

MINUTES

MEETING: Citizens Council **DATE:** Friday, March 8, 2002 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:03am **TIME ENDED:** 10:02am

FACILITATED BY: Gil Schohan **NOTES BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Gil Schohan (presiding), Andre Paquette, Wes Colby, Leo Sanfacon, Dick Wallace, Jim Pilliod, Alida Millham, Bob Rovella, Peter Michaud, Kevin Washburn, Scott AndersEn, Dave Russell, Cathy Apfel, Sue Smith, Jim Carroll, Mark Condodemetraky, Al Robichaud, Judy Buswell **Exc. Absence:** Linda Brewer, Mary Alice Warner, Sheila Weeks **Absent:** Evelyn Auger, John Irwin **Guest:** Judge Willard Martin

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH @ 8AM Winni Reg. Middle High School Media Center, Tilton

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO?
Introductions	<p>Three members who were not present at the first Council meeting were asked to introduce themselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cathy Apfel</i> (Barnstead) Employed with Institute on Disabilities at UNH; does consulting throughout NH around behavioral, emotional and other needs of fragile, at-risk youth. She also serves as adjunct faculty member for Rivier College and UNH. • <i>Rep. Jim Pilliod</i> (Belmont) Pediatrician in Laconia for 35 years; strong interest in child and family issues throughout his adult life. • <i>Rep. Dave Russell</i> (Gilmanton) He and his wife operated Village Store in GIW for 15 years; has served as Selectman for 10 yrs (5 years as Chair); parent of 3 and very interested in child, youth, and family issues <p>Gil thanked Scott for offering very comfortable space for today's meeting.</p>		
Deschutes, OR model	<p>Wes Colby described the juvenile justice system in Deschutes, OR., contrasting and comparing it with NH and Belknap County systems. Over the past 22 months, four groups of about 7 each, including BJJ members, Police Chief Bill Baker (Laconia), and 3 County Commissioners have visited Deschutes. Information</p>		

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	<p>and insights gathered from these visits, as well as consulting visits with two Deschutes leaders (Denny Maloney: Juvenile Justice and Scott Johnson: Commission on Children and Families), and additional study and research became the foundation for recommendations for systemic change in Belknap County. We outlined the major differences noted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon allows for strong, county-based systems whereas our system is State-based. However, NH counties must pay up to 25% of juvenile justice costs, amounting to approximate \$1 million each year for Belknap. Counties have no input as to how this money is spent. • Deschutes became the “<i>Exception County</i>” in Oregon in the early 1990’s when Deschutes leaders asked Oregon legislators to reduce their bed allocations for detention and give the County the money instead. In return, Deschutes agreed to care for youth requiring detention in Deschutes County. Deschutes was able to build a detention facility, co-locating a Courtroom, alternative school, short and long term detention units, shelter capacity, and office space for related staff into this one facility. Thus ancillary costs such as transportation and repetitive overhead expenses were reduced, as were time lags created by moving juveniles through the once physically separated segments of the system. We said that if Deschutes uses more than their reduced allocation of beds, they must pay stiff fines (e.g. reimbursement rates) to the State. • Proximity afforded by this one facility also allows for technological connections and the sharing of data, reducing time spent in intakes and other data-gathering procedures. • Deschutes (as does all of Oregon) has less restrictive confidentiality requirements than NH, making the sharing of data and use of volunteers easier to implement. • Deschutes has a strong community base throughout its juvenile system with lots of volunteer involvement. Leo Sanfacon, who also visited Deschutes, said he was very impressed with the amount and quality of community 		

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	<p>involvement, both in their juvenile justice system and through their Commission on Children and Families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deschutes juvenile justice system uses the Balanced and Restorative Justice model (BARJ), which focuses first on meeting victim needs; second, on addressing community safety; and finally, on building competencies in juvenile offenders while still holding them accountable. NH uses a punitive approach, which means that “punishing” the offender is first and foremost, meaning that the needs of the victim are ignored more often than not. • Oregon statute mandates that each County establish a “Commission on Children and Families”. The Deschutes Commission works actively to involve their community and gathers citizen input for their legislatively mandated community plan. Deschutes recently published a 10-year plan with measurable goals. (A copy was given to each Citizen Council member at the February meeting.) • We referenced the Belknap County Juvenile Justice “Flow Chart”, found in Council member notebooks. When Denny Maloney saw this chart he said that a system that is more than 3 layers deep could not work effectively. • Deschutes juvenile justice system has a “ladder of consequences”, or the availability of increasingly intrusive sanctions to impose for repeat offenses. By contrast, Belknap County has several fine programs but there are many gaps in our continuum. Currently, there are few alternatives before placement at YDC or other facilities. Our kids take this to mean that they can offend several times before they are “placed”. • The Deschutes system has a strong emphasis on prevention, on identifying and working with at-risk children and their families, and on developing protective factors in the community to help kids avoid contact with the juvenile justice system. Alida said that we must “see the whole picture which includes prevention in order to be effective”. • Deschutes works with a team system that allows each case 		

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	<p>to be staffed and recommendations designed before the judicial hearings. Our system often brings service providers etc together for the first time at judicial hearings, meaning the judge must spend much more time with each individual case creating a back log of scheduled cases. Andre Paquette, who visited Deschutes, said that in comparison to our system, he was impressed with Deschutes' efficient use of the judge's time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wes said that when Denny Maloney visited Laconia in August 2000, he stressed that we must (1) be able to develop and share comparable data and (2) customize a community justice model to fit the needs of Belknap County rather than simply mirroring the Deschutes model. • Wes explained that recent changes in the NH juvenile justice system include reorganizing with a new Director, Joe Diamant, and former BJJJ member Tricia Lucas as the Ass't Director. Anticipated change on a State level include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building a new YDC campus to correct safety and procedural concerns and the costs generated by this very outdated present facility. Approximately ½ of building costs will be paid through federal grant monies. Jim Pilliod said everyone should visit the present YDC to clarify the need for a new facility. ○ Co-locate YDSU, the short term detention unit now in Concord, with the new YDC facility ○ Develop community-based strategies. Thus, Joe Diamant and others are very interested in the outcomes from our new approach in Belknap Co. ○ Focus more resources to the "front end" of the system e.g more and improved prevention ○ Create a year-round school for juveniles at YDC 		
Vision and Mission Statements	While BJJJ members did spend a great deal of time writing draft vision and mission statements for the Council, it is important that these statements be revised as the current Council sees fit. Alan Robichaud facilitated an hour-long discussion. Highlights		

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	<p>follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Vision Statement should state a long-range picture, “dream”, or hope that Council members have for children, youth and families in Belknap County. It is external to the Council, is collaboratively held by others in the community, is written in non-measurable terms, is not tangible, and is probably not even reachable in the near future. This Vision Statement is what drives the Mission Statement, the succinct statement of what the Council will do to achieve this Vision. • Should our focus be on developing improved environments for just the “at-risk” population of kids and families, as these are the ones who will probably end up in the juvenile system? Conclusions from discussion that followed were that this approach could be seen as “condescending and paternalistic”. Taking a wider lens view, that includes all children and families, will place prevention, early intervention, treatment, and crisis intervention in their appropriate context and set the stage for citizen investment and involvement in all activities and programs for children and families. Judge Martin said that the conclusion from 20+ months of work by BJI members was that it is not possible to change the juvenile justice system without understanding the larger picture. • A properly constructed Vision Statement leads to the Mission Statement, which leads to the Goals and Objectives, the Outcomes, and then the Evaluation. • Further discussion around these two important Council documents (Vision and Mission Statements) included these points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Vision Statement is philosophical ✓ A Vision Statement should be about the quality of life for people in Belknap County ✓ These Statements should pull together the public, private and local, county and state sectors. ✓ These Statements should focus on ALL kids and families, rather than just a percentage 	<p>Alan will prepare drafts of Vision Statement for Council to review and comment on. A “date certain” for receiving feedback will be included.</p> <p>Lines in the draft documents should be numbered for easy reference.</p>	<p>A. Robichaud</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ These Statements should deal with prevention as well as response ✓ These Statements should look at motivating citizen participation ✓ These Statements should strive to gain the trust and mutual respect of children ✓ These Statements should consider using the more inclusive term “youth” rather than “children”. ✓ Involvement, inclusion, and support are important words to use in these Statements ✓ “Community Justice” names a more comprehensive approach, as it includes Restorative Justice principles, prevention, and community development. ✓ Our work should strive to improve the mental health system in this County. • Ongoing discussion produced this Vision Statement for further thought and review: <i>“Belknap County is a place where children and families can live with respect and dignity.”</i> Further comments included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A systemic change will be necessary ✓ A broad perspective, such as reflected in the 10-year plan for Deschutes County, is necessary ✓ The Mission Statement, once created, will get at the specifics. ✓ The Council will not succeed in its mission unless others in Belknap County also grasp “the vision”. ✓ Should we include “live in safety”, or the more traditional “live without fear” as well? 		
Council meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gil said that as it is not possible for the full Council to meet more frequently than once a month. Much of the Council’s work will be accomplished through Work Groups, of which we now have three: Executive Committee, By-Laws Committee, and an advisory group around juvenile justice programs. These committee meetings are open to <u>all</u> Council members and the agendas and minutes will be e- 	Council members are invited to attend Work Group meetings as they are able.	Council members

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	<p>mailed to all Council members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Executive Committee :Thursday, March 14th at 4:30pm at the Busiel Mill. ○ By-Laws Committee: Tuesday, March 12th at 8:15am at Busiel Mill. ○ Juvenile Justice Committee has several meetings scheduled around specific purposes. Call Council office for further details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andre asked that the Council receive regular updates on the Restorative Justice Program. 	<p>Alan Robichaud will arrange for Brian Loanes to report on the RJ Program at the April Council meeting</p>	<p>A. Robichaud</p>
Glossary	<p>Judy distributed an extensive glossary of terms relating to juvenile justice, prevention science, and grants. She used more than 3 dozen resources, including a review of juvenile justice terms by Jay Apicelli, JPPO Supervisor</p>		
March 20 th	<p>There are two events occurring on March 20th that will interest Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Hearing on Alcohol and other substance abuse issues; hosted by State Division on Substance Abuse, Prevention, and Recovery - Community Technical College in Laconia - 6:30 to 8:30pm, Room 200A ● Delegation vote on County Budget - County Complex - 7:30pm 	<p>Council members are urged to attend one of these events.</p>	<p>Council members</p>
Drug Court	<p>Judge Martin said that Juvenile Drug Court will begin in Laconia on March 13th.</p>		
Youth Involvement	<p>Scott AndersEn said the Interlakes SAU group, formed earlier to address substance abuse issues of the students at Interlakes High School, will attend Public Hearing on March 20th. This launched a discussion on the need to involve youth and the best ways to accomplish this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim Carroll said that PACT has begun a scholarship program available for kids who take leadership positions in PACT activities. ● The Council should involve youth from all the high schools in Belknap County e.g. Laconia, Gilford, Belmont, Winnisquam, Newfound, Interlakes, and Alton 		

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Robert Wood Johnson Program	Judge Martin said that NH (with Nashua and Belknap County as pilot sites) is one of 11 national sites to be awarded substantial funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for improving the re-integration of offending youth who have substance abuse issues back into their communities. The RWJ Foundation will make a public announcement of this award on March 11th. Called “Reclaiming Futures”, this project will be closely associated with the work of the Council.		
Evaluation	<p>Meeting participants summarized their reaction to today’s meeting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying • Coalescing • Passionate group of people • Formative • Coming to consensus • Challenging • Helpful • Enlightening • Educating • Overwhelming • Fluid • Thought-provoking • Informative • Outstanding • Interesting • Good minds • Inspiring • Forward thinking • Speechless • Respectful 		
NEXT MEETING	FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH 8AM – WINNISQUAM REGIONAL MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER	Kevin Washburn will e-mail directions to Alan/Judy who will forward them with minutes.	A. Robichaud J. Buswell