

**Citizens Council on Children and Families
Meeting of April 9, 2004**

SUMMARY

Attending: Alida Millham, Gil Schohan, Sue Smith, Katy DeCarteret, Peter Micahud, Jim Pilliod, Christine Corrigan, Nancy Porosky, Mary Alice Warner, Andre Paquette, Sarah Fox, Kevin Washburn, Dick Wallace, Jim Carroll. **Staff:** Alan Robichaud

Approval of Minutes of March 12 meeting

Duly approved and seconded (Schohan/Smith), the minutes were unanimously approved.

Council Responsibilities and Accountabilities (including Work Group Reports)

Gil and Andre reported for [Work Group #1](#) (BARJJS). To date three police chiefs have been visited with and the following issues emerged: delays in court hearings, lack of mental health services, lack of confidentiality, use of alcohol (seasonal in one community, extreme party use in another) and inconsistencies from the bench. As a follow-up to one request from a local police chief, the group has contacted the District Court to see about re-establishing brown bag lunch gatherings among participants of the court system, as a way to improve communication, identify problem areas, and seek solutions. Reports on School Resource Officers (SROs) are positive and chiefs feel they curtail the frequency of incidents through improved communication among officers and students. Mention was made that while chiefs are aware of both the Court Diversion and the Restorative Justice Programs, some are still unclear about the distinction of each. It was suggested that the protocols established between the two programs be shared publicly.

The proposed [Youth Attendant Program](#) (YAP) was mentioned as a pending grant proposal being worked on by the Sheriff's Office. The Youth Services Bureau has traditionally offered a Motorcycle Week YAP response at the Weirs and it was suggested that the two programs communicate this matter in the development of the proposal.

Discussion: The workgroup was asked to consider how police departments interact with families when it is known that their children have been involved with and throughout the investigation of incidents in the community. Also, that they identify what else needs to be happening for children and families within their communities as a way to identify further roles for the Council.

Jim Carroll referenced a recent report from the Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor's Office relative to proposed approaches to crime enforcement and its future implications on juvenile justice there and in New Hampshire if state leaders are predisposed to this way of thinking.

Action: A copy of the report will be sought and reviewed for consideration of future Council action.

Katy reported that [Work Group #2](#) (Promotion of Asset Based Community Development) met on March 18 and reviewed current initiatives of the Council that support this goal area. The next meeting of the workgroup will continue the discussion and walk through an example of how these principles get applied to balanced and restorative justice, prevention and other work of the Council.

Jim Pilliod reported that the [Work Group #3](#) (Promote Strength Based Prevention Practices and Family/Parenting Resources) met and spent much of their time discussing the goal statement and the inclusion of families in the prevention arena. Objectives that emerged from this discussion are as follow: 1) Develop/strengthen locally based Family Support Networks; 2) Develop inventory of prevention-related programs; and 3) Disseminate Family/Parenting Resource information. The group hopes to move into action steps/strategies for accomplishing these objectives at their next meeting.

Discussion: Council members reconfirmed that the process of communicating activities of the work groups is by updates at Council meetings. While summaries of each work group will be kept and forwarded to individuals on their respective work group and to Alan for maintaining Council accountabilities, the progress notes will not be forwarded to all Council members on a regular basis.

Peter Michaud reported that [Work Group #4](#) (Integrated Community Justice Infrastructure) had met twice and continues to create strategies for a communication plan for the Council. Discussion has focused on creating a list of stakeholders, developing “core” messages, and creating implementation strategies for communicating community justice concepts to broad audiences of the community. Alida updated the Council on meetings with local public relations expert, John Vorel.

Discussion: Council members need to understand the concept of Community Justice if they are to be able to converse within their communities about what we are attempting to do. While the term may be new to communities, we should be at a point in our development where people can find ways of internalizing what Community Justice means to them and why they are active with the Council. Some Council member feel that our mission is clear and that the work of the Council is to create a safe community (Belknap County) where children and families live with dignity and respect. Others expressed that juvenile justice was the important “tag line”, that we need to prevent juveniles from making their way in the adult corrections system. Some feel that including adults (families) in our mission is an important way to assist children and youth. Still others perceive that the driving force behind “Community Justice” means “Community” and “Justice” and asks the question, “What are our assets?” Many agreed that these are difficult issues to define as we work within a system, to get it to conform to new ways of thinking, and working within communities to bridge the gap of understanding the needs of children and families and how typical citizens can become engaged in the lives of others.

Reference was made to some of the promotional work of the Council that defines community justice (e.g. Fast Facts sheet) and what we need to do is to develop strategies for how this definition is “operationalized” and communicated to others.

Professional Advisory Committees

[Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee \(JJAC\)](#)

Andre handed out an updated list of completed and available data reports and asked that Council members who needed specific reports to notify him directly. He will see that they receive requested reports.

[Addiction Task Force](#)

Alan reported that the group is at a point of prioritizing unmet needs and moving forward with specific tasks to respond to local needs.

Executive Committee

[Steve Fountain](#) (Meredith) has submitted an application for Council membership. On a motion by Gil Schohan, seconded by Jim Pilliod, the Council unanimously approved Steve’s application. A “swearing-in” ceremony will be conducted by the County Commissioners at their office at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 21st and an orientation for new Council members will be held in the near future. Two vacancies remain on the Council.

Action ~ Council staff will update and distribute Council member listing to all Council members.

Alida submitted a summary report of the recent [Domestic Violence Conference](#) she attended and indicated this is an area in which Council members need to become more familiar.

Director’s Report

[Council Finances](#) ~ Alan reported that the Council’s budget was passed by the County Convention and includes first-time contribution by the County. This represents 25% of the Council operating budget and is in line with the initial agreement between Judge Martin and the County Commissioners. The Council wishes to thank the County Commissioners and Convention members for their support and trust in developing this much needed service to county residents. We also extend special appreciation to Judge Martin and the Schmitt Foundation for his outstanding leadership and financial contribution to seeing this effort take root in the community.

Grant Updates Alan gave the following status updates on grant activity this past month:

Domain	Key Partner/Source	Amount/Duration	Status
County Prevention Network	CoRe (Renee Hill) Drug-Free Communities	\$100,000/yr. for up to five years	Submitted 3/26/04.
Data system development	Gordon Bazemore NH DJJS - JAIBG	\$5,156 / One time	Accepted/Awaiting approval
Mentoring	Friends Program U.S. Dept. of Education	\$200,000/yr. for up to 3 years	In-Process; due in May
Multi-cultural Market Day	Laconia Human Relations Lakes Region Charitable Fund	\$5,000 / One time	Letter of Support
Suicide Prevention Protocols	Genesis NAMI NH	Technical Assistance	Letter of Support
Parent Leadership	Upstream NH Children's Trust Fund	\$7,500 / One time	In-process; due 4/30/04
Substance Abuse	Horizons Counseling Center NH DADAPR	\$138,000+ / One year continuation grant	Letter of Support
Youth Attendant Program	Sheriff's Department NH DJJS	To Be Determined	In-Process; due in May
Co-occurring Disorders/Inter-agency Coordination	Various National Institute on Mental Health	Technical Assistance	Approval for participation pending

Jim Pilliod referenced a legislative subcommittee of Health and Human Services (Task Force on Dual Disorders) and he will get information on the enabling legislation to Alan.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Robichaud

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
DATE: Friday, May 14 2004 TIME: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
PLACE: To Be Announced

Work Group and Professional Advisory Committee Meetings

Work Group #1	No meeting scheduled			
Work Group #2	Thursday	April 15	9:30 A.M.	Council Office
Work Group #3	Wednesday	April 21	4:30 PM	Council Office
Work Group #4	Monday	April 12	7:30 AM	Council Office
Mentoring Workgroup	Monday	April 12	9:30 AM	Council Office
JJAC	Friday	April 23	8:00 AM	TBD
Addiction Task Force	Monday	May 3	8:30 AM	TBD