

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, March 21, 2008 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:0am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00 am

FACILITATEDBY: Sarah Fox **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Jim Pilliod, Micheline Roy, Laurie Belanger, Kate Miller, Betty Anson, Amy Hall, Rich Moed, Rasim Gusinac, Sandy McLaughlin, Gil Schohan, Sarah Fox **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Additions/Amendments to Agenda** None

2. **System of Care; Overview and Council Alignment-** *Betty Anson and Rich Moed reporting*

Following the January Council Retreat and the discussion on creating a complete system of care for children and families in Belknap County, this small group has been researching relevant programs around the country. "System of Care" is a concept that has been in use for the past 20 years. Their explorations led them to the State of Connecticut and the Child Welfare League of America where they have been in touch with a CWLA consultant who has offered his services to the Council. The consultant, John Tuell, will be visiting Laconia on March 27th to work with the Systems of Care committee (Andre Paquette, Rich Moed, and Betty Anson). They have a full day of meetings planned, including with HHS Commissioner Nick Toumpas and some of his Division Directors. While continued work on developing a "system of care" in the juvenile justice arena will require a large commitment of time and resources from Citizens Council members and staff, this type of initiative appears to be very much needed as we look at improving services for youth and families in a cost effective manner. Strong support is needed from the Council for this effort.

Belknap County is well situated to begin such an effort through its Citizen Council framework and numerous networks. However, there are still numerous considerations involved, including identifying and cultivating appropriate partners; developing county-municipal-state partnerships; clarifying the Council's role; developing first steps and a timeline; developing effective strategies; identifying costs involved; designing programs for community education, awareness, and public relations; insuring sustainability; securing consumer involvement; developing clarity of focus and definition etc. Overall goals include using Belknap County as a demonstration project assuming that the model can and will be replicated elsewhere in the state.

Following a lengthy discussion, several Council members indicated that such an initiative will "help to bring clarity to the Council and its mission" and will "help in explaining Council work to others". Many also thought that such an initiative is "a very suitable match for the Council".

Rich Moed made a motion stating that "the Council supports pursuing this system of care initiative."
Motion seconded by Betty Anson. Motion carried.

3. **Director's Report** – *Alan Robichaud reporting* Alan highlighted several items from his written monthly report for Council members: (*Report included as the end of this summary*)

- ***House Bill 1370*** This bill to loosen some of the confidentiality restrictions around juvenile cases, allowing some data sharing among the four juvenile justice providers in Belknap County only, passed the House. The bill will now cross over to the Senate who will make their own decision on whether this legislative proposal should pass.
- ***Public Forums – Belmont Discussion*** Amy Hall did an excellent job facilitating discussion among 44 attendees at the March 4th community forum on supporting children and youth. About 20 volunteers from the Belmont community have agreed to continue this discussion and develop related activities. A follow-up meeting was held on March 20. The next meeting is scheduled for early April.
- ***Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Recovery*** Due to scheduling conflicts, Alan has resigned from this commission, but says that he

was able to make a number of excellent contacts while he was member. Governor Lynch will appoint a successor.

4. Work Group Reports

- **Balanced and Restorative Justice** – No report
- **Prevention** – *Micheline Roy reporting*
 - This workgroup continues exploring how the community can promote “student aspirations”, a key component of the new personalized education planning used in numerous schools around the Lakes Region. As part of this effort, Emily Clement led a focus group discussion with members of the Faith Community. Good information was generated and plans to share insights from this discussion and others in the future are being developed.
 - Some Prevention Workgroup members are participating in the assessment phase now underway in the newly formed Belknap-Carroll Counties Partners in Prevention. Training for those interested was recently offered.
 - Micheline said she called several of her legislators to voice concerns about a proposed bill that would increase the alcohol content of several beverages. Sandy McLaughlin also called her local legislator. The bill did not pass.
- **Executive Committee** – *Sarah Fox reporting*
 - The County Budget passed on March 4th following a long meeting and the highest public scrutiny that the County has probably ever experienced. Sarah Fox and other Council members attended this meeting.
 - **Sarah reminds Council members to read and respond to the email sent them by Alan on March 14th requesting their specific support for the public meetings that are planned.**
 - Alan has requested that the Executive Committee begin a process to evaluate his Executive Director position and the impact, visibility, and effectiveness of the Citizens Council. This process may involve the use of Survey Monkey via email and should happen over the next month or so.
 - Council member recruitment remains an ongoing concern. The upcoming community forums will be a good opportunity to identify potential members.
- **Retreat Subcommittee Updates** – *Sandy McLaughlin reporting* Sandy followed up on a suggestion offered at the February Council meeting to contact Umija Gusinac and Project EXTRA regarding the “mentor” effort during after school time. Project EXTRA will welcome and can easily work with any adults who can come to an after school program in Laconia to work 1-1 with a youth, especially youth in the 5th-8th grades.
ACTION: Anyone on the Council who would like this personal connection and the opportunity to work with a student once a week during Laconia’s after school programs should contact Sandy.

5. **Other Business** Jim Pilliod distributed already purchased Raffle Cards from the Lakes Region Child Care Centers to Council members, placing them in the pool of potential raffle prize winners. Many thanks to Jim for his generosity.
6. **Approve Minutes February 15, 2008.** Motion to accept made by Rich Moed; Laurie Belanger offered a second. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: April 18, 2008, 8-10am

WHERE: Busiel Mill River Level Conference Room

CATEGORY	TOPIC & SPONSOR	STATUS
Community Forums	Convocation - 2009	Planning Meeting scheduled for 1:00 PM at UNH Cooperative Extension Office, Belknap County complex
	Public Forums- Juvenile Justice	Forum held on Tuesday, March 4. Amy Hall did an excellent job facilitating 44 members of the community. Thanks Amy! Follow-up meeting held Thursday, March 20th. Others in process – Alton, Gilford, Meredith
	Early Childhood Education Focus Group	Session is being planned for May 2 at Woodside.
Initiatives	Legislative Initiative	HB1370 Passed the House 3/5/08. Cross over date – 3-20-08 Quoting from the House Record of February 29, 2008 of HB 1370, Rep. Edith A Hogan for Children and Family Law: <u>“The committee is very impressed with what Belknap County has done in instituting restorative justice in the juvenile system. The committee is in full support of this pilot program to study its effect on recidivism. Vote 15-0.”</u>
	Policy Summit	Plans continue toward developing a Policy Summit late this spring. We have acquired to consultation of John Tuell of the Children Welfare League of America who will assist in planning and facilitating the Summit.
Coalitions	Community Prevention Coalition (CPC)	Micheline Roy has completed training to perform one-on-one interviews.
	Safe Schools Coalition (WRSD & CoRe)	Open Space format and date have now changed to accommodate youth. New schedule is Saturday, April 19th at the Boys & Girls Club from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Format will be as that used in Belmont.
	Program Integration Committee	Requested action: Need community point persons to schedule and organize forums. Requests have been sent to representatives in all Belknap County communities.
	Governor’s Commission	I have resigned from the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Recovery effective March 13, 2008 due to conflict with Council meeting schedule.
Council Business	Council Recruitment and Community Outreach	Membership Committee to activate recruitment initiatives. Need to continue to keep the push on.
	Juvenile Justice related bills	HB-159: Inter-branch Criminal and Juvenile Justice Commission; HB584-FN: Age of Minority for purpose of juvenile proceedings from 17 to 18.
	CFY '08 Budget	County Convention again approved Budget at 2nd Public Hearing held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.
	Council Retreat	Follow-up action by subcommittees needed. Committees should report out on Council Agenda.