

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, Oct 8, 2004 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:02am **TIME ENDED:** 10am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Jim Carroll (left at 8:45am), Mary Alice Warner, Sarah Fox, Christie Corrigan, Gil Schohan, Alida Millham, Ruth Castonguay, Kevin Washburn, Rick Wallace, Nancy Porosky, Leo Sanfacon, Sue Smith, Jim Pilliod, Katy Kannaly-DeCareret
ABSENT: Stephen Fountain, Peter Michaud, Andre Paquette **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUEST:** Deb Milano, Barnstead Community Resource Team

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1. **Approve Minutes** Motion to approve minutes of Sept 10, 2004 as written made by Gil Schohan,; approval by consensus.

 2. **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** No changes except for one announcement that Gil made at this time. The Laconia District Courthouse Committee is sponsoring an open house on Friday Oct 15th at 4pm. Committee members, including representatives from Laconia MainStreet, will host tours and answer questions. It is in the best economic interests of downtown Laconia to keep the Courthouse in its present location. There is an appropriation in the State's Capital Budget for maintenance of State Courthouses and Belknap County needs to advocate that the Laconia facility be one of the first to benefit. Gil said that facility maintenance is long overdue. She said that there is potential for reconfiguring the internal space for an expanded and more efficient use of this facility, noting that three of the four floors are currently not in use. The building with its historical significance and current location, within walking distance of downtown Laconia, has increased value.

 3. **Youth Venture Proposal (MOA)** Sarah Fox, who is acting as Council liaison with the Youth Venture (YV) initiative, introduced a proposal that defines the relationship of the Council with the Youth Venture Program. A two-page outline was distributed to Council members for review. The Youth Venture program is a national, not-for-profit organization that invests in young people (ages 12-20) as change makers in their communities through supported opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurial activities. The Council will assist with these early efforts of YV to help this new organization gain traction in Belknap County. An immediate request before the Council, as explained by Sarah, is for a \$300 allocation to YV so we can implement background checks on those individuals designated as "allies" (mentors who work with the youth) and for other start-up needs in Belknap County.

The Noyes Fiber Systems/Alcoa grant was recently awarded to YV. The \$5,000 will be used to generate business/corporate support in the Lakes Region for YV.

There are an anticipated two stages in a Council/YV relationship. The ultimate goal is identifying new YV partners from throughout Belknap County who will ultimately assume the role with this new program that the Council currently has. An MOU that outlines the goals of YV and the Council's relationship and responsibilities will be presented at a later date for Council approval to be handled by the Executive Committee. The relationship will be re-evaluated in one year. Nancy Porosky asked that Council members from the towns where YV youth are located be involved in some manner.

ACTION: Gil offered a motion that the Citizens Council begin a formal relationship with YV and that the Council earmark \$300 to implement Background Checks and other start-up activities. Motion passed.

4. **Chair's Report** Alida noted that much of her information would be presented in reports that follow in this Council meeting. She updated the Council on the progress of the Child Advocacy Center's search for a Fiscal Agent to manage grant funds they seek to develop a central location for interviewing children who have experienced domestic violence. Alida said they have about 5 or so agencies who are interested in assuming this role. This Child Advocacy Center program will be linked with the County Attorney's Office. The Council role is one of support and assistance where needed.

5. Work Group Reports

- **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)** Leo Sanfacon, point person, said this group is now compiling the results from the interviews they have had over the summer with Police Chiefs and School Resource Officers (SROs) throughout Belknap County. This report will be circulated to Council members and others once completed. The Work Group will meet the week of October 11th. One goal is to determine a process to gather additional input from SROs as their interactions with youth and juveniles are an integral component in the juvenile system.
- **Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)** Christie Corrigan (acting point person) noted the success of the “Rocktoberfest”, the concept of a New Hampton youth, that was held recently in Meredith. Youth from the court system were involved. Reclaiming Futures funds are being used as “a match” to support the inclusion of court-involved kids in regular youth activities. Dick Wallace, also an ABCD Work Group member, said that several people from his community of Alton will be meeting on October 13th to discuss developing an Ice Skating and Sports Arena for the Alton community. Dick does “sense a real interest” from his community in the project.
- **Prevention** Sue Smith, point person, said this Work Group has discussed, and is in the process of defining, some sort of “oversight/associative” role for the variety of prevention-focused efforts now underway in the County including: Mentoring, Family Violence Prevention, CoRePLUS Substance Abuse Prevention, the Drug Czar Forum on January 11, and the newly forming “Friends of Meredith”. Friends of Meredith is a consortia of about 35 neighborhood associations in Meredith and unaffiliated Meredith residents who would like to better connect Meredith citizens with community efforts underway in their own town. Ginny Lovett is the liaison.

ACTION: Alida Millham will contact Ginny Lovett to offer Council support and connections to Friends of Meredith.

Alan explained that the first meeting of existing prevention coalitions/networks in Belknap County was held this week with about a dozen people attending. The goal of this new network is to identify any overlaps or voids in prevention efforts and to more efficiently share resources and information. This group has agreed to meet quarterly and Renee Hill (CoRe) will facilitate these meetings.

It was announced that some funds have been restored to the Governor’s Drug and Alcohol Task Force and that the State has received a Federal grant of \$11 million for substance abuse prevention. Jim Pilliod noted some caveats: These Federal funds have some strings attached: NH accepting Block Grant distribution of funds, and a revision of Medicaid.

- **Communication** In the absence of Peter Michaud, point person, Alan said that this group has been working with John Vorel who is planning to submit a proposal for promoting Council goals and activities.

6. Professional Advisory Committees

- **JJAC** In the absence of Andre Paquette, point person, Alan said that a JJAC subcommittee is working on both identifying appropriate benchmarks that measure progress and success of the county’s juvenile justice system and in preparing some sort of “report card” to the community on the status of children and families in Belknap County. There is also a small sub-committee that is exploring the potential for developing some sort of centralized “clearinghouse” for community service options that might be accessed both by the juvenile justice system as well as other youth leaders. Their goal is to begin cataloguing current community service options. Holly DeWald (Youth Services Bureau), Brian Loanes (Restorative Justice), Martha Douglass (Youth Assistance Program), and Jay Apicelli (Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer - JPPO Supervisor) are involved. Gil Schohan suggests that youth members be included in this discussion.
- **Addiction Task Force** Alan said the major work right now is in developing some sort of regional response to the Adolescent Treatment Initiative RFP that has been issued by New Futures. NH Charitable Foundation has channeled a large sum of money to New Futures to organize and manage systemic change in the treatment of adolescents who have substance abuse and addictions problems. New Futures has held a series of Forums to explain this RFP and several interested people from Belknap County, including Council staff, attended. The preliminary Concept Paper is due November 1. The RFP calls for broad geographic coverage and as the allocated funds are not enough to generate new programs; the goal is to better use existing resources to create a system of care across all needs and ages through 21 years. The

need for improved and additional treatment services for adolescents is profound in Belknap County as currently there are no residential or Intensive Outpatient programs in this County. Several components that must be included in these proposals are the ability to bring services to adolescents (portability) and the use of the GAIN Screening and Assessment tools. Alan noted that it may make sense to extend our efforts beyond Belknap County to make the best use of available funds. An undetermined number of Concept Papers will be awarded \$2,000. and will be invited to submit a full proposal, due early in 2005.

A meeting has been scheduled for October 18th with a number of agencies/organizations in this area who are interested in further exploring this opportunity. One hurdle is to identify a lead agency that has the capability to manage this grant.

7. **Director's Report** Alan announced the receipt of grant funds that will benefit children and families in Belknap County. While the Council has been integrally involved in developing the proposals, most of these funds are granted to other entities in Belknap County.
- ***Drug-Free Communities*** \$100,000. yr x 5 years (gradually reduced funding) from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to Inter-Lakes CoRe (Community Response) to replicate their substance abuse prevention activities (pro-social activities for youth, parent education, school curricula, community support and response, and use of Youth Risk Behavior Survey -YRBS) around Belknap County. The Prevention Work Group and Council Staff will be working with Renee Hill and the Outreach Coordinator that will be hired with grant funds, to implement CoRe, beginning in Laconia and Alton/Barnstead. The overall goal is to build the capacity in each community to provide substance abuse prevention for youth.
 - ***Mentor*** \$200,000./yr x 3 yrs (gradually reduced funding) from US Dept of Education to the Friends Program, based in Concord, to expand their mentoring program into Belknap County. The goal is to develop and maintain 150 adult/child mentor matches in Belknap County. An MOU was obtained as part of the proposal from each of the 9 SAUs in Belknap County, demonstrating unified support from schools districts. This is a school-based mentoring program and so the participating schools can be reimbursed for some costs incurred in implementing this program. The Council through the Prevention Work Group and Staff will continue to work very closely with The Friends Program as this program is brought into Belknap County.
 - ***Youth Attendant Program*** A grant from NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services was awarded to the Belknap County Sheriff's Office to develop a Youth Attendant Program (intense, on site monitoring for up to 72 hours of juveniles awaiting release to their parents or for Court appearances). This program has been endorsed by all the Police Chiefs in Belknap County.
 - ***Alcoa Foundation*** \$5,000. was granted by the Alcoa Foundation to NH Youth Ventures as match money, encouraging business contributions to a fund that will support pro-social activities and entrepreneurial efforts by youth and their adult "allies".
 - ***Belknap County Family Mediation Program*** Third year funding to support the Family Mediation Program housed at the Youth Services Bureau in Laconia was granted by the NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services. The Family Mediation Program will be self-sustaining by Oct 1, 2005.
- ACTION: Alan distributed a number of new posters promoting the Mediation Program and asked Council members to place them in visible spots in their communities and then to let Alan or Holly know where they have been posted.**

Citizens Council Budget - A draft of the 2005 Budget for the Council has been submitted to the County Administrator. More work in anticipation of budget hearings by the County Delegation will be needed as the year closes. Alan explained the \$100,000 "Grant Initiatives" line item was created several years ago to receive and expend grant funds. This line is a "wash" and should not be thought of as part of the actual expenses or revenue for the Council. 2005 represents the "50-50 year" for the Schmitt Fund, with Schmitt and the County each paying 50% of the costs for maintaining the Citizens Council.

Annual Meeting This event, scheduled for January 11, 2005 at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center, is now being called a Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families and will become an annual event. The evening will include a variety of activities such as community awards and presentations, Annual Business

Meetings of at least three co-sponsoring organizations, a catered dinner, Russ Thibeault as the Keynote Speaker, and the presentation of the Schmitt UnSung Hero Award. This year the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment and Regional Drug Czar Forum will conclude the evening. A committee that includes more than a dozen members from at least a half dozen agencies etc are involved in planning this Convocation.

Parents As Leaders in Society (PALS) will begin on Saturday, October 16th following the UpStream Fall Conference. Currently there are 10 participants. The Application deadline has been extended.

Council Plan for 2005 Alan asked Work Group members to provide their goals and objectives for 2005 as soon as possible. This information will be collated into the 2005 Council Plan.

ACTION: Work Group Point Persons will secure a consensus from their Work Groups on 2005 Goals and Objectives and will get this information to Alan by December 1, 2004.

NH Childrens Advocacy Network will hold their Summit Meeting on November 4th from 8-4pm at the Holiday Inn in Concord. This time will be used to identify the priorities for NH CAN for 2005. Council representation at this meeting is encouraged, but registration is due by October 18th.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, November 12th 8-10am

WHERE: River Level Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia