

S u m m a r y
B e l k n a p C o u n t y C i t i z e n s C o u n c i l o n C h i l d r e n
a n d F a m i l i e s J a n u a r y M e e t i n g

B y
D o n n a S i n g e r
D o n n a S i n g e r C o n s u l t i n g & R e t r e a t F a c i l i t a t o r

B e l k n a p C o u n t y C i t i z e n s C o u n c i l R e t r e a t
J a n u a r y 1 8 , 2 0 0 8

F l i p C h a r t D o c u m e n t a t i o n

O u r P a s t

Purpose: To reflect about our past

Our reflections based on the Time Line on the wall (whole group discussion)

- Impact Judge Martin has had
- Bringing together stakeholders
- Like a crusade – lots of good people involved – kept the vision alive
- A good vision
- Like a rock or snowball – well routed into today
- One of the first time working as a county – thinking outside own neighborhood
- Created a statewide perception of a possible model for counties
- People inspired to be part of this group
- Working on who we are/where to go
- Connections among communities
- Alan and Judy (lot more) – dynamic
- Established presence that encourages engagement
- Huge progress with turf issues
- Seek assistance outside (state and federal)
- Sense of pride
- Access to resources for families
- Voice for restorative justice
- Lot of success and accountability
- Ability to respond to constantly changing circumstances

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Focus on the Present (External)

Purpose: Create a shared picture of the world we live in and experience the whole together.

Method: The whole group will create a “mind map” of present trends in society – social, economic, technological, environmental, etc – that people believe are shaping their future.

** See not below.

- Mental Health (11)
- Finances (8)
- Family Values (7)
- Media (8)
- Fear (5)
- Legislative Action (5)
- County and towns (schools) (7)

** Number in parentheses represent number of dots on that item/issue. These are the items with the greatest number of dots. See mind map for others.

Flip Chart Documentation

Focus on the Present (Internal)

Purpose: Accepting our feeling about what we're doing now.

Method: Brainstorm two lists.

Group 1

Prouds	Sorries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent support groups• Attending meetings, getting ideas, making connections, getting inspired• Welcoming to teen members• Relationships with schools• Group is here and committed, passionate about helping• Not political agenda/bias in this group• People who care about kids' well-being• Safe environment to share in/disagree in• Support/encourage people who do a good job• We celebrate the positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enough time to market P.S.G.• Leaving one group to join another without saying anything to first group• Not doing more beyond meetings, not taking the next step• We don't have more teens involved – it took so long to get one involved• Good relationship with more schools• Not reaching those who need us most• Difficulty of communication/red tape between service providers• Sometimes we engage in judgments which prevent seeing “the Big Picture”• Lack of more diverse representation (at risk, low economic, etc) perspectives• Us – them (OK – Needy) division - need more at the table

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Focus on the Present

Group 2

Prouds	Sorries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report card • We exist • AJR quarterly reports • Website • Staff • We're a model • Current members and their passion and commitment to the council and community • Support of communities, schools, etc. • Strong relationship with NGO's, govt agencies, etc • County Commissioners and Delegation support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No council public reports (widely distributed) • Not as effective as we should be • More senior citizen volunteers • Lack of Sec Support • Lack of time for the council • Lack of more council members • Limited working relationship with police departments • Niche for some council members

Group 3

Prouds	Sorries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative justice • Partnerships with city and state • Numerous grants obtained • Report card • Leadership • Commitment • Whole model of citizen's council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Crime Victim Awareness Week (not ???) • Sustainability of programs (manpower and money) • PALS • Not having full utilization of programs ex. Restorative Justice • Having representation of all communities • Keeping up membership

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Focus on the Present

Group 4

Prouds	Sorries
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great people• Attendance – group cohesion• Use of associate members• Coalition building in community• Strong networks• Engaging media• Active, healthy citizens (not in police log)• Live our mission• Children a priority• Share our mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time• Can I do more?• Feedback from non-council members (families in system, children, community)• Think we have all the answers• Difficulty reaching out – learning diversity• Social club/resume builder• Lack of empathy - do we know best?

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Common Ground

Purpose: To discover the common ground desired by retreat participants.

- Citizen's Council alive and well and stronger than ever – Andre, Dick, **Christie****
- Money no object – funding not a problem – initiative so worthwhile
- Comprehensive integrated care systems for children and families –(easily accessible and prevention) – Rich, Alan, Mich, Lauri, Jim, **Betty****, Katie
- Media is a partner in the success – Sarah, **Amy****, Emily
- There are solutions to problems – ex. elderly/teens/teen pregnancy, etc may have problems
- One-on-one connection – individualized – **Sandy****, Nancy
- Interest in prevention
- Bringing government and non-government together – virtual as well – creative use of creative funding
- Kids know they are a priority

Issues to Discuss

- Maintain funding (prove that money is valuable – ROI)
- Identify re appreciating
- All over the board or focused??

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Action Planning

Purpose: To identify goals for Belknap County Citizens Council to consider for 2008
To identify action steps towards these goals.

1. Who is your point person?
2. Be prepared to give a report on the goals and action plans of your group at February 15th meeting.