure. New by-laws and a restructured Coalition of county-wide partners will strengthen our response to the prevention needs of our youth. The coalition is gearing up for elections of new Board member at its September annual meeting. For further information on becoming a Coalition members and or otherwise getting involved with CoRe's prevention activities, contact [Karen Morton-Clark](#) at [279-5305](#).

Rachel's Challenge ~ The Council wishes to acknowledge the fine work of [Deb Dickinson](#) of the [Meredith Police Department](#) and [David Tryon](#) of the [Winnisquam School District](#), for introducing Rachel's Challenge to our communities. Based on the contributions to respect and diversity made by Rachel Scott, the first student killed at Columbine High School, Deb and David have provided our area with some deeply expressed values in how we treat one another in today's society. Rachel's Challenge is about respecting each other and the individual gifts we each bring to our communities, breaking down barriers and wounds caused by bullying and intolerance, and building caring communities where all are accepted for who they are. Other area school districts are planning fall presentations on Rachel's Challenge and we highly encourage all youth and their families to attend one in their area. This very provocative and sensitive program is critically important and provides a means to build tolerance of diversity in our schools and communities.

Community Prevention Coalition of Belknap and Carroll Counties (CPC-BC) – As reported in previous months, the NH Division of Public Health Services, under the [NH Strategic Prevention Frameworks Project](#), has developed ten regional CPC's to respond to local planning, implementation and evaluation of prevention related to the reduction of alcohol, tobacco and other drug related problems in New Hampshire. (See http://www.samhsa.gov/Matrix/matrix_prevention.aspx for more information on the frameworks model). The Division has approved the [Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health](#) as Fiscal Agent for the CPC-BC. A preliminary Oversight Board has been named to usher in the initial contract and create draft organizational documents in preparation of approved contracts from the state. Additional membership to the Board is underway to assure adequate representation across the two-county region. Currently the Board consists of [Lisa Morris](#) (Executive Director of the Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health), the [Honorable Judge Willard Martin](#) (Sandwich),

Elaine de Mello (Sanbornton), Michael Green (Moultonborough), and Alan Robichaud (Belmont). The CPC has been informed that contracts are scheduled to go before the Governor and Council sometime around mid-August.

Belknap County Juvenile Justice Resource Directory – The Council wishes to recognize and complement the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) for developing and distributing the first comprehensive directory on juvenile justice and related services in Belknap County. As part of Justice Delinquency Prevention for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) directory which has been distributed to soon be linked to agencies' websites. serve as a desk top reference for family school guidance counselors, other to the general public through their local only have been completed with the youth served by Youth Services Bureau Justice, members of Working Futures, endless hours and supervision and creative design by Devon Benson, Lisa-Marie Sposta and Denise Langlois of YSB and the talents of Josh Sposta in creating the cross-agency reference grid (see attached). We would also like to recognize our DJJS Project Specialist, Pam Sullivan, for her support of this project. (Above picture: Lisa-Marie Sposta, Denise Langlois and Devon Benson (YSB) present copy of resource directory to Randy Brough, Head Librarian (Laconia Public Library), accompanied by Sara Fox, Chair of the Citizens Council.



a grant from the Office of Juvenile Family Mediation, the NH Division of approved the use of funds for this locations throughout the county and will This impressive array of services will court judges, law enforcement officials, service providers and will be accessible libraries. This massive project could dedication of many volunteers including and Belknap County Restorative members of the Citizens Council and

Victims' Rights issues continue to take center stage in a variety of ways. In furtherance of incorporating restorative practices in all juvenile service venues, Lisa-Marie Sposta (YSB) has developed a ten-week Victim Empathy course specific to educating youth about the impact of their offense on the victim(s). This curriculum was compiled from research performed by Lisa-Marie of similar programs across the country, tailored to the needs of local youth. For further information on the Victim Empathy course, contact Lisa-Marie at 524-9457.

Also, Citizens Council members Gil Schohan and Laurie Belanger, assisted by Kathy Keller (New Beginnings), Barbara Belmont (Belknap County Attorney's Office) and Chief Tom Oetinger (Laconia Police Department) continue their work on Victims' Satisfaction Surveys and the upcoming fall School Crisis Team Workshop entitled: *Juvenile Victims of Juvenile Crimes...How Schools can Promote Rights, Dignity and Respect*. Additionally, training manuals and DVDs on *It's Personal ~ Anyone Can Become a Victim*, are ready for use by individuals for presentations to a variety of school and community audiences. For further information and scheduling such a training and discussion, contact Kathy Keller at New Beginnings 528-6511.

TREATMENT UPDATES

Media and industry marketing techniques continue to prompt substance use among our youth. While advocates maintain their vigilance over new product lines that tempt our adolescents, it is becoming more and more difficult to keep pace with well funded campaigns which marketing strategies especially appeal to younger consumers. When private investments in advertising out-pace public resources, substance use and abuse expands more rapidly than our ability to provide consequential treatment. The Council continues to support this work on several fronts. Two initiatives are mentioned here.

Adolescent Treatment Initiative (ATI) ~ At a recent ATI Advisory Committee meeting, Ryan Barrieau reviewed the status of the Belknap County initiative. Data provided from October '06 through May '07 reveal 47 youth were served by the ATI project with referrals having come from the following sources (Belknap County schools (47%); Community Agencies (32%); Division of Juvenile Justice Services (9%); Belknap County Restorative Justice Services (6%); and Parents (6%). Of the 47 referred youth, 85% received assessments with 73% of those assessed entering treatment. Of the 22 referrals from schools, the breakdown is as follows: Prospect Mountain Regional High School (55%); Belmont (9%); Winnisquam Regional School District (9%); Gilford (14%); and Laconia (14%). Referrals are not to be construed to mean that any one school is experiencing any more of a substance use problem than any other. The numbers here reflect only that some schools are more aggressive in referring students for assessments. We are extremely fortunate to have treatment services now available to our county youth and the Council is thankful to those school districts that are utilizing this valuable service. The need for treatment is greater than current referral to the services. We strongly urge schools, service agencies, law enforcement and especially parents to make referrals to this project. While it is under a time-limited grant from New Futures and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, it is important to show need and success as a result of that need. If we don't use this vital service, we will loss it and our youth are too important to let that happen. This is the best and may be the only shot we have to prove the value of treatment. We express our gratitude to New Futures and the NH Charitable Foundation for their

investment and innovation in bringing this to our doorstep. Now we must open the door to treatment to our youth who need access to it. For further information on the ATI initiative, contact Ryan Barrieau at [1-800-640-6486](tel:1-800-640-6486)

Families Advocating for Substance Treatment, Education and Recovery (FASTER) ~ A second major initiative that the Council is in support of is the recent collaboration between [Friends if Recovery/NH \(FOR/NH\)](#) and **FASTER**, the statewide parent support initiative that grew out of a local training effort which the Council sponsored in March of 2006. Our local training session that year spawned the development of **Turbulent Teens, a Parent to Parent support network** conducted by Council member [Nancy Porosky](#) (Gilmanton) and [Carol Murtagh](#) (Alton). This group meets weekly at the **Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region** and is an affiliate of the statewide FASTER initiative. The recent merger with FOR/NH will strengthen the recovery and statewide aspects of the program while continuing to provide support to the local parent support efforts. For more information on Turbulent Teens and FASTER, contact the Council at [528-3185](tel:528-3185).

DATA MATTERS

[Joe Diament](#) of [New Futures](#) is fond of saying, "In God we trust, everyone else must bring data!" In today's market of grants and public funding accountability, reporting outcomes and results has taken a front seat in proving value and return on investment. In 2006, the Citizens Council produced and disseminated its first **Juvenile Community Justice Report**. Adopting best practice performance indicators from national models, the Council is preparing the compilation of its second report and is working on an automated data reporting process that will make it easier to record and produce management reports at the provider agency **Advisory Group for session on June 20th** network. The Belknap County designed and each who is also a implications of this [Fenniman Jr.](#), application on a toward further



level. In keeping our readers abreast of developments under a **State Juvenile Justice** grant received last year, the Council conducted a training for 25 staff members and others affiliated with our juvenile justice provider training addressed to use of a database designed specifically for use for providers' use with the case closing process. The database and training was presented by [Drs. Danielle McDonald, Stephanie Halter and Scott Meyer](#) professor at Plymouth State University. We have since discussed the database, the case closing format, and the reporting process with [William Director of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services](#), for prospective more statewide basis. We look forward to these conversations continuing collaboration with the Division. The Council expresses its sincere thanks to

[Dr. Mark Edelstein](#) and [Carolyn Hill](#) of the NH **Community Technical College ~ Laconia** for allowing access to their campus and computer facilities for this training session. The Lakes Region is extremely fortunate to have this college, its staff and resources available to support and enhance our work. We are grateful for their interest and outreach to community needs of this nature. (Above picture: [Drs. Danielle McDonald and Scott Meyer](#) discuss features of database with [Dawn Shimberg](#) of the **Youth Assistance Program**. Photo – Courtesy of [Ed Engler/Laconia Daily Sun](#)).

CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Many of you have been reading about or attending meetings of the [Center for Civic Engagement](#). For the past ten years, this collaborative network of citizens has met to discuss issues that impact our communities of Belknap County. Based on the notion that public discourse is becoming a disintegrating attribute that once brought communities together in the spirit of Socrates' forums, the Center was intended to focus dialogue and collective response on contemporary issues impacting children, families and communities. As attendance and interest wanes in some areas while new interest and relationships strengthen others, it was time to put the Center for Civic Engagement to rest. was conducted on June 8, 2007, over ten years from when it began under the **Community Development Clearinghouse**. This does not mean that there are citizens and communities. It simply means that other forums will be enhanced engagement so that critical social and economic needs are addressed collectively among our associations and institutions. The group agreed to continue to convene forums at the **NH Community Technical College/Laconia** and to continue to collaborate on community projects that individuals may wish to bring forward from time to time. People interested in pursuing the traditions of public discourse and community involvement as fostered by the Center for Civic Engagement, please feel comfortable joining in through [Upstream](#). To find out more about how to get involved, contact Upstream at [524-6864](tel:524-6864).



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FOLLOW THE CHILD

Superintendent of [Laconia School District](#), [Bob Champlin](#), hosted the Citizens Council meeting on June 15. Asked to give an overview to the Council on the **Follow the Child** initiative, Bob provided an enlightening power point presentation on the various activities performed by the school district that embrace student aspirations. Working closely with the **Upstream Advisory Team**, Bob also facilitated a community forum featuring [Dr. Russ Quaglia](#) of the [Quaglia Institute](#) www.qisa.org. The Laconia School District has been recently selected as a demonstration site for the Quaglia Institute and will receive three years of intense technical assistance and consultation in implementing Follow the Child practices. As a member of the

Upstream Advisory Team and a past supporter of the Center for Civic Engagement, the Citizens Council is actively pursuing community indicators that correspond to the eight conditions that define student aspirations. We are interested in seeing that all youth while in school or not, have access to those people, places, and things that build their self-worth, sense of purpose and connectedness to their communities. If you are interested in assisting us with this process, please contact the Council at [528-3185](tel:528-3185).

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

We are proud to introduce our newest Council members, inducted during this past quarter. They are [Katie Brandt](#) of Center Barnstead and [Amy Hall](#) of Belmont. With the addition of these two members the Council gains expertise in the fields of child abuse prevention and awareness, and child health, as Katie works for the [New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund](#) and Amy works for the [New Hampshire Healthy Kids](#). We are pleased to welcome Katie and Amy to our ranks and just know that we will benefit greatly from their expertise.

OUT & ABOUT

Belknap County and the Citizens Council were well-represented at recent forums. On April 20th, [Tammy Emery \(United Way/Upstream\)](#), [Judge Willard Martin \(The Schmitt Foundation\)](#) and [Alan Robichaud \(Citizens Council\)](#), co-presented with [Karen Carpenter \(NH Children's Trust\)](#) on the collaboration in Belknap County to the [National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect](#) in Portland, Oregon. Special thanks to Karen for nominating us to present and to the [Schmitt Foundation](#) for assistance in getting us there.

On April 17th, the Citizens Council was recipient of the [Community Partner Award](#) during the annual awards luncheon of the [Campus Compact for New Hampshire](#). [Dr. Mark Edelstein, President](#) of the [New Hampshire Community Technical College ~ Laconia](#), presented the Council with a plaque citing "exemplary leadership that has translated into a lasting impact on the community." We wish to thank Mark and his fine staff and faculty for their leadership and making a lasting impact on our communities as well! Their support in all that we do is very much appreciated.

A Child Abuse and Neglect workshop was offered on May 12 at the [NH Community Technical College](#) in partnership with [UpStream](#) and the [Citizens Council](#). As part of the continuing [Parents As Leaders in Society](#) series, over thirty people attended sessions presented by [Kelly Eastman \(Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center\)](#) and [Denise Miller \(Belknap County Sheriff's Department\)](#) and by members of the local collaborative treating children who have experienced trauma due to abuse and domestic violence. Participating in the second session were [Ray Barrett and Laura Deschenes \(Genesis Behavioral Health\)](#), [Kathy Keller \(New Beginnings\)](#) and [Joan Valk \(Child and Family Services of New Hampshire\)](#).

Council staff was also privileged to have had opportunities to meet with program participants for both the [Appalachian Mountain Teen Project](#) and [Working Futures](#). The insights of people who participate in these two programs are profound and contribute to breaking down stereotypes and stigma placed on them by society at large. We all need to take the time to meet with and understand those providing and those receiving services throughout our communities. The strength, perseverance and resiliency of those who have overcome incredible odds, puts to rest once and for all that program recipients expect society to give them a living. Provided with guidance, opportunity and understanding, the strength of these people will strengthen our communities, one person and one family at a time. We would like to thank [Dan Kusch](#) and [Denise Sleeper](#) for providing us the opportunity to meet with their people.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The council is proud to co-sponsor the following events. Please mark your calendars and join those events of interest and be sure to call the Council (528-3185) for more information.

- October 13, 2007 [Open Space Forum](#), ~ Hosted by [Winnisquam Regional School District](#), The Pines Community Center
Theme: *Is our community doing enough to help our youth feel successful, safe, and involved?*
- October 18, 2007 [School Crisis Team Seminar ~ Juvenile Victims and Crimes...How Schools Can Promote Safety, Dignity and Respect](#). Woodside at Taylor Community, Laconia
- January 22, 2008 (Sno-date 1/24/08) [Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families ~ Community Sense Makes Common Sense!](#) Opechee Inn and Spa Conference Center (formerly the Expo Center).

THOUGHT TO PONDER

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities - brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."

John Gardner

Respectfully, *Alan Robichaud*, Executive Director

AGENCY SERVICE GRID

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Youth Leadership & Development	*	*					*			*			*		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

1. Appalachian Mountain Teen Project
2. Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families
3. Belknap County Cooperative Ext. 4-H Youth Development
4. Belknap County Firesetters Intervention
5. Belknap County Restorative Justice
6. Belknap County Victim Advocate
7. Child and Family Services of NH
8. Circle Program
9. Community Action Program/Family Planning
10. Community Response Coalition (CoRe)
11. Friends Program
12. Genesis Behavioral Health
13. Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center
14. Horizons Counseling Center
15. Lakes Region Community Services Council
16. Lakes Region Volunteer
17. Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency
18. New Beginnings
19. New Hampshire Catholic Charities
20. New Hampshire Teen Institute
21. Ozanam Place
22. Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.)
23. PFLAG - Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
24. Teen Center of the Lakes Region
25. UNH Cooperative Extension
26. Upstream (A Lakes Region United Way Initiative)
27. Winnisquam Regional School Dist. (WRSD SAU 59)
28. Youth Assistance Program
29. Youth Services Bureau
30. Youth Venture

