

## MINUTES

**MEETING:** Citizens Council    **DATE:** Friday, April 12, 2002    **TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am    **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am

**FACILITATED BY:** Rob Rovella    **NOTES BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Bob Rovella (presiding), Linda Brewer, Rep. Alida Millham, Sheila Weeks, Peter Michaud, Mary Alice Warner, Kevin Washburn, Jim Carroll, John Irwin, Wes Colby, Cathy Apfel, Richard Wallace, Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette    Staff: Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell,  
Guest: Brian Loanes    Absent: Scott AndersEn, Mark Condodemetraky, Rep Jim Pilliod, Gil Schohan, Evelyn Auger, Rep. Dave Russell

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 10 AT CORNERHOUSE BUILDING IN BELMONT 8-10AM (Directions will follow)**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO?
Restorative Justice Update	<p>Brian Loanes, Director of the Belknap County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program that was launched in June 2002 through the efforts of BJJI, provided an update of this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initially the program had some difficulty with numbers and types or referrals; this problem seems to have been resolved.</li> <li>• Currently they have 20 youths now in the program; ten of these kids have had their Reparative Panels and are doing community service and completing the other parts of their contracts. Panels for four other youths have been scheduled. The remaining six youths are in various stages including intake and information gathering.</li> <li>• Volunteers are participating, some as panelists, others as community service supervisors. To date these volunteers have contributed 534 hours of service.</li> <li>• \$334. has been paid in restitution by juveniles; \$40 is still owed.</li> <li>• Relationships have begun with volunteers, victims, and with schools</li> <li>• Satellite offices are being developed in outlying communities; program goals include holding panels and community service activities as close to communities of the offender and volunteer as possible.</li> <li>• A 2 ½ day training led by Dee Bell from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and under contract from OUDP, was held</li> </ul>		

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	<p>University (FAU), and under contract from OJJDP, was held this fall. Staff, volunteers, and JPPOs attended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A second evening training on victim issues was well attended; Peter Michaud assisted.</li> <li>• A third volunteer training on Panel procedures is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• The community service projects are going well; to date 234 hours of work have been completed. It was difficult this winter to find appropriate winter-time projects</li> <li>• The Community Services Clearinghouse, a collaborative effort to coordinate community service projects among those agencies that administer community service, will begin with a project that involves Youth Services Bureau, Youth Assistance Program, and the START Program. The Garden Project, funded through a small grant from the Gilford Wal-Mart, will develop vegetable and decorative gardens throughout the county.</li> <li>• A third staff person, Tammy ?sp Biochette, the former dispatcher at the Meredith and Belmont Police Departments, will begin as the part-time Case Manager. This year, two interns from Plymouth State College, have worked with the RJ Program.</li> </ul> <p>According to Brian, there are some areas that need additional effort and support. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More victims participating in panels and victim-offender activities. Brian is now developing a Victim Policy.</li> <li>• More education at the point of referrals to avoid receiving inappropriate referrals; this will be accomplished through proper screening to rule out inappropriate referrals.</li> <li>• Shortening of time lines for processing and handling of cases as set out in grant proposal</li> <li>• A stockpile of meaningful wintertime activities for community service; these activities should incorporate learning a skill and the use of mentors</li> </ul>	<p>Any Council member with suggestions that address program needs as outlined by Brian are urged to contact the Restorative Justice Program at 527-5454</p>	<p>Council members</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More volunteers to work in program as mentors, panelists etc.</li> <li>• Development of a brochure and other collateral materials. Brian said one of the PSC interns developed a draft for a brochure that needs some revisions.</li> <li>• In the absence of an updated HealthWorks, access to some good information on community resources.</li> </ul> <p>This RJ Program is based in a “balanced approach” to justice justice and incorporates the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) model. This model addresses in this priority: (1) the needs of the victim first (2) community safety issues (3) develop accountability in the offender (4) develop specific vocational or avocational skills in offender. A “Q &amp; A” discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RJ asks that juvenile be arraigned in Court and expects youth to acknowledge guilt, therefore avoiding the usual “shielding” from accountability provided by the defense attorneys mandated for those juveniles proceeding through the punitive juvenile justice model</li> <li>• Can take referrals from Police Departments who indicate such on the papers brought to Court.</li> <li>• Accepts “non-violent” offenses with some minor assaults</li> <li>• Works closely with JPPO’s therefore freeing some JPPO time to work with more involved cases.</li> <li>• Is designed to fill a gap in the existing continuum of services, therefore helping to prevent costly residential placements; can be seen as the next step beyond Court Diversion as it does require Court involvement</li> <li>• Allows that the juvenile’s record be expunged upon successful completion of RJ program</li> <li>• Does provide additional “clout” for kids who are savvy at “working” the existing system</li> <li>• Accepts kids 10-17 years of age; however currently the youngest youth in program is 12 years.</li> </ul>	<p>Linda Brewer, a Council member with a background in marketing, was recommended as a possible resource. Brian will contact Linda for guidance.</p>	<p>Brian Loanes</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is beginning to address some of the concerns of County Police Chiefs who have been frustrated by the lack of options and speedy process for youths charged with early, minor offenses.</li> <li>• Is beginning to address the vast void in existing uniform data in the juvenile system. This RJ Program is working with UNH Justice Works in developing a process and tools for data collection and evaluation. The RJ Program and other diversion type programs around NH were given some software from the AG's office; plans include linking these together in some fashion to improve data collection.</li> <li>• Volunteers assist with office work, act as reparative panelists, and monitor community service activities.</li> <li>• The victim or his/her representative is invited to participate on panel.</li> <li>• The RJ Program has an Advisory Committee that meets monthly. Their next meeting is Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>		
Executive Committee	<p>All Council members received notification and were encouraged to attend the last Executive Committee, held on April 3, 2002 , for a discussion on the Age of Majority (AOM) Bill now in the Senate. This bill proposes to return the AOM to 18 years of age but has met with some opposition from the State's Police Chiefs. The April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was an opportunity to share viewpoints on this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was very well attended with 11 Council members and 7 guests, including Joe Diament and members of the former BJJI task force. Minutes have been distributed to all Council members and to those others who were present.</li> <li>• The Dept of JJ Services is in favor of this Bill quoting national research studies that indicate treating 17 year olds as adults only increases their likelihood of continuing in the criminal justice system. He said raising the age to 18 is the better thing to do for kids. However, they are asking that sufficient resources accompany this bill to accommodate the extra youths and that it not be effective until 2004.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>extra youths and that it not be effective until 2004.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Police Chiefs oppose this bill because it will increase their work load beyond what their already stretched resources can handle</li> <li>• Jim Carroll has learned from Sen. Gordon that there is discussion in Concord about creating a “median tier” for 16 and 17 year olds where they would be considered and treated in a developmentally appropriate manner, than either the younger juveniles or regular adults. As there is no financing available to fund this bill, it will continue to be reviewed by a committee.</li> <li>• Andre said that whatever the age of majority is, or becomes, the real issues are lack of resources and the ongoing problems in the juvenile justice system. Alan doesn’t think John Q. Public understands what the Police Departments do or their stressors created by inadequate funds and staff.</li> <li>• Alan said that our response as a Council should be around building a continuum of services and raising awareness of police concerns</li> <li>• Mary Alice Warner visited Police Chief Andy Faller who provided her with new insights into problems in the juvenile system. She said minors cannot be placed with adults in the County Jail so another place is needed.</li> <li>• Wes Colby described the current YDC building project now in the design stage and the standing offer to build a satellite site in Carroll, Belknap, or Grafton Counties. Joe Diament has said all that is needed is an “invitation from a community in one of these counties”. As this is an opportunity for us that will likely not happen again for many years, the Council ought to be involved in locating the optimal community for this satellite facility.</li> <li>• 17-year olds released from YDC because they have aged-out of the system are still legal minors; they cannot sign leases or access DCYF services. This population falls through the cracks and often this year is extremely critical in helping juveniles find their path to productive maturity.</li> </ul>	<p>Alan Robichaud will contact Mark Thurston re scheduling a meeting with the Commissioners on this satellite facility</p>	<p>Al Robichaud</p>

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	<p>Following an active discussion, the Executive Committee concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This discussion really represents more the ongoing problems in the juvenile justice system rather than determining the “correct age of majority”.</li> <li>• The Council should establish a Task Force to examine these ongoing systemic issues, especially those identified by the Police Chiefs.</li> <li>• The Council should address data collection issues. It may be possible to tie data collection strategies and strategic planning together and invite Dee Bell and Gordon Bazemore from FAU to Belknap County to provide leadership training.</li> <li>• Coordinated testimony in Concord on this and other related issues would be very effective.</li> </ul>		
By-Laws Committee	<p>Sue Smith reported that the By-Laws Committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepared three policies for the Commissioners to review and sign. They are (1) Criteria and process for Council support of other agencies’ grant applications (2) Conflict of Interest statement for Council members (3) Training and Education for Council members</li> <li>• Worked on a Council organizational chart. There needs to be more discussion on how to represent “Community Justice” on this chart and on deciding how and where the PAC fits in. This chart is, and will be a “work in progress”</li> <li>• Developed a set of By-laws utilizing resources from Deschutes and Lane Counties (OR) as a starting point.</li> <li>• Framed these By-laws to reflect the uniqueness of our Council.</li> <li>• Existing State statutes (e.g. 91-A) are referenced in By-laws</li> <li>• Article I (The Title) stimulated discussion re changing the name of the Council; however the By-laws left the name as is</li> <li>• Article II and III (Vision and Mission Statements) need more input from Council</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles IV-VIII have been completed; however more work is needed on Article VIII, Section 1. Article VIII, Section 2 that references the PAC is not finished. This discussion has been deferred to the Executive Committee.</li> <li>• As the Council matures, amendments will be needed. Article XII outlines the process for developing amendments.</li> <li>• The By-laws committee seeks approval of these By-laws with the note that Articles II, III, and VIII, Section 2 will be finalized (Articles,)</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion made by Sheila Weeks: “The Council will accept the By-Laws as written, noting that Articles II, III, and VIII, Section 2 still need further discussion”</b>  <b>Second: Alida Millham.</b></p>		
Public Relations and Education Committee	<p>Alan and Andre Paquette have been meeting with administrators at the NH Community Technical College/Laconia to discuss the development of a “for-credit” course, “Community Justice Institute” to be offered in the Fall of 2002 as a collaboration between the College, the Council., and providers in the juvenile justice system. This 15-session course would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• closely examine the various components in our juvenile justice system through presentations by community providers who are well-versed in a specific area of juvenile justice e.g. law enforcement, diversion, counseling, judicial.</li> <li>• be open to the College’s matriculated students for academic credit and on an “audit” basis for community citizens.</li> <li>• have as goals: (1) career studies in the field of juvenile justice to legitimize juvenile justice as a career option (2) public education around juvenile justice issues (3) professional development opportunities for those already working in juvenile justice (4) increased public awareness of the Community Technical College system as an educational option and as a valuable community resource (5) increased visibility for community agencies in the juvenile justice system (6) “roll-out project” for the Citizens Council</li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be managed by a course coordinator</li> <li>• be funded through in-kind donations, tuition fees, and specific grants</li> <li>• be assumed by the College once it proves successful</li> </ul> <p>College administrators have given preliminary approval; Alan is now waiting for final approval.</p>	<p>Alan and Judy will pursue funding options for the Community Justice Institute</p>	<p>Al Robichaud J. Buswell</p>
<p>Systems Coordination Committee</p>	<p>Council members reviewed and discussed the draft Organizational Chart on which possible committees are designated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a work in progress</li> <li>• It is not clear yet how to illustrate the concept of “Community Justice”</li> <li>• The “Systems Coordination” block outlines some hefty and perhaps too unwieldy responsibilities for one committee i.e. Prevention, Juvenile Justice and Community Development. Each area will involve a different relationship with the Council.</li> <li>• As the Juvenile Justice area already has some mandated “multi-disciplinary” advisory expectations e.g. Reclaiming Futures, JAIBG, the Council’s relationship in this juvenile justice area will differ from the other two areas (prevention and community development). This committee should be organized as soon as possible.</li> <li>• <b>What type of relationship should the Council assume with the Restorative Justice Program?</b> Some Council members feel that as this program was launched as a “flagship” initiative for BJJ/Council that the Council should play some sort of oversight role. They suggest that Alan ask Sheriff Collis to write a letter stating that the Advisory Committee for this RJ program be under the jurisdiction of the Council.</li> <li>• Others feel that much more in-depth thinking is needed around our relationship with the Restorative Justice Program., now operating out of the Sheriff’s Dept. This</li> </ul>	<p>Alan will arrange an informational exchange meeting with Sheriff Dan Collis and Brian Loanes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss the development and role of the Council</li> <li>• relationship with the RJ Program</li> <li>• The grant parameters and expectations of the RJ program</li> </ul>	<p>Al Robichaud</p>

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	<p>program should not be treated any differently than other juvenile justice programs; it should stand on its own. Otherwise there will be perceptions that this program is “favored” over other equally important programs. “This represents a conflict of interest and is a dangerous path to begin!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Development area could involve initial start-up efforts of new programs i.e. mediation, mentoring, or support to existing efforts like childcare.</li> <li>• Andre said that each committee should have a 1-page description with a clear charge and the proposed members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sue Smith suggested that the By-Laws committee continue to work on this Organizational Chart.</b></p>	<p>Alan Robichaud will coordinate the scheduling and announcement of a By-Laws Committee meeting to continue discussing the organization of the Council. ALL Council members will be notified and invited to attend these meetings.</p>	<p>Al Robichaud</p>
<p>Vision and Mission Statements</p>	<p>Rob Rovella noted that only 5” remained before end of meeting and that the discussion of the vision and mission will be deferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Michaud asked that we at least decide on a simple 1-sentence vision statement that all can use in a consistent manner before the meeting ends. He suggests that sentence “D” from the supplementary materials distributed by Alan is very adequate</li> </ul> <p><b>Sue Smith moved that we accept this statement as the Vision Statement. . “Belknap County is a safe community where children and families can live with dignity and respect.”</b> <b>Andre Paquette seconded the motion.</b></p>		
<p>Meeting Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leo Sanfacon expressed concern that monthly Council meetings are not enough to accomplish all that we should be doing. Could we meet again in 2 weeks?</li> <li>• Richard Wallace suggested a day-long workshop, preferable to several 2-hour meetings.</li> <li>• Sheila said that she is “concerned that expecting the full Council to deliberate on every item of business adds considerably of the workload on staff; they are already</li> </ul>		

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	<p>working long and irregular hours.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Irwin is concerned about the volume of emails that are being sent to Council members. Can this be better managed? Alan agreed that the number of emails has been large, but in this organizational period it has been more of a concern that every Council member be kept abreast of Council activities.</li> <li>• Andre suggested that the next Council meeting devote a 30” time block to discuss meeting schedules.</li> </ul>		
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>FRIDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AT CORNER MEETING HOUSE IN BELMONT 8-10AM</b>		