

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE:** Council Meeting

**DATE:** Friday, October 11, 2002

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:07am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Gil Schohan **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Rob Rovella, Kevin Washburn, Dick Wallace, Scott AndersEn, Peter Michaud, Jim Carroll, Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette, Evelyn Auger, Sue Smith, Mary Alice Warner, Alida Millham, Linda Brewer **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUEST:** Judge Willard Martin **EXCUSED:** Cathy Apfel, Jim Pilliod **ABSENT:** Mark Condodemetraky, John Irwin.

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1. **Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2002:** Leo Sanfacon made motion to accept the minutes as written; motion seconded by Jim Carroll. Passed by voice vote.
2. **Nomination of Council Officers Process:** All Council members received an information packet regarding nomination process for Council Chair and Vice Chair. Alan needs to have these nomination forms by October 31. He will then notify all nominees and all that are willing will be placed on a ballot for vote at December Council meeting. There will probably be more than one name on the ballot for both positions.  
**ACTION NEEDED:**
  - **Council members must return Nomination Forms to Alan before October 31.**
3. **Committee Action Items** Alan said that normally committee reports will not be given at Council meetings on a regular basis. Discussion from Committee meetings should be in the form of action items needing discussion/decision by the Council.
  - ***Executive Committee:*** Gil announced that 4 Council members have given their resignations: two immediately, upon receipt, (Wes Colby and Dave Russell) and two effective in January (Cathy Apfel and Sheila Weeks). A letter accepting these resignations with regret will be sent to these four people over Gil's signature.
  - ***Legislative and Advocacy Committee:*** Mary Alice says the committee "is waiting for elections to be over" so they will know who the Delegation is and what strategies to use in interacting with them. Their next committee meeting is Friday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am at the Busiel Mill.
    - The Council has joined NH Children's' Advocacy Network and now receives abundant information on the political scene in NH and on issues affecting children and families.
    - In response to a question from Mary Alice, several Council members did follow up on the NH CAN alert on increased DCYF funding.
    - The Legislative Committee will design a strategy for Council members "mentoring" Delegation members.
  - ***Budget Committee*** Rob explained that Budget Committee discussed the draft of 2003 budget drawn up by Alan. Budget will be presented to Commissioners on October 15th. A line item of \$100,000, anticipated grant income, has been added and the Delegation will need to see this item as a "wash". This item will allow the Council to write and receive grants on behalf of other agencies that will use money to implement specific programs.
    - These unanticipated revenues cannot be transferred to the County's general funds.
    - As the Council could not formally begin until the budget was passed in March 2002, the first quarter Schmitt funds were used directly for Council expenses. Therefore the Schmitt allocation to the County has been appropriately reconciled.
  - ***Public Relations Committee*** Linda Brewer reported that preparations for the Forums are moving forward.
    - All County communities but Barnstead, Gilmanton, and New Hampton have scheduled forums in November.

- Copies of the draft “quick and dirty” brochure for Council, prepared by Sheila and Judy, were distributed. Once all comments from Council members are in, final copies will be made in time for Forums.
- Judy has prepared press releases, calendar listings, and public service announcements that will be mailed to a variety of print and broadcast media in the Lakes Region as “general support” for forums. Each Steering Committee will be preparing promotional materials for the media as well.
- County Delegates should be personally invited to attend these forums so they may hear issues directly from community members.

**ACTION NEEDED RE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:**

- **Council members are requested to review draft of Council brochure and give their comments to Council staff by October 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Council members are urged to attend as many Community Forums as possible.**
- **Planning Committee** Peter Michaud said every committee is now working on their assigned goals in the Council Action Plan. Continued discussion on the Forums included:
  - Information on “Community Justice” needs to be distributed to attendees at Forums. Forum facilitators will introduce this concept before discussion begins.
  - Several communities are “modifying” their forum format i.e. including youth performances and community speakers.
  - All break-out sessions of the Forums will discuss the same questions, but using one of the three “components” of Community Justice as the lens for their responses.
  - All comments from Forums will be brought back to the Council for discussion and further prioritization as part of creating a Countywide Plan.
  - A brief survey will be developed that asks Forum additional information re: aspects of community justice; results will be included in final summaries.
  - The basic agenda, created by Judy Bush and Alan, requires a full 2 ½ hours.
  - Paid ads in the print media may be necessary to generate interest
  - Meredith, Gilford, and Laconia are working with existing organizations (CORE, Gilford Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and PACT) in each of these towns to plan their forums.

4. **Approval of the “Testimony Policy”** The policy states that if a Council member speaks to an issue on behalf of the Council, he/she must first secure permission from the Council Chair. Any Council member is free to speak on an issue if they do not relate their statement as being the position of the Council. The anticipated process is that specific individuals will be asked to speak on behalf of the Council by the Legislative Committee.
- The Council will develop formal positions on selected issues following a period of study and discussion
  - Motion to accept Testimony Policy as read was made by Mary Alice Warner, seconded by Andre Paquette and passed by voice vote of Council.

**ACTION NEEDED - L/A COMMITTEE:**

- **Alan will submit Testimony Policy to the County Commissioners for their approval and signatures.**
5. **Bylaws:** Two sections of the Bylaws are ready for approval by Council. (1) The Mission Statement as developed at July Retreat of the Council and (2) Description of the process to develop a Professional Providers Advisory Council (PPAC). After a discussion of the PPAC process (description follows), a motion was made by Alida Millham to accept these two additions to the by-laws; motion seconded by Sue Smith and motion passed by voice vote.

**ACTION NEEDED RE L/A COMMITTEE:**

- **Alan will submit By-law additions to the County Commissioners for their approval and signatures**

6. **PPAC Update:**

- The premise is that the Council will need professional input around the three components of “Community Justice”: Prevention, Balanced and Restorative Justice, and Community Development.
- Based on a directive from the Executive Committee, Alan has identified 21-23 professionals in these three different sectors, using groups/organizations that already exist in the community i.e.
  - Members of UpStream for advice on prevention areas,
  - Members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (a sub-committee of the Council) for advise on restorative justice areas, and
  - Members of the Community Benefits Group for advise on community development areas.
  - Seven of the 21-23 invitees have agreed to participate; 13 have asked for more information; and only one thus far has said no
  - PPAC meetings will convene in early December, after the Forums are finished. PPAC will help interpret information gathered at the Forums

7. **Recap Evolving Community Justice Series** Alan reported that the series is going very well. After six sessions, 39 people from 15 communities (7 in Belknap County) have attended. Five are tuition students. Participants have included a teen, Laconia Police Chief Tom Oetinger, and a couple from Meredith who recently lost their son to a substance overdose. This series has been an excellent opportunity for public dialogue around the issues.

- Nancy Rollins, Director of NH DCYF will be the presenter at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> session which had been scheduled earlier as an “open session”
- As devolution of funds down to County level is the ultimate, long-term goal of the Council, it is a good idea for others to see Belknap County as a potential model for this practice.
- The Citizen has done an excellent job in covering this series. Judge Martin noted that Krista Marrs (reporter) would be doing a series on the Laconia District Court Juvenile Drug Court.

8. **Other Business:**

- ***The J.O.L.T. Program*** Judge Martin said the J.O.L.T. Program (*random, off-hours joint visits by law enforcement and JPPO's to anyone placed on a house arrest or curfew*) is doing very well.
  - This program is an excellent example of a collaborative effort between law enforcement and parole officers.
  - Belknap County is the only county in NH to run a countywide JOLT program
- ***Mediation Program*** Alan and Judy met recently with Pam Sullivan, Grants Officer from the NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services, in preparation for a possible collaboration between the County and Youth Services Bureau to return a family mediation program to the County.
  - Ms. Sullivan is interested in incorporating the NH Community Technical College system to do training for mediators.
  - A Mediation Refresher Course is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Youth Services Bureau.
- ***Laconia District Juvenile Drug Court*** Judge Martin said that the Drug Court Program in Laconia is now the largest one in the entire State. Currently there are 8 kids involved. The J.O.L.T. Program interacts with these kids as well.
- ***Alan's Quarterly Report*** The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report was emailed to all Council members and a large list of others in the County and State. Alan said the Quarterly Report is “getting long” and invited others to comment or make suggestions for changes.
  - Council member comments on newsletter ran the gamut from “needs abbreviation” and “needs less words with more bullets” to “the format is fine the way it is”
  - Peter Michaud noted there is software that does email listserves.
- ***The C.O.R.E. Program*** Scott AndersEn announced that CORE has hired a Coordinator. A reception for her is scheduled for the end of October.
- ***Belknap County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program*** Leo and Andre feel the connection and line of responsibility from this program to the Council needs clarification. They don't feel the program is meeting expectations as written in the grant.

**ACTION NEEDED:**

- The Executive Committee should appoint a “Fact-Finding Committee” to gather more information about the Restorative Justice Program. Leo, Andre, and Alan should be included. They will prepare for an organized discussion with the Executive Committee.
- Discussion of the progress (*What’s working? What’s not working? What are lines of authority?*) of the Restorative Justice Program will be added to the agenda of the next Executive Committee. Special invitations to this meeting should be given to all Council members.
- Judge Martin should attend this meeting.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:**

**WHEN: Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**WHERE: To be announced, probably in Center Harbor.**