



Fast Facts

Community Justice in Belknap County

COMMUNITY JUSTICE:

THE ROLE OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

What Is The Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families? The Citizens Council is a County department responsible for promoting the principles of *Community Justice* throughout Belknap County so that children and families can live safely with dignity and respect. Council members and Council staff work collaboratively with professional service providers, lay citizens, and others in planning, advocacy, networking, and resource development initiatives on behalf of children and families in Belknap County. Council members are residents from all eleven communities in the County who are appointed by the Belknap County Commissioners through an application process.

What Is “Community Justice”? Community Justice is an approach to crime and other community problems that affect children and families. Community Justice combines three major components:

- The principles of *Restorative Justice* guide how criminal acts are handled by the justice system and the community. These principles are (1) emphasizing the needs of the victim and the safety of the community, (2) holding the offender accountable, and (3) preparing the offender for a safe and productive return to his/her community)
- *Prevention* strategies and programs are highly prioritized by policy makers, elected officials, leaders, and community citizens, and
- Strength-based *Community Development* activities and programs enhance community life.

What Does The Belknap County Citizens Council Do? The Citizens Council works in partnerships with others to:

- Promote and advocate for the well-being of children and families in Belknap County,
- Develop, support, and facilitate creative collaborations with networks throughout the County and State to improve the status of children and families in Belknap County,
- Seek the voice of citizens throughout Belknap County,
- Encourage active citizen participation and volunteerism in support of children and families, and
- Report back on the status of children and families in Belknap County.

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

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

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