

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, September 19, 2008 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am

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

PRESENT: Micheline Roy, Sarah Fox, Jim Pilliod, Sandy McLaughlin, Emily Clement, Gil Schohan, Laurie Belanger, Ruth O'Hara, Rich Moed **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Welcome** - *Sarah Fox, Council Chair* Today's meeting is being held in the Church Hall meeting room of the Laconia Congregational Church. Thanks to Emily for making these arrangements.

2. **Approve Meeting Minutes – 8/15//08** Motion made by Gil Schohan to accept the minutes of the June 20th Council meeting; second by Rich Moed. Motion carried.

3. **Director's Report** – *Alan Robichaud* (See attached report)
 - ***Public Forums*** Alan continues to make presentations around the county on the status and needs of the county's juvenile justice system. He recently spoke to a group of about 25 Board members, staff and others from the Shaker Regional School district. The town-specific juvenile data provided by Dan French (Laconia JPPO) for each county community has been very helpful. This Belmont presentation also included information about other dynamics impacting children and families (substance abuse and addictions, mental health challenges, domestic violence, child abuse, etc), much of this information tailored specifically to Belmont youth. Other pending presentations include Laconia and Alton.
 - ***Juvenile Justice Survey*** This survey was designed to learn what preferences county citizens have for the goals and funding streams for the county's system of juvenile justice programs and services. This survey has been circulated around the county for close to six months via hard copy and posting on the Council website. 226 responses have been compiled into a report that Alan will share with the County Commissioners. Alan also plans to write a "white paper" on the status of the county juvenile system. Titled "Juvenile Justice at the Crossroads", this report will be distributed as a separate publication and will be part of the process of bringing systemic change to the county's juvenile service system. Adding a question that asks how the respondents heard about the survey will help the Council to know what communication vehicles are effective.
 - ***HB 1370*** The Plymouth State University consultants are now working on the protocols and the process for evaluating impact of this new legislation.
 - ***Systems Change Initiative*** The first meeting of the Administrative Oversight Committee (key state stakeholders) and the Leadership Executive Committee (key local, county, and some state stakeholders), both with about 15 members each, will be held on September 22nd. The goal of this project, now a priority for the Citizens Council, is to find ways to better coordinate the juvenile justice and the child welfare systems in Belknap County, anticipating replication elsewhere in the state. Rich Moed will be facilitating both meetings. John Tuell, CWLA consultant, will outline how other systems integration projects around the country are organized. Plans for this first meeting include agreeing on the content/format of an MOU to be signed by all participants and to identify effective strategies for internal and external communication. Expectations for this initiative include being cognizant of the demands of the state budget as well as being sensitive to the political realities.

The infrastructure of the Council has been updated to accommodate this initiative: JJAC has expanded its focus and membership beyond juvenile justice to other areas impacting children and families. JJAC is now inventorying programs that provide services to children and families. The Data Committee has been enlarged with members from the child welfare system in Belknap County. Suggestions were made to include information from the Youth Services Bureau Directory and the Family Voices "Maneuvering Through the Maze".

Representatives from the Court System are needed. Judges Kelly and Sadler cannot commit to attending ongoing committee meetings. Representatives are also needed from the education sector.

Guidebooks that outline the CWLA process of organizing and facilitating systems change efforts are available to any Council member who would like them.

- **Juvenile Justice Report Card** The anticipated release date is now mid-October.
- **Community Prevention Coalition (Belknap and Carroll Counties)** The Coordinator position is now open. Interviews will be underway soon.
- **Gilford Safety Outreach** This Gilford Inter-Agency School Safety Team has shown great interest and energy in working together to prevent school violence. Dr. Malcolm Smith, a national expert on school violence, recently met with this committee.
- **Council Budget** This will be a tough year. Alan prepared the budget for 2009 that is 6% less than last year. It is still not clear what types of downsizing and changes will be required of County departments. Alan has already reviewed the Council's budget with Deb Shackett, our new County Administrator. The Commissioners will review department proposed budgets. All budgets are then reviewed line-by-line by committees from the County Delegation. Recommendations are given to the Commissioners who must prepare a final budget for approval by the County Delegation in late March. Once this budget is approved it is retro-active to January 1. As 50% of the County Delegation will change with the November elections, it is very important that all Delegation members understand the Citizens Council. **ACTION: (1) Council members would benefit from "Talking Points" on what to say to Delegation members and others about why the Council's work is needed. (2) Jim Pilliod will talk with Alida Millham about hosting a breakfast meeting for the Delegation to talk more about the Council, HB 2, and other items pertinent to the Council.**
- **Announcements** (1) The 2009 Convocation on Children and Families is scheduled for March 31st and will be held in the Meredith Community Center. This is the first year that the Council is not leading this project. (2) Schmitt UnSung Hero Award Nomination Forms will be available soon. (3) Dave Tryon of Tilton, the 2006 recipient of the Schmitt Award, is very ill at this time. He is at home under Hospice care.

4. **Work Group Updates**

- **Community Updates** (1) Belmont is considering building their own Community Center. (2) Dick Wallace will be the recipient of a prevention award from New Futures.
- **BARJ – Gil Schohan** Things are in flux. Nothing to report
- **Prevention – Micheline Roy** (1) The Prevention Workgroup will be handling Consumer Outreach Interviews, a component of the Systems Initiative. Workgroup members, Ruth O'Hara, Laurie Belanger, and Mich will conduct these interviews, primarily through phone calls. (2) A focus group with representatives from the Fire, Insurance, and Real Estate sectors is scheduled for September 30th. The goal is to learn more how this sector supports the aspirations of children and youth, as articulated in the *Follow the Child* project now underway in the Laconia School District. This focus group will be facilitated by Dan Kusch and will be held at the Taylor Community Woodside Facility. (3) There will be no Workgroup meeting on October 7th as many members will be attending the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Conference on the same day.
- **Executive Committee** – Sarah Fox has reviewed the By-laws regarding Council meeting attendance and feels they give the Council ample leeway to deal with members' attendance. No changes are to be made at this time. Sarah also reviewed the status of the Executive Director and Council evaluation recently conducted on Survey Monkey. Ninety-four responses were received from local, county and state respondents who were reached through the Council's e-mail address list. Results were very positive and affirming of the work being done by the Council. Sarah further mentioned that there will be new procedures followed by the court. The Special Education Director will now be sent copies of all court orders. The December Annual meeting will consist of a breakfast meeting such as occurred last year.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, October 17th, 2008, 8-10am

WHERE: Busiel Mill River Level Room