

**Citizens Council Meeting  
Friday, January 10, 2003**

**SUMMARY**

**Attending:** Gil Schohan, Alida Millham, Linda Brewer, Kevin Washburn, Jim Pilliod, Scott Andersen, Sue Smith, Mary Alice Warner, Dick Wallace, Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette, Bob Rovella, Evelyn Auger, Judge Martin, Alan Robichaud.

**Excused:** John Irwin, Sheila Weeks, Peter Michaud, Jim Carroll, Mark Condodemetraky.

Gil called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM. She expressed Council thanks to Pam Washburn and Council members who helped with the recent mailing for the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to all!

**Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2002 meeting.** On a motion duly made and seconded (Andre/Sue) the Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports**

*Legislative & Advocacy* Mary Alice reported that the committee had not met this year yet. A meeting is scheduled for next week. **Please note** that the Legislative and Advocacy meeting scheduled for Friday, January 17 has been moved (this month) to Thursday morning, January 16 at 8:00 AM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Busiel Mill.

*Planning Committee* Sue reported the Committee spent its time reviewing the format for the Annual Report and continued discussion on follow-up to the public forums. Sue indicated that the Annual Report would be more of a "Report to the Citizens of Belknap County" than a typical Annual Report. Once new Council members are elected, we will schedule the remaining forums in Barnstead, Gilmanton and New Hampton. Council liaisons to those communities in which forums have already been conducted should reconnect with their Steering Committees and establish a time to review the results of the forums. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the outcomes and see how the Council can assist the community to go forward. We would also use that opportunity to clarify what things the Council will not take primary responsibility for but how we might be of assistance in referring community folks to others who can help in defined areas. Please notify Alan as you are making these follow-up contacts so he can be present for the meetings. Leo suggested that timing of this follow-up, because of upcoming budget, school and town meetings, will need to be taken into consideration.

*Finance & Grants* Bob reported that he and Alida attended a budget hearing with the Commissioners and delegation on December 13, 2002. No questions were asked and the budget now goes forward to the "Outside Agencies" Subcommittee at a hearing scheduled for Saturday, January 18 at 9:00 AM. Alan indicated that we will be adding three new line items to the budget at the request of Nancy Cook. They are Health Care Bonus, Sick Pay Bonus and Professional Liability Insurance. A memo to this effect will be sent to the Commissioners and the County Delegation Subcommittee.

*Executive Committee* Gil, Alida and Alan met with the Commissioners to discuss requests for endorsements by statewide coalitions. The result is that the Council will not, at this time sign on to these forms of measures. While we may decide to advocate for certain legislation and policy matters that come before the Legislature, the feeling is that in these early stages of development, we have not yet banked enough political capital to weigh in on issues which target our specific goals.

Alan reported on discussions with Riley Regan of the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery (DADAPR) relative to his interest in the Council's support of facilitating local discussions on addictions. Alan will convene a body of related professionals and consumers in the near future to determine goals of such a group. There was substantial discussion and interest in this topic.

Gil reported that, after review of the current committee structure, the Executive Committee approved keeping the process for electing committee chairs and Executive Committee liaisons the same as last year.

## **Old Business**

*Non-Public Sessions* Alida developed a set of procedural steps for conducting non-public sessions of Council and committee meetings based on the RSA 93-A. This was handed out to Council members.

*Annual Meeting* Meeting is set for 6:30 PM at the County Complex. Alan Cantor of the NH Community Loan Fund will keynote the evening. Election of officers and swearing in of new Council members will also highlight the agenda. Please RSVP to Judy or Alan as soon as possible.

*Schmitt Award* Gil, Alida and Judy developed nomination criteria for this year's award. Alan has ordered the award and will have it engraved once the recipient is known. Nomination forms must be received no later than Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Members received a nomination packet.

*Community Partner and Associate Awards* Alan reviewed the process to determine which events/activities of the Council would be used to recognize annual partners and associates. This year's selections are the Evolving Community Justice series and the Public Forums. Linda suggested that we also award certificates to youngsters who participated in the forums so they may include them in school portfolios. Council liaisons to the planning forums are asked to identify and submit the names of the youngsters who assisted as well as confirming the names of the Steering Committee Chairs to Alan as soon as possible so certificates can be made up.

*Planning Forum Follow-up* Revisiting the discussion under the committee reports, Dick asked why, if we know what some of the major themes are, we don't just "pre-empt" further discussions and begin working on some of the issues. Parent accountability was seen as a major theme that has emerged from nearly every community and professional sector. Nearly every Council member weighed in on this issue. Highlights of discussion include the following: (not necessarily verbatim)

- A great deal of care and study must go into determining what we select as our issues. We must be clear and well-defined in what we attempt to do. We need to seek out the "best minds" in the country. (Andre)
- We must assist parents to parent; not become the parent. (Evelyn)
- Use the Council to interject prevention, not just deal with "end of the pipe" consequences. (Jim P.)
- Parents are at the beginning of the "pipeline". (Dick)
- Must involve the community if we want support. (Scott)

Andre synthesized what seem to him to be three top priority areas for the Council to consider. They are parent/family issues; substance abuse; and juvenile justice system reform. The Council facilitates the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) and is now considering the request to convene an Addiction group. Two of these areas already have some sustained effort behind them. We need to elevate the status of children and families to be represented in all Council efforts and additionally give focus to parent accountability issues in the county.

Jim P. suggested getting a recognized expert on family matters (Nancy McClaren of Boston University) to present to the Council. He will get further information on Nancy for Alan who will bring it back to the Council. It will be important to make sure this ties in to the agenda of what the Council's activities are around the parent accountability piece. It might be that Nancy McClaren could present a community forum as a lead event for our initiative.

Judge Martin and Alan shared their observations of an evening sponsored by the Laconia School District (1/8/03). Parents and students who were failing two or more subjects in their eighth grade courses attended a dinner to hear about how the school can support their success in transferring to the high school. It was an extremely positive approach and gave those in attendance the understanding the school is concerned and cares about the success of all of its students.

## **New Business**

Alan gave a brief update on Holly DeWald's progress. Council members were invited to sign a banner being circulated by Miami Blake of PACT. Holly is making steady progress. Should anyone wish to send her a correspondence, please contact Youth Services Bureau (524-9457) for the correct mailing address.

Leo indicated that in a recent conversation with Brian Loanes, we are requested to give Brian ideas about where to seek small tokens of appreciation to be awarded to youngsters who complete the Restorative Justice program. These can take the form of certificates at various businesses, admissions to facilities, etc. Please give this some thought and contact Brian directly at 527-5454.

Currently the Restorative Justice program is serving 45 youngsters. Two participants have completed the program and 6 others are scheduled to complete it later this month. A total of 1319 community service hours have been logged since the program began. Their budget has a shortfall of about \$1900 and Brian is seeking assistance for next year. There have been delays in receiving evaluation information from Justice Works, the contract agent which performs this service on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. Alan is willing to intervene on behalf of the program at Brian's request.

The New Hampshire political climate is rapidly changing with newly elected officials. It is important to get the Council's agenda on the Governor's radar screen. Alida will approach Mark Thurston to see about getting the Governor to meet with the Council and constituents.

Jim mentioned the book title, Warning Signs by Steven White, as a reference to studies on school shootings, bullying, etc.

#### **Adjournment**

Alida moved, Linda seconded a motion to adjourn. Passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM

#### **NEXT MEETING**

<b>When:</b>	Friday, February 14, 2003	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
<b>Where:</b>	Lower Level Conference Room – Busiel Mill	