

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

DATE: Friday, February 14, 2003

TIME BEGAN: 8:02am **TIME ENDED:** 9:45am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Gil Schohan, Kim Campbell, Mark Condodemetrak, Jim Pilliod, John Irwin, Andre Paquette, Jim Carroll, Leo Sanfacon, Mary Alice Warner, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, Nancy Porosky, Bob Rovella, Sue Smith, Peter Michaud, Kevin Washburn, Alida Millham **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **EXCUSED:** Scott AndersEn, Linda Brewer, Beth Bascom, Dick Wallace **ABSENT:** Evelyn Auger

1. **Introductions/Approval of Minutes etc:** Council members introduced themselves. A motion to accept minutes as written was made by Andre Paquette; second provided by Jim Pilliod. Motion carried.

Alida explained that she is a “broad-brush person” but one who likes focused meetings. While disagreements on issues are expected and normal, the Executive Committee is considering how to incorporate discussion of controversial issues into the Council’s meeting structure.

There were no additions suggested for the meeting agenda.

2. **Old Business Committee Reports**

- ***Finance and Grants Report*** Robert Rovella, Chair, reports that this committee is discussing funding resources for 2004 and beyond. A final public hearing on the County budget will be held on March 10th; Council members are encouraged to attend. A grant to support the development of a Family Mediation Program in Belknap County was submitted to NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services on February 7th. The County is the applicant, but will sub-contract through the Citizens Council with the Youth Services Bureau who will house and administer this program. Alan noted that working with agencies as we did with YSB on this project is the type of collaborative support that the Council can offer.
- ***Legislative and Advocacy Committee*** Mary Alice Warner, Chair reports that this committee is identifying which proposed state legislation is relevant to the Citizens Council and therefore needs to be followed. The Committee will use resources and information from NH CAN. The L&A Committee feels that strong relationships must be developed with the County Delegation. Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret suggested we contact Chris Collier, the Legislative Liaison, for Region 3 (Developmental Services).

ACTION NEEDED:

- **Katy will send contact information for Chris Collier to Council Staff and Mary Alice Warner.**
- ***Public Relations Committee*** Kevin Washburn, (in Linda Brewer’s absence) reports that this committee is reviewing the recent Annual Meeting and has agreed to begin preparations much earlier than last year for next year’s meeting. The committee is also interested in beginning a Children and Families column/section in the Citizen and is now searching for someone (not necessarily a Council member) who could manage this project. Gil Schohan has agreed to chair the Schmitt Award sub-committee and is looking for more committee members who will begin its efforts in early fall, much earlier than this year’s process.

ACTION NEEDED:

- **Council members interested in participating on this Schmitt Award Committee should contact Gil Schohan.**
- **Council members who know of potential candidates who could manage a Citizen Child and Family column/section in the Citizen should contact Council staff with their names and contact information.**

- **Planning Committee** Gil Schohan, Chair, reported that this committee has identified a smaller committee, Beth Bascom, Peter Michaud, and Alan Robichaud, who will individually and then collectively review the outcomes materials from the Community Forums. They will have their recommendations ready for the next Planning Committee Meeting. Two communities, Alton and Gilford, are holding follow-up activities. Alan is working with Council Reps to schedule and organize three additional Forums in Barnstead, Gilmanton, and New Hampton.
 - **Executive Committee** Alida is working on clarifying the role of the Executive Committee which she thinks should act as a conduit of information and communication to the Council
3. **Request for Letters of Support** Alan reviewed two requests for Letters of Support: (1) from UpStream to continue their email news list and (2) from Tom Oetinger, LPD Chief, to support their Department’s desire to improve data collection and to better manage juvenile cases. Alan had draft copies of support letters for both requests for review by Council members. A motion to approve both letters was made by Gil with a second by John Irwin. The Council granted approval for both letters. It was made clear that while the Council is supportive of proposed responses in the LPD planning processes, the Council is not in the position to support specific budgetary recommendations in municipal budgets. The Council does have other avenues of communication with County Police Chiefs such as the County Police Chiefs’ Association and connections via the Council’s Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.
 4. **Annual Meeting Critique** Council members were invited to comment on the recent Annual Meeting. Comments were positive such as “good attendance” and “good Annual Report”. A bigger room may be needed for future meetings. A suggestion was made to have the Keynote Speaker earlier in the agenda. The concept of changing this meeting from a traditional, run-of-the-mill Annual Meeting, of which there are many, to one that can showcase current offerings and efforts around children and families was discussed. A speaker with a national reputation could be engaged and efforts made to (1) galvanize the communities throughout Belknap County to attend and to (2) bring focus to the needs of children and families in their communities. **ACTION NEEDED: Modifying the concept of the Annual Meeting to a “Community Event” will be discussed further by the Public Relations Committee.**
 5. **Restorative Justice Program** Brian Loanes, Director of the County’s Juvenile Restorative Justice Program, would like additional and stronger connections to the Council. The original design for this project, as developed by BJJI, includes ancillary committees that will provide professional feedback and community support. As Brian is the Program Director, he should be encouraged to call together the people he would like on this committee and to set the agenda for this committee. While Gil Schohan, Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette, and Jim Carroll have volunteered to serve on a Restorative Justice Advisory Committees, with Leo as Chair, the final responsibility to select a committee, its meeting schedule and agenda, and to provide staff support to this committee rests with Brian. **ACTION NEEDED: Leo will contact Brian regarding organizing this committee and setting its agenda according to Brian’s needs and preferences.**
 6. **Proposal regarding the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)** Andre Paquette, Chair JJAC, reviewed what led up to this formal proposal, emailed earlier to Council members. Juvenile justice issues are of concern to the County Commissioners and were part of the general charge to the Citizens Council in January 2001. Early on, the Council established the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, whose members are professionals in all aspects of the justice system, including diversion, court, legal, law enforcement, education, substance abuse etc, and whose purpose is to continue the networking that began with BJJI efforts. A subcommittee, “Juvenile Integrated Information System”, was also organized to examine and improve the flow of data and information from one segment of the system to the other. Several members of these committees and Andre have been reviewing materials from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national Foundation interested in juvenile justice issues. According to Andre, JJAC wishes to follow the guidelines set by the Annie E. Casey Foundation: (1) Form a Collaborative (2) Include all stakeholders in this collaborative (3) Begin with, and focus on local data, rather than state or Federal. Andre would like JJAC to closely examine the basic information in the County’s system of juvenile justice, such as: How many youths are involved? How are they handled? What offenses have they committed? Where and how is this information kept? Andre noted

that we keep hearing that about \$4 million is spent on juveniles in Belknap County, with the County paying ¼ of these costs, but we need to have a clearer idea of exactly what this figure includes. The JJAC committee effort will include a “System Walk-Through” where each facet of the juvenile justice system will be reviewed as part of a continuum. The precepts guiding these study and research efforts are that (1) Belknap County wishes to “treat” kids as close to home as possible, rather than sending them out to other institutions within or outside the State and (2) the County wishes to develop a juvenile justice system that incorporates the principles of Community Justice. Andre said that one of his specific goals would be to gather a cadre of specially trained volunteers who take an oath of confidentiality to work on compiling the variety of data and information available at the Laconia District Courthouse. Andre asked that the Council absorb this JJAC proposal into their work plan and that the Council continue to provide leadership for this effort.

A motion to accept the proposal as written by Andre was made by Sue Smith, with Mary Alice Warner providing a second to this motion. Motion carried.

7. **Director’s Report** Alan reported on an effort, led by Jim Carroll, to explore potential use of the soon-to-be vacated Laconia Police Department by a group of non-profits. He asked for Council support to explore what possibilities exist for use of this building. Mark Condodemetraky made motion for preliminary study of this space, with a second offered by John Irwin. Motion carried. There will be a “walk-through” of the building scheduled soon. As this building is purported to have major structural problems, this study should be very carefully carried out with no commitments made.

ACTION NEEDED:

- **Alan will report to the Council on the walk-through of the building.**

8. **One Word Evaluation of this Meeting** Alida asked for a one-word summary evaluation of this Council meeting. Words provided included: Expeditious, great, efficient, educational, informed, focused, exciting, thankful, excitement.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, March 14th 8-10am

WHERE: River Level Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia

**NOTE BENE: (Per Bylaws)
Council Members must alert Council Staff prior to any
expected absence from Council Meetings in order
for this absence to count as an “Excused Absence”.**