

*Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families*

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE:** Citizens Council

**DATE:** Friday, August 13, 2004

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:06am **TIME ENDED:** 10:05am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham **SUMMARY BY:** Alan Robichaud

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

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**Introductions**

Dick Wallace welcomed and introduced his neighbor and guest, Meg Jones of Alton. Meg shares a common interest in the youth of Alton and has donated the use of her karate studio for teen dances throughout the year. Through her karate lessons, youth are taught discipline, honor, etiquette and other character traits. Meg attended the meeting to meet people on the Council and help in determining her interest in perhaps becoming a member.

- 1. Approval of Minutes** A motion was made by Jim Pilliod and duly seconded to accept the Minutes of July 9, 2004. Passed unanimously.
- 2. Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** Jim Pilliod announced a public health conference on October 29 at the Common Man in Plymouth. For further information consult the web site at [www.nhpha.org](http://www.nhpha.org).
- 3. Chair's Report** Alida indicated that the Executive Committee met and discussed the need for a Planning Committee as there are numerous things in which the Council is both engaged and needs to address in the coming months. Alida called for volunteers and will contact people as well. She also gave a brief update on the formation of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) being promoted through the County Attorney's Office. There was ample discussion to apprise members of how the CAC would conduct investigations of child abuse.

**4. Work Group Reports**

*Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)* - Gil indicated that the BARJ work group has one last interview to complete with the Chief of the Barnstead Police Department. Following this interview, a written summary will be presented to the Council. Additionally, the BARJ workgroup is recommending there be a meeting of SROs throughout Belknap County to give the Council a perspective on issues they deal with with juveniles in the school system. More on this as plans take shape. Judge Martin also indicated that in a recent meeting with the Grafton County Probate Judge and Terry Knowles of the Charitable Trust Division of the Attorney General's Office, there was discussion of the importance of data and statistics to support the work of the Council as well as an interest in seeing that the Council's efforts are replicated in other counties of the state.

*Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)*- Christie reported the group has been meeting as part of the Reclaiming Futures ABCD group and discussing ways to assist in making community connections for youth involved in the Drug Court system. This group has active youth participation and Dick, through this group, has connected with a young member from Barnstead who he hopes will continue to attend and support planning and implementation of youth activities through the Prospect Mountain High School opening this fall. Alan pointed out that two key issues (confidentiality and

liability) sometimes present barriers for community engagement. These issues are being addressed by the national Reclaiming Futures project among the ten sites across the country and will be the subject of ongoing local and national discussions.

*Prevention* – Sue reported the committee met with Renee Hill of CoRe (Inter-Lakes community response initiative) and discussed several matters (e.g. prevention asset inventory, prevention network grant, Fall Festival). Also discussed was the upcoming Youth Tobacco Survey performed by the NH Department of Public Health. This national survey randomly selects 100 New Hampshire schools each year in which to conduct the survey. This year, Laconia Memorial Middle School and Laconia High School were selected and volunteers are needed. A comprehensive training program will be held on September 29 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Concord for volunteers who will conduct in-school surveys. So far, Christie and Gil have volunteered to conduct the survey. Another 3 or 4 people will be needed to assist in this effort. Please contact Alan (528-3185) as soon as possible if you think you can help out.

*Communications* – Peter reported that the committee has begun to review and compile fact sheets pertaining to the five key issue areas impacting children and families identified by the Council (i.e. juvenile delinquency, child abuse, domestic violence, mental illness and substance abuse). The fact sheets will highlight the extent and impact of the problem in Belknap County and identify contacts and other resources which are available to assist in addressing the issue areas. Because of the lack of valid and reliable data on these issues, this has become a tedious process but one that will be pursued by staff and work group members. Also discussed was a draft protocol to activate media response to prevalent issues impacting children and families. A revision has been sent back for work group review after which Council members will receive a copy. In order to elevate communications as a Council top priority, we need to develop a range of PSAs, fact sheets, talk show appearances, and many other tools through which to bring issues into focus. While staff time needs to be allocated to this end, we must rely on Council member initiative to help carry the load.

## **5. Professional Advisory Committees**

*JJAC* - Alan reported that the Data Management sub-committee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) has met and John Cook will be working on compiling elements for a “report card” type of document to address public sources on issues being addressed within the juvenile justice system. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for the week of August 16.

*Addiction Task Force* – Alan reported that a sub-committee of the Task Force is developing plans to provide training to local area nursing staff (e.g. schools, hospitals, doctors’ offices) on the importance of screening for alcohol and drug use. CEUs for nursing staff will be pursued and a November 3 training session is planned. On an unrelated issue, Alan indicated there have been plans by the State to conduct a public forum with the Governor-appointed drug czars somewhere in Meredith on January 18, 2005. This is a tentative date and subject to change but we will try to keep council members and others posted as the date draws near. The Executive Director of the NH Task Force on Women and Addictions, Niki Miller, has requested the Governor consider the appointment of the drug “czarina” as there are very specific gender issues that pertain to girls and women.

## **6. Director’s Report**

*PALS Leadership Series* – Alan called upon Council members to put a push on distributing information on the PALS series. To date, only one formal application has been received although several calls have been taken from interested participants. Remember, the target is two parents from each of our eleven communities.

*Tobacco Survey* – Council members were reminded to let us know if they have any interest in participating in the Tobacco survey in Laconia schools in October. Thanks to Christie and Gil for signing on. Others are still welcome and needed.

*Schmitt Award* – Council members were reminded again of the upcoming annual awarding of the Schmitt fund. Judy has convened a committee of Council members and Kathy Calvin of Martin, Law and Osman to develop this year's criteria for the award. Council members will again be asked to help identify and disseminate application materials to worthy individuals throughout their communities.

*Recovery Month* – This year's annual awareness month is “*Join the Voices of Recovery...Now!*” A Press Conference has been scheduled for September 1 at the County Complex and 11:00 AM. All Council members are welcome. This year, the business sector will be represented by Gary Groleau, Human Resources Director of NH Ball Bearing.

*Center for Civic Engagement* is hosting a taping on *Technology...Linking People to Their Community*”. This taping will take place at the Community Technical College computer laboratory and will feature three emerging web-based efforts to connect people to the business and amenities sectors of the Lakes Region, the Volunteer Action Center and to *HealthWorks2*, a directory assisting people to locate appropriate agencies and organizations that provide specific assistance in a wide range of support and service areas.

*Barnstead Community Response Team* is being formed by a group of local citizens. Alan has been attending several meetings over the past few months and assists where needed in getting a grassroots organization going. We now have regular contact with folks in Barnstead who want to become actively engaged in addressing local needs. A late August meeting will be attended by Selectmen and the Chief of Police.

*Annual Meeting* will be held on January 11, 2005. We will again be co-facilitating the conference portion of the evening with UpStream, the Center for Civic Engagement and perhaps the emerging Family Violence Prevention Council. Russ Thibeault has agreed to serve as our keynote presenter on a theme of economics and its impact on children and families. Please let Judy know ASAP if you can give time to serve on the Annual Meeting committee. Much work needs to be done.

*Council Revenues* – The last installment of the Council's annual budget has been received from the Schmitt Fund. A check for \$53,500 + has been deposited within the County's account. Once again, the Council expresses its deepest appreciation to the Schmitt Fund and particularly Judge Martin and Kathy Calvin for their undying commitment to children, families and the Council. Their vision, generosity, and partnership are unparalleled! It is anticipated that the Citizens Council will be fully County funded by fiscal year '07.

*Restorative Justice* – A meeting was convened with the County Commissioners regarding funding for the Restorative Justice Program. As a result, a combination of Schmitt Fund and private fund-raising contributions and perhaps county funds will be pursued in the next few months. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted for review by the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee and the Commissioners to re-affirm the County's role and commitment to the Restorative Justice Program.

*Community Service and Competency Enhancement* – Alan described current direction centering on the development of enhanced community service opportunities for youth involved in court and court diversion –type services. With the advent of Reclaiming Futures and Youth Venture developing a partnership on behalf of Laconia District Court Drug Court, a second grant initiative has been applied for non-adjudicated youth to leverage Youth Venture match through the Alcoa Foundation and Noyes

Fiber Optics in Belmont. Perhaps a tie-in with Junior Achievement will see a continuum of pro-social, mentoring and civic engagement developing for all youth including those adjudicated. A conversation with the Chamber of Commerce Director may lead to some interesting initiatives toward the creation of active business sector engagement in youth. The Council's role is to identify what resources exist and find ways to use them efficiently developing healthy communities in which children and families can live with dignity and respect. More to come.

- 7. Public Comment** Meg Jones expressed her thanks and interest in the work of the Council. She indicated her desire to help out in Alton with various youth activities, those which Dick Wallace and others are doing. Meg works closely with Dick's organization by offering her karate studio for monthly teen dances. Meg, having recently been inducted into the Martial Arts World Hall of Fame, discussed a future event in Manchester "Today's Youth...Tomorrow's Masters". While Meg is considering the possibility of becoming a Council member, she thanked the Council and Dick for the invitation to attend today's meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, September 10, 2004

**TIME:** 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

**LOCATION:** Busiel Community Room, One Mill Plaza, Laconia