

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, May 9, 2003

TIME BEGAN: : 8:10am **TIME ENDED:** 10:05am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Jim Pilliod, Bob Rovella, Jim Carroll, Mark Condodemetraky, Gil Schohan, Peter Michaud, Sue Smith, André Paquette, Leo Sanfacon, Kevin Washburn, Mary Alice Warner **GUEST:** Jackie Baker **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Approval of Minutes :** Following a brief discussion for clarification of several items, the motion to approve minutes, (Gil/Andre) from April 11 Council meeting as written passed.
2. **Introductions and Guests:** Jackie Baker, of Center Harbor, attended as guest of Mary Alice Warner. Jackie has some interest in Council membership. She was Board Chair of the former Lakes Region Family Services and is a trained Family Mediator.
3. **Additions/Changes to Agenda:**
 - Alan asked to add a brief description of the Center for Civic Engagement to his Director's Report.
 - Council agreed to change order of agenda, placing André's presentation after the Chair's Report, as some members needed to leave early
4. **Chair's Report: Council Resignations** In the absence of Alida, Sue noted two letters of resignation: Beth Bascom (letter received on April 13) and Evelyn Auger (letter received on April 23). Motion made by André Paquette to accept both resignations with regret; second by Mary Alice Warner. Motion carried.
Leave of Absence Linda Brewer has requested an LOA to extend to September due to work-related responsibilities. Motion to grant Linda this LOA made by Kevin Washburn and seconded by Mary Alice Warner
5. **Juvenile Justice Update:** André, Chair of JJAC, provided Council members with an update on activities of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) and progress toward the Juvenile Justice Plan adopted by Council on 2/24/03. Currently, André and the committee are working on the "Plan's" two primary goals: (1) keeping juveniles in their home communities for as long as possible and (2) incorporating the principles of Community Justice, by:
 - conducting a series of interviews with key informants in the County's juvenile justice system,
 - leading a "system-walk through" with JJAC members, and
 - carrying out other fact finding efforts.

Using a Power point format, André outlined (1) the principles of Restorative Justice (one component of Community Justice); (2) the composition and function of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC); and (3) the inherent difficulties of locating, collating, and interpreting data generated by the various components of the County's system of juvenile justice. Copies of all handouts are available at the Council office. Following the power point presentation the following points were raised in the discussion:

- Council members are encouraged to read the article "A Juvenile System for the 21st Century" by Shay Bilchik; copies are available from Council staff
- André had an informative meeting with 2 visitors from The Urban Institute in DC who were in NH evaluating the Reclaiming Futures project.
- The "out-of-system" pre-arraignment conferencing (informal meetings of agency personnel to discuss specific juvenile cases) is a "very important" step. This step has been formalized in Multomah County, Oregon.
- Council needs to put effort and resources in the prevention area

- Resolving funding issues for the County’s Restorative Justice program is essential. The current Byrnes grant ends in 2004. The 75/25 split between State and County in paying for “state, Medicaid-approved” programs is often a disincentive to move to locally based programs, especially as many local programs are not currently eligible for this 75/25 split. Translated into reality, this policy often means that it is less expensive for the County to pay 25% of the Youth Detention Center’s daily rate of \$266.50 (which places kids out of the County) than 100% of the estimated \$85 daily rate for programs like Restorative Justice (which habituates youth in local settings). As the state-approval process usually does not include local, prevention-oriented programs, such as Restorative Justice, and Court Diversion, André and others feel this policy and practice presents a significant barrier to our goals of keeping kids in local situations whenever and wherever possible.
- Peter Michaud suggests adding victims as members of the JJAC group.
- Jim Pilliod has concerns around centralizing and consolidating databases as a big step in the erosion of privacy and confidentiality rights. This practice could lead to issuing everyone a Federal ID number. When databases increase in size and scope and become inter-related, there is an increased likelihood that more people’s personal lives are more available for scrutiny. André stated that the JJAC goal to streamline data collection does not mean increased opportunities for violation of privacy rights. What is needed is periodic, solid, reliable, and “sanitized” aggregate statistical data for program evaluation and policy development purposes only. Who has access and for what purposes will be strictly monitored.
- Jim Carroll suggests adding a “Disposition Block” to “Belknap County Juvenile Justice Graduated Sanctions & Detention Alternatives” chart. He also says that programs listed on this chart under “Pre-Arrestment”, such as “Out-of-school suspension” and “UpSwing”, should also be considered “Prevention” options. André agreed but said that this chart is a Work in Progress and lots of changes will be made before it is finished. André noted that the necessity for JJAC to focus on prevention was mentioned again at last JJAC meeting. Rick Batstone is particularly interested in the Family Advocacy Network Program (FAN) in Deschutes County, Oregon as a model to explore. André said that greater gains would be made if the Council were organized around issues such as “prevention”.

6. **Director’s Report** *Sanborn Park* Over 100 people attended this meeting on April 24th held at Leavitt Park in Lakeport. A Leadership Team of local residents wishing to see long-term changes for the Sanborn Park area is being formed. The Council will lend guidance and some resources to this process. The Restorative Justice Program will begin with some park beautification activities; an Intern who will be working this summer with the Restorative Justice program will act as a resource person for park activities. Michelle Griffin, a Lakeport resident who did much of the organizing for this community meeting was recommended by the Council to receive a “Volunteer Award” at the recent “Stand Up and Shout” event.

Mediation Program The grant for Year 2 was recently submitted to NH DJJS. The program will begin soon at Youth Services Bureau. As this grant is reimbursement through invoice only, any “cash flow” issues for Youth Services Bureau have been resolved by using the Council’s budgeted line item for grants. This “in and out” line item used to “upfront” YSB cash to begin this program will eventually be replenished by grant payments from DJJS. A refresher training for existing mediators is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th.

Center for Civic Engagement (C.C.E.) Alan distributed the Mission Statement for The Center for Civic Engagement, organized earlier this year with a goal of blending resources and outreach efforts of the Community Technical College system with the surrounding communities. This new group is an educational and experiential learning collaborative between the Community Technical College and the Lakes Region community in order to promote leadership development, stimulate volunteer activity, and maximize local assets. Activities will include creating service-learning opportunities, sponsoring issue-related forums, providing a clearinghouse for volunteers, and developing leadership-training opportunities. Several “shared” community events already planned include a return visit by John McKnight from the ABCD Institute on June 17th at 1:30pm at the Belknap Mill and a panel discussion on the Future of Healthcare in NH on May 29 at the Martha Prescott Auditorium in Laconia. Alan would like consensus that the Council stay involved with this growing initiative and that our Annual Meeting be jointly sponsored by the Center for Civic Engagement. Sue Smith suggested that C.C.E. should connect with Leadership Lakes Region. She also encouraged people to read the book, “Careless Society” by John McKnight.

ACTION NEEDED: The Council’s role in the Center for Civic Engagement will be further discussed at an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.

7. **Committee Action Items**

Planning Gil Schohan, Chair, said that the report by John Cook, summarizing the data and outcomes from the six Community Forums, would be e-mailed to all Council members before the regular Council meeting in June. Please be prepared to discuss Forum outcomes at greater length, especially as the Council Plan is developed. Some progress has been made on scheduling and organizing the last three Forums in Barnstead, Gilmanton, and New Hampton.

ACTION: Council staff will email the summary report from John Cook to all Council members.

Legislative and Advocacy Mary Alice Warner, Chair, suggested Council members contact Senator Johnson and ask him to support a more reasonable budget for NH that doesn’t eliminate programs and services as does the Budget passed by the House. Senator Johnson will be hosting a Budget Discussion on Monday, May 19th at 10:30am at the Whole Village in Plymouth.

Public Relations Kevin Washburn, Chair, introduced the committee recommendation for the Annual Meeting, a day-long activity with Dr. Laura Nissen, the National Director for the Reclaiming Futures Project. Ms. Nissen is an excellent speaker and this day, organized in partnership with the NH Reclaiming Futures project, will provide opportunities for a variety of community audiences and networks to meet Laura. Kevin requested approval for this concept. After some discussion on how the traditional business of an Annual Meeting could be combined with this suggested activity, André made a motion to approve this PR Committee’s concept; second was provided by Jim Pilliod. Motion carried. Alan would like to see “Community Action Networks” in each community that will work with the Citizens Council and be ready to respond to community issues.

Kevin said that the Laconia Human Relations committee will be sponsoring another “Multi-Cultural Market Day” on Saturday, September 13 and would like the Council to have a booth with Council-related information available for visitors. This would require that volunteers be available to run this booth. While there was no formal vote taken, the consensus was that the PR committee should continue developing plans for this day.

Kevin also reported that the PR Committee would like to adopt the “circles graphic”, created first for the Annual Report 2002, be adopted as the Council logo. Jim Pilliod made a motion to this effect; second by Mary Alice Warner. Mark Condodemetrayk abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Finance & Grants No report

Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee No action items

Restorative Justice Committee Leo noted they are still negotiating with NH JusticeWorks. They are also exploring alternative funding sources to replace the Byrnes Funds that expire in July of 2004.

8. **Old Business** The next Council meeting in June will focus on the “Loving Well” program. Nancy McLaren will be the special guest.

9. **New Business** Council meetings through the summer will be held at:

- June 13 – Gilford Town Hall Leo Sanfacon, contact
- July 11 – Alton Dick Wallace, contact
- August 8 – New Hampton Rob Rovella, contact

10. **Other Business** No additional items of business. Motion by adjourn by Kevin Washburn; second by Mary Alice Warner.

<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	
WHEN:	Friday, June 13th 8-10am
WHERE:	Gilford Town Hall Cherry Valley Rd, Gilford