

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:** Friday, April 18, 2008    **TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am

**TIME ENDED:** 10:00 am

**FACILITATEDBY:** Emily Clement

**SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Emily Clement, Christie Corrigan, Jim Pilliod, Kate Miller, Betty Anson, Rasim Gusinac, Gil Schohan,

**STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell    **GUEST:** Bud Martin

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

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

- ***Belknap County Convocation 2009*** The Citizens Council has coordinated this collaborative and popular annual event for the past five years. However, the 2009 event will be managed by Youth Services Bureau. This transfer of responsibility fits in with the Council's model of generating and leading initiatives for a period of time until, and if others, seeing the value and impact, are able to assume leadership.
- ***Public Forums – Juvenile Justice*** A Stakeholder committee that meets bi-weekly is now organizing information sessions with designated audiences in Belknap County communities. Lee Duncan, a Youth Services Bureau board member, invited a contingent from Gilford to the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Leadership from Gilford schools and Police Department have agreed to organize meetings for Gilford municipal officials where Alan and others can share information on the juvenile justice system in the County, its components and functions, and associated costs. A goal is to explain that the early intervention and prevention programs, such as court diversion, can keep youth out of the far more expensive, deep-end of the system. The motivation and planning for these presentations must originate from community residents so that presentation can be tailored to community needs. Additional presentations for Alton, Belmont, and Meredith are currently in different stages of planning. Council members and Associates, Amy Hall, Sandy McLaughlin, Kate Miller, and Dick Wallace are helping to organize presentations and follow-up in their communities. Each meeting will be summarized using a uniform template and will be shared with appropriate audiences.
- ***Early Childhood Education Focus Group*** The Prevention Work Group is holding focus group sessions with representatives from different community sectors with a goal of understanding how these sectors are encouraging “aspirations” or personal development of children and youth. The goal is to help extend into the community the current emphasis in schools on “personalized education plans”. The next Focus Group will be with representatives from the early childhood sector and is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> during the lunch hour at Woodside in the Taylor Community. Deb Rosato, a member of the Prevention Work Group and the Coordinator of several early childhood initiatives here in Belknap County, is organizing this session. Dan Kusch of the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project and a Prevention Work Group member is helping to coordinate focus group sessions with other sectors in the community.
- ***Legislative Initiative*** HB 1370, allowing data sharing among specified providers in Belknap County, has passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Alan testified at a hearing on April 3 where he said “there were very few questions asked”. Senator Sgambati supports this bill. This bill will bring a clearer picture of recidivism and other outcomes by allowing the County's juvenile justice providers to share data amongst themselves, providing added significance to the Case Closing Form, and strengthening the annual reports on juvenile justice outcomes.
- ***NH employment Program*** Alan co-organized a meeting with Denise Sleeper of Project Second Start/Working Futures for a group of area employers and business leaders to explore developing additional opportunities for on-the-job training for TANF recipients. Attendees, including Tom Clairmont from LRGHealthcare, and representatives from the Lakes Business Group, the Belknap County Economic Develop Council, Leadership Lakes Region, the NH Employment Program, etc

were very receptive. Some offered OJT positions with the expectation that if the candidates were successful, they would then be hired. There are over 200 TANF recipients in the Laconia DHHS region and job opportunities for them are needed. Alan mentioned that Meredith Village Savings Bank who was not able to send a representative to this meeting does have good opportunities for entry level positions. However, a low credit rating is a definite impediment and unfortunately many TANF recipients, through no fault of their own, do not currently have good credit. These entry level positions could also be opportunities for the refugee population, many of whom are searching for employment. Rasim Gusinac said a couple of refugees were now very happily employed at the Laconia Savings Bank, indicating that MVSBS may also have potential for refugees.

- **Policy Summit** The Summit was originally conceived as a opportunity for county, local, and state DHHS leaders to come together in some form of partnership that could redesign how services for children, youth, and families are delivered and managed in Belknap County. However, this Summit effort may now need to have more of a local focus. Currently State DHHS administrators are caught in a perfect storm of budget cut-backs, policy changes, and serious deficits and do not appear to be able to participate in such a pilot project, as originally designed. The state approach seems to be moving localities to a more decentralized system, or Administrative Service Organizations (ASO) that would receive, manage, and distribute re-allocated funds within smaller geographical areas. The Council would not wish to assume an ASO role as it would be in direct conflict with its mission of advocacy, collaboration, networking, and planning. There are many challenges involved and the Council must always be aware of its mandated mission and not just chasing dollars. The planned “summit” on June 5<sup>th</sup> may still occur but will be with a different focus. Council members and Associates: Betty Anson, Rich Moed, and Andre Paquette are working with Council staff on this effort.

### 3. Work Group Reports

- **Balanced and Restorative Justice** – *Gil Schohan reporting* This workgroup is not meeting formally but its members are all involved in several other juvenile justice related efforts, such as the community information sessions.
- **Prevention** – *Emily Clement reporting for Micheline Roy* As explained earlier by Alan in his Director Report, this workgroup is organizing focus groups with representatives from various community sectors to learn more about how they encourage personal development in children and youth. Emily also noted that the Belknap County CoRe Coalition is co-sponsoring a major Teen Youth Event on Saturday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Laconia Community Center.
- **Executive Committee** – *Emily Clement reporting for Sarah Fox* This group is now currently developing a process to evaluate the Council and its Executive Director. They will use the electronic Survey Monkey, which will allow for feedback from a wide group of people. Sarah is developing the specific questionnaire that will be added to Survey Monkey.

There is currently one space left at the table that the Council has purchased for the Lakes Region United Way Annual Meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Jim Pilliod offered to fill this slot.

**ACTION: Alan will submit the registration list to LRUW.**

- **Retreat Committee** A subcommittee formed after the Retreat to focus on “systemic change” has morphed into the Summit initiative.

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes 3/21/08** As there was not a quorum present, the approval of these minutes will be deferred to the May 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

5. **Other Business** Jim Pilliod noted two meetings: the legislative luncheon on Child Resource Centers held on April 17<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Meeting of the NH Public Health Association scheduled for April 23 in Manchester. The keynote presentation is on the influence and benefit of “pre-birth parent training”. Jim also mentioned a possible candidate for Council membership. **ACTION: Alan will follow-up.**

#### NEXT MEETING

**WHEN: May 16, 2008, 8-10am**

**WHERE: Busiel Mill River Level Conference Room**

*Director's Report*

*Citizens Council Meeting*

*April 18, 2008*

CATEGORY	TOPIC & SPONSOR	STATUS
<b>Community Forums</b>	Convocation - <b>2009</b>	<b>Youth Services Bureau will take the lead planning role this year.</b>
	Public Forums- Juvenile Justice	In process – Alton, Gilford, Meredith
	<b>Early Childhood Education Focus Group</b>	<b>Session is scheduled for May 2 at Woodside. Currently 5 participants signed up</b>
<b>Initiatives</b>	Legislative Initiative	HB1370 Passed the House 3/5/08. Cross over date – 3-20-08 <b>Heard by Senate Judiciary Committee 4-3-08</b>
	Policy Summit	Plans continue toward developing a Policy Summit late this spring. <b>Concept paper submitted to DHHS 4-8-08</b>
<b>Coalitions</b>	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 19 <sup>th</sup> 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.
	<b>New Hampshire Employment Program</b>	<b>Held luncheon meeting on April 8 with 9 community and business leaders. Leading to discussions for hiring and supporting TANF recipients. 12 people scheduled to participate in OJT program this spring.</b>
<b>Council Business</b>	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 2 <sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008.
	Council Retreat	Follow-up action by subcommittees needed. Committees should report out on Council Agenda.