

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, July 9, 2004

TIME BEGAN: 8:06am **TIME ENDED:** 10am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

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

- 1. Approval of Minutes** Alida Millham moved and Dick Wallace seconded acceptance of the Minutes of June 11, 2004. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** There being none, the agenda stood as printed.
- 3. Youth Venture** Jim Hamel, Director of the statewide organization, provided an overview of this new program. Youth Venture is an emerging national nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower a movement of young people (age 12-20) as change makers and catalysts for positive community impact. Funded by private foundations and in NH, by a small start-up grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, Youth Venture's goal is to change how society views youth and their capacity to create community solutions. Developing partnerships with existing state and local youth serving organizations is a primary strategy used by Youth Venture and to date they have formalized relationships with Girl Scouts Councils, Moultonboro Academy, Newfound School District, North Country Trail Masters, and PlusTime NH. Teams of youths are encouraged to request financial assistance of up to \$1,000 for projects that promote some form of change in communities. Youth generated projects already underway include (1) Restoring a Debate Program at Portsmouth High School (2) Creating a youth-led landscaping business in Derry, and (3) Developing a Teen gathering space in Hillsboro.

Jim Hamel is interested in collaborating with the Citizens Council and in capitalizing on the Council vision of "Belknap County as a safe place where children and families can live with dignity and respect." Jim has been meeting with the Asset-based Community Development Council Workgroup and is looking to engage adults as allies to work with youth. While several youth from Belknap County are already involved in these preliminary planning stages, any youth can participate by forming a small team of other young people from an existing organization or by creating an independent team of youths. While Youth Venture has a prevention focus, they are also very interested in engaging at-risk youths in their activities. The funding application is very simple
ACTION: Workgroup #2 and the Executive Committee will continue to define an appropriate relationship between the Council and Youth Venture. (See related Action Step under # 5- ABCD Workgroup)

- 4. Chair's Report** (1) Alida asked "Point Persons" of Council Workgroups to examine their current 2004 goals for relevancy and to make any recommendations for necessary changes. Goals and Objectives for 2005 must also be developed by the end of this year. Workgroup "Point Persons" and other Council members are reminded that several line items from Council budget (Meeting Expenses and Printing costs), are being encumbered to allow for expenses through the end of the year. Any anticipated needs in these two areas, beyond what Alan has already encumbered from current budget, should be relayed to Alan as soon as possible. (2) The Executive Committee is requesting that the Communications Workgroup (# 4) draft some sort of policy that states how the Council should best respond to requests for advocacy on a particular topic. While the Council should have a formal procedure that outlines Council advocacy, all Council members should feel able to respond independently based on their own convictions.

5. Work Group Reports

- **BARJ** Leo reports that this workgroup is still meeting with Police Chiefs and SRO's to gather their thoughts on issues related to youth and families. They plan to meet with the Sanbornton Chief on July 12th and the remaining other two Departments, Tilton and Barnstead, before the end of summer. This Workgroup will compile information from these interviews into some sort of presentation for the Council, hopefully by early Fall. The Alton SRO, Grant Nichols, attended the recent Gordon Bazemore seminar and has offered to convene other SRO's around the County. The Council would like to support Grant in this project.

Several Council members asked to be included somehow in these types of meetings scheduled in their own communities. There was strong support and agreement that this should happen, but some concerns regarding the mechanics of contacting appropriate Council members.

ACTION: Gil Schohan, a member of this Workgroup, will notify appropriate Council members of any future Workgroup # 1 information gathering meetings scheduled for their communities.

- **ABCD** Christie Corrigan, who has been attending both this Council Workgroup and a similar committee attached to "Reclaiming Futures", shared that she had recently met with the New Hampton Police Chief and Town Manager. Dick Wallace, also a member, reported that a group of Alton youth and a Pastor in Alton are interested in promoting a town-sponsored ice-skating program in Alton Bay. Dick will stay connected to this project, which could be a candidate for Youth Venture funding.

Sara Fox proposed that the Council be invested in connecting youth with Youth Ventures and suggested that the Council may wish to conduct Youth Forums around the County. "Reclaiming Futures" is earmarking \$20,000 to each Drug Court community to develop activities and connections between at-risk youth and their communities.

ACTION: Sara Fox will be the "Point Person" in exploring possible relationships among the Council, Youth Venture, and Reclaiming Futures, including what types of financial obligations would be involved.

- **Prevention** Sue Smith reported that progress to the Work Plan Goals for this group is as follows: Obj #1: "Collaborating with other organizations to sponsor parenting activities" - Workgroup member Mary Alice Warner is the Council liaison to the P.A.L.S. Project (Parent Leadership Series), a collaborative project with UpStream . Obj #2: "Inventorying existing school and church-based prevention activities" - The Workgroup will meet with Renee Hill, Director of the CoRe Youth Program at Inter-Lakes, to discuss the Inventory/Survey form. Once Workgroup members are comfortable with this Survey, Workgroup members, Nancy Porosky (Gilmanton) and Jim Pilliod (Belmont), will begin this surveying activity, hopefully with interested youth, in their communities. Obj #3 "Preparing/Distributing a directory of current prevention activities/programs in Belknap County" This activity will begin once the Inventory is complete. The next Workgroup Meeting will be with Renee Hill on Thursday, July 29th at 4:30pm at Busiel Mill. **ACTION: Alan will contact Renee to see if she is available to attend this meeting.**
- **Communication** No report is available, as this Workgroup has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting for this group is Friday, July 16th at 2pm at the Busiel Mill.

6. Professional Advisory Committees

- **JJAC** Andre provided an update of the Gordon Bazemore seminar, held on June 25th in lieu of regularly scheduled JJAC meeting. Dr. Gordon Bazemore, from Florida Atlantic University, is Director of the Community Justice Institute housed at FAU, and in that role has worked with Denny Maloney and Dee Bell, who have both consulted in Belknap County. Dr. Bazemore provided an overview of Balanced and Restorative and Community Justice (BARJ) philosophies (a partnership between the "formal system" and the community), and outlined strategies for evaluating these programs. There are two equally important areas to evaluate: (1) *Process*

(Formative) provides information throughout the project regarding implementation of program. Intent is to improve, not prove, performance; (2) *Impact* (Summative, Outcome) conducted at end of program and focusing on the outcomes, not the process. Impact studies require data, including base line information.

Social reforms require us to answer these questions: (1) Where are we going? (2) Where are we now? (3) What are our immediate and intermediate objectives? (4) What are the strategies & practices to reach our goals? (5) Are we doing what we intended? (6) Is the intervention making the intended changes? and (7) Are we achieving outcomes and moving toward our vision?

The community and the program's many stakeholders need regular updates. Andre suggests we consider some form of "Report Card", fashioned along lines of school report cards, be organized and distributed each year by the Council.

Andre was impressed by the variety of participants at the Bazemore seminar, including three administrators from the NH Div of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and the NH Court system. Their presence allowed preliminary conversation around data-sharing between state and local units. There was also a representative from the Vermont DJJS system, opening up possibilities for collaborative projects with Vermont around data and evaluation.

Funded through a grant from NH DJJS, Dr. Bazemore will return at some future time during late 2004 or 2005 for a second visit. Workgroup # 1 (BARJ) and JJAC will continue planning in preparation for this second visit. Andre would like to prepare a manual that explains the juvenile justice system in Belknap County.

Other related items also noted: (1) The County Restorative Justice Program has moved from the County Sheriff's Department to the Belknap County Superior Courthouse (2) NH JusticeWorks has published a study on School Resource Officers.

- **Addictions Task Force** No formal report as this committee has not met since last Council meeting. They continue to work on the standardization of screening and assessment.

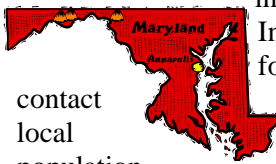
7. Director's Report

- **Grants** The Council has been directly and indirectly involved in the preparation of a number of grant proposals this spring, culminating this week with a proposal submitted by the Friends Program to expand their successful Mentor Program to Belknap County. Alan estimates that over \$400,000 has been requested to support existing, or expand and develop new programs benefiting children and families in Belknap County.
- **Other** Alan referred to the Summary Sheet for remainder of his report. This sheet is copied below:

Regional Forum in Annapolis, Maryland, July 21-23

Belknap County was one of 7 jurisdictions across the country invited to send six representatives to intense 3-day training in Maryland, all expenses paid. Titled "Treating Justice-Involved Adults with Co-occurring Disorders in Rural Settings", this seminar focuses on rural access to mental health and substance abuse services for people in contact with the justice system. The invited "teams" of six will begin to create specific local plans for agencies to better collaborate and improve their services for this population.

Attending from Belknap County are: Sheriff Dan Collis; Joe Panarello, Administrator Belknap County Jail; Michael Coughlin, Exec Dir at Genesis; Jacqui Abikoff, Ex Dir of Horizons Counseling; Judge David Huot, Laconia District Court Judge; and Bob Johnson, a consumer. Council staff wrote original grant and are coordinating related details. *Related to Action Plan Goal # 4*



Annette Schmitt UnSung Hero Award

An ad-hoc committee is forming to manage nomination and selection process for the 2005 UnSung Hero Award to be given at Annual Meeting in January 2005. Committee members include Kathy Calvin (Schmitt Fund Administrator) and Council members: Gil Schohan, Leo Sanfacon, Sue Smith, and Kevin Washburn. ***We would like more Council representatives from outlying areas of the County (Alton, Center Harbor etc)*** to insure countywide interest in this award. Hopefully, Committee will meet 3 times with first meeting to be scheduled for July. Contact: Judy Buswell



Annual Meeting

Council Annual Meeting (January 2005) plans are underway. It will be a joint event again with UpStream and possibly others. National economic consultant (and Laconia resident) Russ Thibeault, owner/operator of Applied Economics Research, is the featured speaker. He will discuss impact of current economic indicators on children and families in Belknap County. Current committee includes Trudy Bantle, Sara Allen, Katie McKerley and Judi Taggart from Upstream, and Katie Kannaly-DeCarteret from the Council. ***Additional Council members are needed!*** Still to be determined are January date, venue, format, decorations, caterer etc. Contact: Judy Buswell



National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in September

The Belknap County Addictions Task Force is again leading an effort for a countywide observance of National Recovery Month in September. This year's theme is "*Join the Voices for Recovery...Now!*" and several different strategies will highlight Belknap County residents who are successfully in recovery. Committee members include Council members, Ruth Castonguay, Christie Corrigan, and Steve Fountain who are developing a calendar of activities which should again include a press event and a mass distribution of purple ribbons, a token of support for breaking the silence and eliminating the stigma surrounding alcohol and drug use disorders. Contact: Judy Buswell *Related to Goal 4*



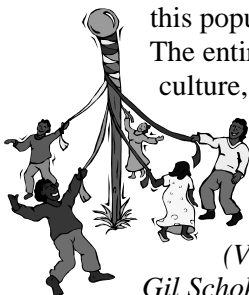
White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives – July 8th

Rev Sharron Lamothe (Lakeport Baptist Church and Chair of LR Clergy Association) and Judy Buswell attended day-long conference in Boston to help faith-based and community organizations learn more about President's Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. These presentations are being offered around the country and are designed to place these churches/synagogues and smaller community organizations on an equal footing with local and state units of government and large non-profits for Federal dollars and private support. *Related to Action Plan Goals 1, 2, and 3.*



Multi-Cultural Market Day – September 11th

Co-sponsored by the Laconia Human Relations Committee and the Laconia MainStreet Program, this popular day-long event celebrates the numerous components of diversity found in Laconia. The entire downtown area is packed with displays and presentations of multi-cultural cuisine, culture, costume, crafts, and conversation. The Citizens Council will have some sort of display and help is needed to develop, set-up, and "man" this table. Please put this date in your calendars and be ready to volunteer several hours to participate in this lively and colorful day. *Related to Goal 4*



(Volunteers to date include Katie Kannaly DeCarteret, Christie Corrigan, Sue Smith and Gil Schohan (10am).