

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE:** Citizens Council

**DATE:** Friday, June 11, 2004

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Alida Millham, Jim Pilliod, Christie Corrigan, Sarah Fox, Sue Smith, Leo Sanfacon, Peter Michaud, Steve Fountain, Mary Alice Warner **ABSENT:** Kevin Washburn, Dick Wallace, Nancy Porosky, Jim Carroll, Gil Schohan, Ruth Castonguay, Rob Rovella, Andre Paquette, Katy DeCarteret **GUESTS:** Bud Martin **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

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1. **Additions to the Agenda** No additions
2. **Approve Minutes** Motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2004 as written, made by Jim Pilliod; second by Mary Alice Warner. Passed by consensus.
3. **Executive Committee Report** (1) Improved communication between the Council Workgroups and the Council is needed. Currently Council Workgroups seem isolated from one another and with the Council. The Executive Committee will continue to monitor and work on communication strategies and issues. (2) The Executive Committee discussed whether Council meetings should continue to be held in various sites around the County; this discussion will now move to Workgroup #4 (3) Mid-course corrections on the 2004 Action Plan may be necessary. Suggestions for changes by Workgroups are needed as soon as possible, or certainly by June 30. A September/30 deadline is given for preliminary suggestions to creating the 2005 Action Plan. (4) The big challenge for the Council is to identify strategies that motivate and encourage people to become engaged in their local areas. Alida noted the activity currently happening through CoRe (Community Response), led by Renee Hill, as an excellent example of community investment and involvement. **Reporter: Alida Millham**
4. **Gordon Bazemore Consultation** Dr. Bazemore, a Professor in the Criminal Justice Department and the head of the Community Justice Institute at Florida Atlantic University, is a national consultant in juvenile justice research, public policy, and the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice. He will spend Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> in Laconia discussing evaluation research and data/information gathering with an invited audience of about 95 stakeholders in the juvenile justice arena. Supported in part by a JAIBG Grant from the NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services, this day will review the process of integrating data and information on juveniles so that community leaders and citizens can be better informed about the needs of children and families. The day will have three sessions: the first session will include JJAC members and will provide an overview of the issues; the second session will address the more specific tasks involved in gathering, interpreting, and sharing the massive amounts of varied data and information describing children and youth. Session Three will involve a smaller group who will determine and articulate the next steps for this data integration project. Alan explained that members of a potential countywide Data Management Team will meet together on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Several intrinsic challenges to this Data Project become obvious: (1) Data on juveniles is generated by a number of different entities in Belknap County instead of one juvenile justice system, as is the case in Deschutes County, Oregon. Deschutes, the site of a balanced and restorative program for juveniles caught the attention of Judge Martin about 5 years ago who then formed the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative, the predecessor of the Citizens Council. (2) Moving to some form of data integration and sharing could meet with some resistance from others who may view these efforts by the Council as attempts to control and manage funding streams (3) The Council's simultaneous efforts in both "planning" and "doing" is not easily managed. (4) The critical piece for the Council is in motivating the public to become invested and involved. **Reporter: Alan Robichaud**

**ACTION: Council members will RSVP Council staff re their attendance to the Bazemore sessions, before June 18<sup>th</sup>**

## 5. Work Group Reports

- **Group # 1** This group is finishing up their interviews with Police Chiefs and/or their designees. They have 3 communities left and, when finished, they will compile information into a summary report, probably sometime this summer. One early observation by this group is that Police Departments have differing practices and levels of interest around data collection. This group plans a similar initiative with School Resources Officers (SRO), now seen as an important component of the juvenile justice system, primarily around prevention of incidences in schools. **Reporter: Leo Sanfacon**
- **Group # 2** This workgroup met on June 10<sup>th</sup> and is moving nicely on its objectives. The addition of those who attended a recent, Reclaiming Futures-sponsored, Asset-Based Community Development training , including two youth, has renewed the energy and focus for this Workgroup. Also included in this Workgroup are JPPOs from the Laconia District Office. Tym Rourke of Reclaiming Futures is co-facilitating this group with co-chair, Katy DeCarteret, and Christie Corrigan as Scribe. Several Council members, including Dick Wallace in Alton and Katy DeCarteret in Sanbornton, are already using Asset-based community development strategies in their communities. The Youth Ventures Initiative, led by Jim Hamel (also a Workgroup # 2 attendee) offers \$1000 seed grants to youths who have community development ideas they wish to implement in their communities. **Reporter: Christie Corrigan**
- **Group # 3** This group did not meet this past month. However their next meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup> and the time will be used to become better organized with clear strategies to accomplish this group's three objectives stated in Goal 3 of the Council's 2004 Action Plan.

One Workgroup member, Mary Alice Warner, is already involved with the Parents as Leaders in Society (PALS) program. This five-Saturday session leadership training for parents will begin with a Parent Conference on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Marie Ross, Laconia SAU Asst' Superintendent, will Chair the Conference Planning Committee. The Council is working with UpStream to develop the Saturday PALS Training. Council members are asked to identify parents from their communities who would be good candidates for this PALS Program. Parents will apply and those selected to attend the series will then use their new skills in their communities. **Reporters: Jim Pilliod and Mary Alice Warner**

- **ACTION: All Council members are asked to begin identifying parents in their communities who would benefit by the PALS training. An application is forthcoming.**
- **Group # 4** This group has met 3-4 times and is currently talking about communication strategies. The first step is to develop Core Messages, concise statements that explain Community Justice and the mission of the Council to specific stakeholders and the general public. The Workgroup will be examining a number of suggestions from Council members and will distill this information into crisp messages. This Workgroup will also need to develop strategies for disseminating these Core Messages. It is possible that the Council might pick up pointers from an upcoming PR seminar sponsored by Reclaiming Futures.

## 6. Professional Advisory Committees

- **JJAC Data Committee** No report in Andre's absence.
- **Addictions Task Force** Alan said that this Task Force is "continuing to work on the Screening and Assessment piece", the area the Task Force has identified as a substantial need in Belknap County.

## 7. Director's Report

- **Annual Meeting** The Council should begin planning for the 2004 Annual Meeting, to be held sometime in January of 2005. An ad-hoc committee is needed to plan and implement this annual event, including identifying a site, scheduling a date, and selecting a theme. Several suggestions have already been made for a theme and speaker: Economic and social trends impacting families of today (Russ Thibeault of Applied Economics) and Domestic Violence and the re-tooling of the County Domestic Violence Task Force.

**ACTION: Council members are needed to form an Annual Meeting sub-committee. Interested Council members should contact Council staff or Alida Millham.**

- **Annette Schmitt Award** This award is given at the Annual Meeting. A rather long process is involved in securing nominations. A committee is needed to work on this project.  
**ACTION: Council members are needed to form Schmitt Award sub-committee. Interested Council members should contact Council staff or Alida Millham**

- **Multi-Cultural Market Day** Organized by the City of Laconia Human Relations Committee, this event is a festive day with costumes, culture, and cuisine from a variety of diverse ethnic, social, and national communities living in and around Laconia. This year’s celebration is scheduled for Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Last year, the Council hosted a Display Table and provided logistical help to the Human Relations Committee. **Volunteers are needed** to plan Council’s involvement for this September 11<sup>th</sup> event.
- **National Recovery Month** September is National Recovery Month, and as last year, the Belknap County Addictions Task Force will organize a countywide observance. Possible events include a Press Briefing, an Open House at the Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency Program, and tie-ins with events sponsored by Horizons Counseling. Judy Buswell will chair the Planning Committee and interested Council members are invited to join this effort. (Note: Christie Corrigan and Steve Fountain will be members of this Planning Committee.)
- **Strategic Planning Proposal NH DADAPR** Alan and Sarah Fox attended an information meeting in Concord led by Alice Bruning, Director of Prevention at DADAPR, who will prepare a grant proposal to SAMHSA. SAMHSA will be awarding up to 20 grants of 3 million each for 3 years to States for substance abuse and addictions prevention. This information meeting allowed communities to provide Ms. Bruning with feedback and suggestions for the proposal she is developing.
- **Domestic Violence Task Force** The Council is assisting in an effort to expand the existing Belknap County DV Task Force. Currently this group is responsible for the very successful, annual countywide conferences on domestic violence and child abuse. Judge Martin suggested that those involved should contact Judge Sue Carbon in Plymouth who is considered “a national expert” on domestic violence. Judge Martin also said there is a need for judicial training on handling domestic violence issues. He also noted that Belknap County has a “wonderful opportunity” to take advantage of Governor Benson’s wish to expand Family Court throughout the State and suggests that the Council contact Judge Kelly as soon as possible, expressing our interest and support of this initiative. If we are not proactive, it could be 4-8 years before this program is introduced in Belknap County. A Family Division in Belknap County would clearly support Council goals and would reduce the huge costs incurred by current practices. A Family Division would also be a clear place for services from the Family Mediation Program, administered by Youth Services Bureau.  
**ACTION: Alida Millham and Alan Robichaud will follow-up on the suggestion to contact Judge Kelly, Judge Carbon and a “Ms Gray”.**

8. **Other Business** Sarah Fox noted that NH DHHS is in the midst of a 5-year comprehensive reorganization effort. Several documents that explain current plans are now available for download at [www.dhhs.state.nh.us](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us) . Public comment is requested on these documents before the end of this month.

<b><u>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING</u></b>	
<b>WHEN:</b>	<b>Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 8-10am</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>Busiel Mill, Laconia River Level Conference Room</b>