

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE:** Council

**DATE:** Friday, January 9, 2004

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10:01am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Dick Wallace, Nancy Porosky, Kevin Washburn, Alida Millham, Susan Smith, Gil Schohan, Mary Alice Warner, Peter Michaud, Leo Sanfacon, Jim Carroll, Andre Paquette, Jim Pilliod, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

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1. **Additions to the Agenda** No additions made.
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2003** Motion to accept as written made by Andre Paquette; second by Gil Schohan. Motion carried.
3. **Chair's Report** Alida briefly summarized this past year as one of moving from "organizing to action". There have been both plusses and minuses this past year, yet a lot has been accomplished. Still the Council is not quite clear about its role, but this is more because the Council is still plowing new ground rather than from a lack of interest in Council members. The 6 areas of focus for 2004 must be: (1) adopt a shift in Council structure (2) locate 6 new members for the Council, especially representing the communities of Barnstead and Meredith (3) Identify work areas for Council members (5) empower the Executive Committee to deal with internal and organizational issues (6) Continue to identify solutions for issues.

Kevin Washburn, Peter Michaud, Dick Wallace, and Jim Pilliod were reappointed by the County Commissioners to their second term. Nancy Porosky, who has been filling an un-expired term, was appointed to a first term. To date, six County residents have expressed an interested in Council membership. One anticipates being away over the summer and wonders how this would impact his candidacy.

**ACTION NEEDED: Council members will actively look and talk with potential Council members from their individual communities, encouraging them to apply.**

4. **Director's Report**  
**Tilton, Sanbornton Study Committee** This past fall, Alan facilitated a study of CHINS, delinquency, and Abuse and Neglect with representatives from SAU 59 (Winnisquam Regional), Franklin District Court, law enforcement, JPPO, and citizens from Tilton and Sanbornton. The goal of this ad-hoc committee was to achieve equal access for juveniles from Tilton and Sanbornton to services and programs as currently available to juveniles from the rest of Belknap County and to improve communication among the various parties associated with juveniles and their families. This committee presented their report to the Safe Schools Coalition from SAU 59 who will now develop an Action Plan around these recommendations. Kevin Washburn will remain very involved with this effort.

**Laconia Human Relation Committee** This committee will be sponsoring a community educational series on understanding responsibilities of living in multicultural and diverse communities. They have asked for a formal endorsement for this initiative from the Council. After a brief discussion Andre made a motion to authorize the use of the Council's name subject to the approval of marketing materials and educational content by the Council Chair and/or Executive Director. Motion seconded by Kevin Washburn. Motion carried.

**Moving Forward Together: An Action Plan for 2004** Copies, hot off the press, were given to Council members. This report is a compilation of the November 02 Forums, a recording of their outcomes and issues, and a 1-page version of the Council Action Plan for 2004. Council staff has a distribution list for this report, printed by Sant Bani Press, which will require participation by all Council members.

**ACTION: Judy and Alan will organize a Distribution Plan; Council members will be asked to assist in placing copies in their communities. Personal copies will be given to Council members not present at today's meeting.**

**Marion Wright Edelmann** Ms. Edelmann will be the featured speaker at the formal release of the NH CAN Children's Agenda, 10 am on January 20 in the Legislative Office Building in Concord. Council members are encouraged to attend. RSVPs are requested and information on this event has been emailed to all Council members.

**5. Executive Committee**

**By-Laws Revision: Committee Structure** Sue Smith introduced a motion to re-word Article VIII of the Council By-laws, changing "standing committees" to "workgroups". The current committee structure would be dissolved and "workgroups" would be organized around specific purposes and timelines and would be disbanded once the committee goal has been accomplished. This will bring greater flexibility to the work of the Council and should motivate increased participation by Council members. These workgroups will be organized around the Action Plan 2004 and Chairs will be determined by each workgroup. It may not be necessary for Council staff to attend each workgroup meeting, especially if the Chair stays in close communication with Executive Director. Gil Schohan noted that this approach requires that all Council members be involved in some manner; Council staff must not carry committee work alone. Some general guidelines for these workgroup are needed.

According to Mary Alice Warner, Chair of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee, a workgroup approach better fits the needs of this committee. Jim Pilliod says a Legislative Committee or workgroup meeting is needed soon to discuss Council activities around several pieces of legislation now being considered by the NH Legislators.

Motion for By-law revision, introduced by Sue Smith with a second from Andre Paquette, carried. This motion will now be ratified at the Annual Meeting on January 13 and this structure will begin in February.

Each workgroup should be involved in educating the public about the work of the Council and the principles of Community Justice. Council members should take a lead role in arranging educational opportunities for their communities.

**ACTION:**

- **Council staff and Alida will draw up general guidelines for workgroups.**
- **Council staff and Mary Alice will schedule meeting of the Legislative and Advocacy Workgroup.**
- **By-laws change will be on agenda for Council Annual Meeting on January 13, 2004.**

**6. Public Awareness Reports**

**Annual Meeting** Katy Kanally-DeCarteret updated Council on decorations for this event. "Catch phrases/slogans" relative to work of the Council are needed as part of the decorations theme. This meeting/community conference will be co-facilitated by Alida and Natalie Allen, UpStream Chair. There will be 1 or 2 tables close to the podium for those taking part in this meeting.

**ACTION:**

- **Council staff will email names assigned to the "head tables" to Katy who will make tent cards for these tables.**
- **Council members who are able and free around 1pm on January 13 should call Katy on her cell (491-2522). Katy will indicate if any additional assistance with putting up the decorations is needed.**
- **Katy will assure that there is adequate lighting around the podium.**

**Deschutes Posters** Kevin Washburn indicates that the Deschutes community/juvenile justice poster files will be transferred, in the near future, to David Stamps who will customize them with local information. Once this step is complete, the posters will be printed for distribution.

**7. JJAC/Data Committee** No JJAC meeting was held in December, but a meeting is scheduled for January. Andre distributed his 4<sup>th</sup> report, this one on the Belknap County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program. He called attention to several items: (1) the amount and type of community service hours completed by the

juveniles and (2) the spike in the numbers of 13-year old girls and 14-year old boys involved in this program. More information is needed to interpret some of this information.

Andre will continue to work with Laconia District Court on CHINS data. He is also looking for domestic violence and child abuse/neglect data. The Laconia Police Department will initiate a pilot project on data collection that can be replicated around the County. Andre asked that information items should flow between workgroups and the Data Committee in order to help this committee identify ongoing data needs.

The quantity and quality of victim restoration and involvement should be measured in future reports.

Following some discussion, it was decided that the Council should take a lead role in promoting the principles of community and restorative justice, principles that should be incorporated throughout the justice system. Specific promotion is the responsibility of the staff of each program, not the Council.

It was noted that the County Restorative Justice Program should be available to Tilton and Sanbornton. This is more likely to occur when and if the Judge at Franklin District Court has sufficient information on this program to make appropriate referrals. Andre said that Holly DeWald (Youth Services Bureau) and Brian Loanes (Restorative Justice) are now discussing referral protocol. Martha Douglass (Youth Assistance Program in Tilton/Northfield) should be included in these discussions.

**ACTION:**

- **Martha Douglass will be encouraged to participate in discussions with Holly and Brian.**

8. **County Restorative Justice Advisory Committee** Leo said the needs of this program could be summed up as: (1) Funding needs (2) Data needs (3) Opportunities for meaningful community service Brian needs help in looking for funding sources. This committee is still waiting for the NH JusticeWorks report.

Dick Wallace said that there is evidence that shows restitution to victims is not working as well as it could in Alton.

Leo suggested that the mandate for his committee should be one that is systemic rather than just the Restorative Justice Program. Leo and his committee have plans to visit each Police Chief and explain referral options for juveniles. Kevin Washburn volunteered to assist with this effort.

**ACTION:**

- **This committee can now be known as the “Juvenile Restorative Justice Workgroup” and have a larger vision and focus beyond this one program.**
- **The Restorative Justice Advisory Committee will explore the victims restoration needs in Alton**

9. **Other**

**Annette Schmitt UnSung Award** Gil Schohan says that the current guidelines for this award need revamping as they are very similar to the Deborah Bienarz Award, given by the Laconia Police Department. This discussion can be accomplished by a specific workgroup. Peter Michaud volunteered to participate.

**Planning** Gil Schohan, Chair, said that the By-Law revision would disband the Planning Committee and other standing committees. The Council agreed that the Executive Committee will provide oversight for the 2004 Work Plan.

**Youth Attendant Program (YAP)** NH Div of Juvenile Justice Services has funds to create YAP Programs in each County. YAP beds provide 24-72 hour holdover space for youth picked up for substance abuse issues or other offenses requiring court appearances. This program can also provide a “cooling off period” for youth involved in domestic violence incidences. Currently there are no beds in Belknap County for this purpose. YAP beds must be sight and sound separate from adults and have access to emergency services. Alan has information on five programs around the State and will be making arrangements for those interested to visit these programs. One program, in Salem, has a trailer that they share with a Supervised Child Visitation Program. Mary Alice Warner volunteered to participate with this workgroup that should also include Sheriff Collis and Chief Oetinger.

**CACR2** Does this proposed Constitutional Amendment changing the State Constitution to exempt education policy and funding decisions from court and judicial review require a formal endorsement by the Council? Alida encourages all Council members to contact their Representative to vote against this amendment. A 1-page Talking Points sheet on CACR2 was emailed earlier to all Council members.

**ACTION: Council members will review the Talking Points sheet and contact their Legislator to discuss this proposed amendment.**

**Council Budget** A hearing on the Council budget will be held 9am, January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Superior Court Building. Council members are encouraged to attend.

**NEXT MEETING**

**WHEN: Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> (*Hope you're not superstitious*) 8-10am**

**WHERE: River Level Conference Rm – Busiel Mill, Laconia  
Unless otherwise noted due to renovations of the Mill.**