

MINUTES

MEETING: Citizens Council **DATE:** Friday, June 7, 2002 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:06am **TIME ENDED:** 10:05am

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

PRESENT: Members: Mary Alice Warner, Mark Condodemetraky, Peter Michaud, Leo Sanfacon, Kevin Washburn, Richard Wallace, Sheila Weeks, Wes Colby, Alida Millham, Sue Smith, Bob Rovella, Gil Schohan, Cathy Apfel, Andre Paquette, Scott AndersEn

Guest: Donna St. Antonio **Staff:** Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud

NEXT MEETING: JULY 12TH @ 8AM IN NEW HAMPTON

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO?
May minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Condodemetraky moved that May Council minutes be accepted as written; seconded by Sue Smith. No opposition. 		
Professional Advisory Committee - Andre Paquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andre Paquette reported that the Council Executive Committee would like to move ahead with developing a mechanism for dialogue etc. with professional providers. • First step identified by Exec Committee is to create a directory of providers that can be sorted by area of expertise. • Peter Michaud, Andre, and Alan Robichaud met this week to develop a process for creating this directory. • Alan has drafted a simple information collection form for providers and Andre has drafted a cover letter to accompany this form. • It is important that we be flexible in designing our PAC to fit our purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information form will be distributed to all providers, including the UpStream list. 	Council staff
Donna St. Antonio Executive Director Appalachian Mountain Teen Club (AMTP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna is “impressed that such a large group of people would show up first thing in the morning to discuss these important issues.” • AMTP sponsors 4 projects that reach youth in both Belknap and Carroll Counties. They are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Core Project</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Begun in 1984 ○ Youth referred by parents, teachers, guidance counselors, or court system 		

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Executive Director Appalachian Mountain Teen Club (AMTP <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reaches about 16 kids with intense needs. ○ Youth are matched with staff mentors for at least a 6 month period. ○ Youth and mentors meet weekly and also have monthly activities. ○ Includes the “most vulnerable population of kids” who have experienced a large amount of stress or a large loss in their lives. ○ 25% of these kids have substance abuse issues. ○ 25% are on psychotropic meds. As primary health care providers have prescribed most of these meds, there is no follow-up mental health care by a mental health practitioner. <p>2. <u>Teen Mentoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Occurs in Merrimack Valley High School ○ Matches high school teens who have shown resiliency in the face of huge odds and who now want to work with younger kids (grades 5-7) ○ Mentor matches last for at least 1 year and include monthly activities and community service. ○ Serves about 32 kids, including both mentors and mentees. <p>3. <u>Riverland Education and Adventure Center</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Center with Ropes Course, trails, etc. is located in Canterbury. ○ Available to schools throughout the Lakes Region; Alton is a big user. ○ Works with entire group rather than individuals or small groups, as their goal is to address issues that normally occur in context of groups e.g. diversity issues, conflict resolution etc. ○ Reaches about 200-300 kids per year <p>4. <u>Parent Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Parents of Younger Children</i> These parents are most interested in learning more about child development ○ <i>Parents of adolescents</i> These parents are most interested in support and consultation from their peers and professionals. <p>• <u>Funding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A diverse mix; a patchwork quilt of funds. Donna says that having a variety of revenue sources is preferable to relying on only one. ○ They have 20 different funding sources, including County Incentive Funds, NH DADAPR, City of Laconia, Town of Wolfeboro, NH 		

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<p>Executive Director Appalachian Mountain Teen Club (AMTP (continued)</p>	<p>Children’s Trust Funds, Lakes Region United Way, small foundations including a Maine-based foundation, Lakes Region Charitable Foundation, churches, and individual donations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCYF and Court referrals are channeled through parents to avoid state-mandated, parental financial contributions, which most parents cannot afford. 50% of the kids they see do not have insurance. ○ A large portion of staff time is spent in fundraising; Donna spends about 15% of her time in direct services; 50% is spent in grant-writing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AMTP has teens waiting for services, so a screening process is necessary. They accept youth based on the order in which referrals were received; those between ages of 12-15; those who best fit the individual programs; those with ability to commit to program. They cannot handle kids who require intense therapeutic interventions. ● 50% of kids they see are on IEPs (Individual Education Plans), yet there is no SPED money (Special Education funds through school districts). ● They are not a certified DCYF provider because they do not ask parents to pay a portion of fees. ● AMTP serves about 16 kids from Belknap County per year in addition to the Riverland program that serves Alton schools. They are asking for more \$ to serve additional Belknap County kids. ● Staff equals 2 full time positions; they hope to add a 3rd position soon. ● Annual budget is about \$150,000. ● They have regular contact with families in all programs except for large school-based programs. <p>Donna, who is also a visiting professor at Harvard University, shared from her other thoughts:</p> <p>I. Prominent child psychologist DW Winnicott says children steal because they are attempting to take back psychologically what they feel is rightly theirs. <i>What has been taken from many of today’s kids?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Their role in the community where they could contribute and connect in a meaningful manner; ○ Two parent households; ○ Hopes for their future (education, career); 		

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Executive Director Appalachian Mountain Teen Club (AMTP <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safe relationships with adults; ○ Ability to have “fun” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Therefore, delinquent behaviors could be seen as a “reverse restorative justice” ● AMTP helps to restore these “losses” in the lives of youth. <p>2. NH does not have the rich, racial diversity as do many other states. As a member of the Harvard faculty, she notes the wide diversity there and sees how this diversity strengthens all that the University does. However, our diversity exists in our social class and our lifestyles. Yet people do not have the language to discuss these differences adequately. We must understand that different populations have differing needs; for instance, athletes use alcohol for different reasons than others might.</p>		
Integrated Information System Committee – Wes Colby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 19 people, representing diverse interests around data collection, met on May 20th at County Complex. ● Next meeting on June 19th will include 15-minute presentations from 9 different sectors (DHHS, Courts, Schools, Law Enforcement, Dept of Corrections, Diversion, CASA, substance abuse, and Dept of Safety) These presentations will describe what data are presently being kept by each sector and for what purposes. ● This entire data integration effort will be a huge undertaking. However, there are a few communities around the nation that have overcome the numerous barriers involved and have begun to integrate their data, showing us that it is possible. ● As this current committee is large, most work will occur in smaller subgroups. ● Council members are encouraged to participate. ● It is expected that this Data Committee will become part of the Planning Committee functions. ● Alida noted that several years ago a similar effort began around integrating “Intake data” so consumers didn’t have to repeat this process innumerable times. However, for many reasons, including confidentiality needs and the process of integrating many different systems, this effort was not successful. Alida thinks that now, with the addition of new web based technology, integrating data in some manner 		

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Integrated Information System Committee – Wes Colby <i>(continued)</i>	addition of new web-based technology, integrating data in some manner should be possible.		
Planning Committee Peter Michaud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim Chair, Peter Michaud, said this committee will hold its first meeting following this Council meeting. They will discuss the development of a county-wide plan for children and families. 		
Public Relations and Awareness Kevin reported for Linda Brewer who was absent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First meeting held this week. Linda Brewer elected Chair Meeting schedule is 1st Wed/ month at 4:30, except for the July meeting. The next meeting, therefore, will be held on June 26th at 4:30pm. PR members note that Council members are having a problem defining the function, goals, and role for the Council. A short (under 2 minutes) description that everyone can use is needed. The Council has been together for several months; it is time for us to be comfortable with articulating our goals. Should we use a consultant to facilitate this discussion? Alan mentioned that Dee Bell, Gordon Bazemore, and Denny Maloney have offered to assist as part of their contract with OJJDP. They have some free dates this summer and their fees would be minimal. The discussion that followed included these points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a process that County employees must use for engaging outside contractors. Transitional issues from BJJJ to Council are involved. There has been little opportunity for Council members to understand how BJJJ has influenced the development of the Council. We need to find time to share this perspective. Council members need a “jump start”. Perhaps a longer meeting i.e retreat, would allow this type of information sharing. Could BJJJ make a ½ / hr presentation at this type of meeting? Sheila Weeks could do this. What is the scope of the Council? Some think it is primarily to resolve troubling juvenile justice issues. Others see the circle as much wider and more inclusive. The Council has been involved in necessary organizational “busy work” All this takes time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan will research the County’s policy for engaging outside contractors. The Planning Committee will explore holding a Retreat for the Council. 	<p>Al Robichaud</p> <p>Planning Committee</p>

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Public Relations and Awareness Kevin reported for Linda Brewer who was absent. <i>(continued)</i>	<p>“busy work”. All this takes time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “There is some “angst” around future funding for the Council. We now have less than 2 years to prove ourselves before private funding from Schmitt begins to taper off”. ○ Should we be meeting as a full Council more often than just monthly? ○ Committee work is where “the action is”. ○ The Planning Committee will develop a process for community engagement and planning. ○ “Community Justice” is what we are about! 		
Legislative and Advocacy Mary Alice Warner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular meetings will be 1st Tuesday/month at 4:30pm. ● First meeting was held this week; Jim Pilliod gave a lot of information on the development of legislation. ● The Council will need a policy describing a process for taking a position on proposed bills etc. ● A priority is to educate the County Delegation. 		
Finance and Grants Rob Rovella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First meeting scheduled for June 10th at 4:30pm. ● Tasks will involve reviewing the County budgeting cycle and the Council’s budget and expenses. 		
Meeting Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noting the # of absences, Gil proposed that the absence policy as specified in the By-laws become effective starting with our next meeting in July. The By-laws allow for 3 absences before a Council member may be asked to re-consider his/her membership on the Council. ● There are extenuating circumstances such as those experienced by Dave Russell whose son recently died in an accident. Council By-laws suggest a process for handling absences. ● Motion was made by Andre, seconded by Kevin, and passed unanimously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council staff will inform all Council members that beginning with July Council meeting, the Council By-laws Absence procedure will begin. 	Al Robichaud
Frequency of meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are monthly meetings necessary? Council responded with a definite YES! ● Should we continue to move meeting locations around Belknap County? As there are many reasons for doing this, the Council responded with a definite YES! 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local people should be encouraged to attend meetings and to offer comments. Perhaps in the snowy winter months, a centralized meeting location will be necessary. 		
Terms of Office for Council members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BJJI members have 1-year terms; they can re-apply for openings at the end of year 1. This constitutes only 1/3 of members. Who will have 2 and 3-year terms? It was decided to draw names to determine two- and three-year terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan will facilitate drawing of 7 names of Council members who will fill remaining terms. <i>(Names were drawn by members of Finance Committee on June 10th)</i> 	Al Robichaud
Public Comments	<p>No members of the public were present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna St. Antonio said, “listening to this diverse group all participating was very interesting and enjoyable”. She encouraged Council members not to jump to solidarity and unity too quickly; it is difficult to stick with diversity in any form. 		
Summer meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the Council meet through the summer? The overwhelming consensus was YES! Council would like to hear from Nancy Rollins, NH DCYF Administrator, at July Council meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alan will confirm that Nancy Rollins will attend July meeting <i>(Due to Council Retreat scheduled for that date, we will ask Ms. Rollins to attend a future meeting.)</i> 	Al Robichaud
Courthouse Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A group of Council members, Judge Martin, Diane Lane, Laconia Mayor Mark Fraser, Laconia Main Street Vice Chair David Stamps, and Council staff met with Anne Getchell, a community outreach worker with the US Dept of Agriculture. The goal of this meeting was to learn of possible funding and technical assistance from DOA that might be appropriate for rehabilitation of the Courthouse. This Courthouse, owned by Laconia, is the subject of contested rent negotiations between the State and Laconia. Currently, only the first floor is being used, leaving two other floors and a basement for possible court expansion and for housing other programs that serve children and families. Mayor Fraser will be asked to appoint a Task Force for continued 	Alan will request that several Council members be	

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Courthouse Committee <i>(continued)</i>	<p>exploration of rehabbing these spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Weeks made the motion that we ask that several Council members be appointed to this Task Force. Mary Alice Warner seconded the motion. No dissent. • As using this building to its fullest potential will ultimately benefit children and families in Belknap County, Alan noted that this is an opportunity for the Council to take a lead role in facilitating further study. • Sheila Weeks noted that the inefficient use of this Courthouse has been seen as a barrier in improving the juvenile justice system. Currently, the Courthouse does not have adequate space to protect the confidentiality of the juveniles. Adult offenders mix in the hallway along with the juveniles. It is an issue of confidentiality, safety, and human respect. • The council can be the public voice on these issues. • As the boundaries of the Laconia Main Street encompass the Courthouse, we will also have the support and expertise from this group. • Alan envisions that this Courthouse might eventually be seen as the Center for Community Justice. 	<p>appointed to the Mayor's Task Force. <i>(Mayor Fraser has asked that the appointment of a Task Force be deferred until a clearer role for the committee is determined.)</i></p>	Al Robichaud
Alan's Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication vehicles • Dissemination list should include John Bunker and Selectmen and Councilors from all County municipalities. 		
Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2-day Adolescent Health Institute is scheduled for June 27-28 here in Laconia. Sponsored by NH DADAPR and a coalition of other organizations, this conference will cover a variety of topics related to all aspects of adolescent health. Council members are encouraged to attend. 		

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, JULY AT 8 AM IN NEW HAMPTON. ACTUAL SITE TBD.

A subgroup of the Council met on June 11 to discuss the Council Retreat. It was recommended that the next Council meeting (July 12th) be used for this purpose and that we extend the time to be from 7:30 A.M. to 1:00 P. M. An outside facilitator will be sought. The primary purpose of the Retreat is to develop Council clarity on "Who We Are" and "What We Do" leading to eventual Mission Statement development. PLEASE...reserve this extended time on your calendars for this important work.