

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, November 21, 2008

TIME BEGAN: 8:05am

TIME ENDED: 10:00am

FACILITATEDBY: Emily Clement

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Emily Clement, Laurie Belanger, Ruth O’Hara, Rasim Gusinac, Betty Anson, Micheline Roy, Nancy Porosky, Gil Schohan, Jim Pilliod

COUNCIL ASSOCIATES: Andre Paquette, Bud Martin

STAFF: Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Debrief Public Forum** This meeting, organized by Bud Martin, was attended by more than 200 people, with numerous people speaking in support of restoring the budget cuts proposed by the Commissioners. The Citizens Council needs to assure that members of the County Delegation who will vote on the 2009 County Budget, have the information they need about the Council including its role as defined in the founding Proclamation issued in November 2000 and the Council’s accomplishments over the past seven years. Following a discussion, Council members would like to emphasize the message that “the Citizens Council *is* the community”. Other suggestions included quantifying the monetary value of the numerous hours of volunteer service to the Council and gathering specific comments of the Council’s value from the many providers who are partners with the Council.
2. **Minutes of October 17, 2008** A motion to accept the summary of the October 17th meeting of the Citizens Council as written was made by Gil Schohan with a second by Micheline Roy. Motion carried.
3. **Update on Council Funding** Discussion points included the need to examine the optimal environment for Council efforts. Are we most effective as part of government or could we be equally effective in another context? It is important to remember that while the Council has generated, both directly and indirectly, millions of grant dollars for other agencies and organizations in Belknap County, it has not brought in significant dollars for the specific operational costs of the Council.

There is a possibility that Belknap County could be a pilot site for a large SAMHSA Systems of Care grant that the State is now pursuing, but it is unknown what this could mean in terms of dollars for Council work.

ACTION: Gil Schohan and Council Associates, Alida Millham and Andre Paquette, have agreed to serve on an ad-hoc committee to develop Council messaging and communication strategies that would include Council members talking with their elected representatives.

4. **Relocation Plan** As the line item for rent has been removed from the 2009 Council budget, the Council office will need to move into County space. Arrangements are underway to move to the Cooperative Extension wing at the County Complex. This move will occur in late December. Associating with Cooperative Extension makes good sense in that the Council already has work-related ties with Extension. However, there are no budget provisions for those costs that have been a part of the lease agreement at One Mill Plaza, including telephone, internet, copier, meeting space etc.
5. **Publications** Alan suggests the following publications, along with the annual Report Cards, and the Child Maltreatment Issue Brief, be “packaged and shared strategically”.
 - *Focus Groups* The Council, led by the Prevention Work Group, has a small contract with the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project and Dan Kusch to facilitate and summarize a series of focus groups from designated community sectors. The topic has been related to how each “sector” promotes positive youth development thus contributing to “student aspirations”, a significant factor in the personalized education approach, such as Follow-The-Child, now being used by many

schools in the Lakes Region. Over the past year, Dan and members of the Prevention Group have met with representatives of the Faith Community, Early Childhood, F.I.R.E. (financial, insurance, real estate), and forestry/agriculture. While the groups have been small, the conversations have been very productive and in many cases, a catalyst to further activity within each sector.

ACTION: Dan Kusch is now summarizing the outcomes from each group and these reports will be packaged into a publication that will be shared with the Quaglia Institute and the Follow-The-Child initiative and to other targeted audiences.

- *Juvenile Justice in Belknap County at a Crossroads* This publication, also an Issue Brief, is now at the printer and is a rather comprehensive historical summation of the juvenile justice system in Belknap County. It begins with the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative in 2000 and continues through the current municipal funding challenges and HB 2. The report concludes with a set of recommendations for the juvenile justice “system” in Belknap County. This Issue Brief follows the Child Maltreatment publication released by the Council in January 2008.

ACTION: The sequencing and promotion of this publication and others will be discussed and determined by the ad hoc committee referenced above.

6. **Council Membership** A nomination to accept the application of Andre Paquette as a returning Council member was made by Laurie Belanger with a second by Nancy Porosky. Motion passed. Welcome back Andre!

Other applications are anticipated. Recruitment efforts should continue.

7. **Council Leadership** Following Council By-laws, a motion to accept the 2009 slate of officers with Andre Paquette as Chair and Gil Schohan as Vice Chair was made by Betty Anson and seconded by Laurie Belanger. Motion carried.

ACTION: This slate of officers will be voted on by Council members at the December Council meeting.

8. **Council Workgroup Reports**

- *Prevention WorkGroup – Micheline Roy* In addition to the Focus Group discussions related to student aspirations (explained above), the Prevention Workgroup is continuing with the Consumer Outreach efforts. They are refining the interview format that will gather feedback from youth and families who have been, or are consumers of juvenile justice and DCYF services. This effort supports the work of the current Systems Integration Initiative of the Citizens Council.
- *Executive Committee* – No report at this time

9. **Annual Meeting – December 19th**

This meeting at 8am will include a breakfast similar to what the Council did last year. The Agenda will include (1) Election of Officers (2) Recommendations for new Council members (3) Budget Status and Action Plan.

ACTION: Micheline Roy will coordinate details for the pot-luck breakfast.

<u>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING</u>	
WHEN:	Friday, December 19th, 2008, 8-10 A.M.
WHERE:	Busiel Mill River Level Conference Room
BREAKFAST INCLUDED!	