

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, December 19, 2008

TIME BEGAN: 7:30am

TIME ENDED: 10:10am

FACILITATEDBY: Sarah Fox & Andre Paquette

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Betty Anson, Micheline Roy, Emily Clement, Gil Schohan, Andre Paquette, Sarah Fox, Jim Pilliod, Rasim Gusinac, Laurie Belanger, **COUNCIL ASSOCIATES:** Bud Martin **GUESTS:** Deb Rosato
STAFF: Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Breakfast!** As part of this, the Annual Meeting of the Citizens Council, Alan Robichaud and Micheline Roy prepared and served breakfast to attendees during the first 45” of the meeting. Thanks Alan and Mich and everyone who brought food.

2. **Work Group Reports**

- ***Prevention Work Group – Micheline Roy, Chair*** Dan Kusch has provided summaries of the Focus Groups held during 2008 with representatives from four different community sectors where they discussed how “youth aspirations and hopes” are fostered in their networks. Judy Buswell is now organizing these summaries into an Issue Brief that will be released in January.

As part of the Systems Integration Initiative, efforts to gather feedback from consumers of child and family serving agencies and organizations continue. The next step in this process is contacting each agency/organization to ask for referrals of consumers willing and able to complete this anonymous telephone-based survey. Sarah Fox has agreed to input this survey questionnaire into Survey Monkey.

ACTION: Alan or Judy will email Sarah the updated survey form.

- ***Service Integration Initiative (S.I.I.) – Betty Anson, LEC Chair*** Planning is moving ahead nicely on the initiative begun June 2008 to coordinate the child protection and juvenile justice systems in Belknap County. The “steering committee” is now designing a work plan including identifying tasks for the three SII committees: (1) The Data Committee is working on identifying and accessing appropriate and relevant data (2) The Professional Advisory Committee (formerly JJAC) is in initial steps of interviewing administrators of major service areas and then mapping out their decision and intake processes. Pam Kuczkowski has been translating interview findings into “process maps”. (3) The Legislative and Policy Committee will be looking at what current state and local statutes, policies, and procedures actually present barriers to efficient delivery of services to children and families. Child Welfare League of America consultant, John Tuell, suggests that this basic committee work should be completed by June 30, 2009.

The next monthly meeting of the Leadership Executive Committee, chaired by Betty, is January 8th. The next quarterly meeting of the Administrative Oversight Committee, chaired by Rich Moed, is January 12th. Sarah Fox asked that Council staff email a meeting schedule of SII committees to Council members so that those who are interested can attend and participate.

Belknap County, the Citizens Council, and this Systems Integration Initiative has been offered the opportunity to be a pilot site for a SAMHSA “Systems of Care” grant that will be submitted by the NH DHHS in January. This is a very nice fit for the current Systems Integration effort already underway and if funded will bring a sizeable amount of grant funds and resources to NH and Belknap County over a six-year period. A team of grant writers from the NH Institute on Disabilities has been contracted to prepare the grant proposal. This grant-writing team met with Belknap County representatives this week. The grant would focus resources on 40 Belknap County youth who are in out-of-district residential care and who are juvenile justice system

involved in Belknap County. The goal will be to facilitate their successful re-entry into the community by the end of three years. The grant will also focus on bringing resources to assist the refugee/immigrant population in Belknap County who have stress- and PTSD-related adjustment problems.

ACTION: Alan will email a schedule of SII committee meetings to Council members.

- ***Ad Hoc Communication*** - *Gil Schohan* Judy distributed and reviewed the contents of “communication packets”. Packet items included three communication tools, including a list of Council accomplishments over the past seven years. Gil asked each Council member to use this information in talking with their neighbors, their elected representatives and County Commissioner before the end of January. These conversations should be on-going and summary highlights should be shared with other Council members. The Communications workgroup will organize “coaching sessions” on talking with legislators if that would be helpful. Betty Anson suggested a portion of the January Council meeting be devoted to this training. Council members asked for an additional “communication tool” with budget impact facts and figures, such as tax impact of the Council and the cost of deep-end services versus costs of earlier-intervention, court diversion and the county Restorative Justice program.

Others that could assist in promoting the Council include Council Associates and the Council’s network of providers. Other strategies suggested include organizing Media Briefings/Editorial Boards to discuss the Council budget, juvenile justice issues, the SII, new Council leadership.

ACTION:

- **Gil and the Communications Committee will organize a “Communications Time Line” with check-in points and will email this information to Council members in early January.**
 - **Council members will begin using this “communication packet” and will identify where additional updates and edits are needed.**
 - **Council staff will prepare a 4th “communication tool” of impact data.**
 - **Communications workgroup will explore focus and timing for media briefings.**
3. **Re-appointment of Council Members to a Second Term** Gil Schohan offered a motion to re-appoint three Council members (Emily Clement, Micheline Roy, and Laurie Belanger) to a second term. Second provided by Jim Pilliod. Motion carried.
 4. **Consideration of New Council Member Application** Gil Schohan offered a motion to accept the membership application from Deb Rosato of Gilford as a new Council member. Second offered by Jim Pilliod. Motion carried. Council members enthusiastically welcomed Deb as a Council member. Deb, recently hired as the Director of the Prescott Farm Audubon Center, has had a long association with Council work through her previous role in early childhood program development in the Lakes Region. She is “very happy to continue to work on these and other issues.”
 5. **Election of Officers for 2009** Micheline Roy made a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2009: Andre Paquette as Council Chair and Gil Schohan as Council Vice-Chair. A second provided by Emily Clement. Motion carried, unanimously and enthusiastically!
 6. **Comments by Outgoing and Incoming Chairs**
Sarah Fox - As out-going Chair, Sarah offered several concluding comments and indicated that she is “excited to see the direction of the Council. These changes articulated during the Council Retreat in January 2008 are coming to fruition.” Sarah also noted the resignation of Christie Corrigan. Sarah commented on the contributions and commitment to Council work that Christie has made during her association as a Council member. Christie attended numerous conferences, enlarging her learning, and has communicated Council work in her community of New Hampton. Christie followed through on her passion for the well-being of children and families by becoming a foster parent.

As In-coming Chair, and on behalf of the Council, Andre Paquette presented Sarah an engraved glass plate in appreciation for her tenure as Council Chair for the past two years. Council members thanked Sarah, praising her “level head” and abilities to get things accomplished.

Andre Paquette –Andre offered several key questions for the Council as it prepares for 2009. (1) Are we going to organize ourselves to assure that the Council remains a County Department? If so, the Council needs to state this. The Council will discuss this further at the January meeting. (2) How do we help people understand the Council and its work?

Several challenges and priorities await the Council in 2009. The current juvenile justice system in Belknap County is threatened with the loss of court diversion because of lack of municipal funding and Laconia “shedding Youth Services Bureau as a city department”. The most likely consequences of this loss means that (1) many more juvenile offenders (possibly two-thirds) will be “counseled and released” back into the community with no oversight or provision for their accountability and (2) the other one-third of juveniles will be sent to court and the deeper end of the system. These changes will bring a far higher cost to communities. “Therefore,” noted Andre, “salvaging the juvenile justice system should be a priority for the Council in 2009. A second challenge is “building Council membership”, by adding also to the ranks of Council Associates. “Council Associates can include more than former Council members.” He suggests the Council should first identify areas of need such as PR, marketing, data analysis, technology etc, and second, identify those Belknap County residents considered “experts” in these areas that could then be asked to serve as Council members or Associates. “We need to tap these people for Council work.”

Andre said he views all these challenges as “helping one child at a time”. What we can do for *one child*” is the approach we should take, multiplying this “one child” concept by many more children and families. Viewing Council work through this individualized and personalized lens, makes outcomes far more powerful. Andre provided excerpts from two books he recommends: “One Child” by Torey Hayden and “Mere Literature” by Woodrow Wilson.

ACTION: All Council members will respond to Andre’s six questions on targeted Council members and Associates, as written in FAP Memo # 2009-01, by January 9th.

7. **Re-commit to Council Mission and By-Laws** Sarah offered a motion that the Council support the current stated Council Mission and By-Laws as the platform for Council work in 2009. Second provided by Gil Schohan. Motion carried.
8. **Executive Director’s Report** - *Alan Robichaud*
 - **Handouts** Alan distributed several items: (1) a calendar of Council meetings and county-observed holidays (2) power point slides on the 2009 budget used by the Commissioners at the Budget Hearing on December 8th and (3) the second Issues Brief released by the Citizens Council (Belknap County Juvenile Justice at a Crossroads). He explained that the Crossroads Issues Brief provides an historical overview of the juvenile justice system in the county and offers recommendations for the future. This brief also contains a summary of the opinion poll on the county juvenile system, completed by county residents in 2008.
 - **Appreciation** Many thanks to Sarah Fox for her leadership over the past two years. Sarah will continue to be an asset for the Council in her former and current roles with the NH Department of Education and the NH Court System. Alan is very pleased to work with Andre and Gil Schohan as Council Chair and Vice Chair. Both are original members of the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative, the predecessor to the Citizens Council, and Gil is a former Council Chair.
 - **Systems Integration Initiative** This effort is “very significant” and could not happen without the skills and commitment from several Council members, including Pam Kuczowski, Betty Anson, Rich Moed, and Micheline Roy, all who have specific roles in this project.
 - **Judge Willard Martin** Many thanks to Judge Martin who has provided “years of support and leadership” for the Council. He is “the epitome of our passion.” He is also responsible for the

ground swell of response that reversed the Commissioners' zero 2009 budget for the Council. He will remain a valuable asset for the Council in 2009. As well, Judge Martin has offered the Busiel Mill Community Meeting Room for Council meetings in 2009.

- **2009 Budget etc** Council offices will move to new quarters with UNH Cooperative Extension in the County Complex on Saturday, December 27th thus eliminating the line item for rent. However, this move requires that the Council purchase a new phone system and new phone numbers. As there have been rather substantial costs associated with this move, such as installing and maintaining this new phone system, the Council should decide if it should request a return of a portion of the monies associated with rent to cover these costs that have always been a part of the rent line item.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, January 16, 2009, 8-10am

**WHERE: Belknap County Complex, County Drive off
North Main St in Laconia.**