

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, August 8, 2003 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:00am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Alida Millham

SITE: New Hampton Town Offices **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Sue Smith, Alida Millham, Gil Schohan, Rob Rovella, Scott AndersEn, Mary Alice Warner, Peter Michaud, Kim Campbell, Jim Pilliod, Katy Kanally-DeCarteret, Dick Wallace, Jim Carroll **EXCUSED:** Leo Sanfacon, Mark Condodemetraky, Nancy Porosky **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Linda Brewer **ABSENT:** Andre Paquette, Kevin Washburn **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUESTS:** Chief Chip Sawyer, New Hampton Police Department; Barbara Lucas, Town Administrator

1. **Approve Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of July 11, 2003 as written made by Sue Smith; second by Gil Schohan. Motion carried.

2. **Welcomes & Additions to Agenda:**

- **Thank you** to Rob Rovella for handling meeting arrangements and “for bringing donuts”! Chief Sawyer and Barbara Lucas who attended the first part of this meeting were introduced and welcomed. Chief Sawyer mentioned the upcoming charette on August 22 and 23 for developing 97 acres of available land for town common and town offices. He would like Bob Rovella and Alan Robichaud to attend. Alan extended invitation to Chief Sawyer and others from New Hampton to attend Steven Bingler residency on October 16 (described below)

ACTION:

- **Alan and Rob will make arrangements to attend New Hampton Charette**
- **A formal invitation to Bingler program will be given to Chief Sawyer and Barbara Lucas**
- **Letters of Support** The Citizens Council has been asked to provide two letters of support for: (1) GENESIS’ application to continue as a Community Mental Health Center (2) NH Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) in support of their grant proposal to NH Dept of Education to build regional resource and support centers for families. Both requests were discussed at the Aug 6th meeting of the Executive Council and it was agreed that Alan should write these letters on behalf of the Council.

Regarding GENESIS: It was acknowledged that it is a challenge for GENESIS to be completely responsive to community needs while at the same time the State is curtailing the resources it provides to GENESIS and other Community Mental Health Centers.

Regarding NAMI: This is a 3-year grant of up to 3 million dollars that will be available to NH. Connected to No Child Left Behind, this grant proposes to provide technical assistance and trainings. One goal is to increase high school graduation rates. A Letter of Support implies some level of commitment, including representation on a statewide council that oversees the grant.

No objections voiced to providing these Letters of Support.

ACTION: Alan will write Letters of Support to NH NAMI and to GENESIS as explained above.

3. **Executive Committee Report** Alida reviewed the Committee’s discussion on the Juvenile Offender Locator Team Program (JOLT) whose funding is threatened because of new priorities at the Federal level. The JOLT program, now 1-year old, operates out of the County Sheriffs Dept and is a result of a collaborative effort with the Citizens Council. JOLT is a paring of law enforcement and Juvenile Probation and Parole Officers who make evening visits to juveniles in their homes to monitor compliance with court-orders and curfew restrictions. Funding comes through NH Div of Juvenile Justice Services from a Federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (OJJDP) designed to improve the accountability of juvenile offenders and their parents. The County’s JOLT began in July 2002 as the State’s first countywide JOLT. The Bush administration has changed some of the funding priorities and allocation amounts meaning that the State will

receive less money in this particular Block Grant. Currently Joe Diament, Dir of NH DJJS, is reviewing the data and outcomes and feels that JOLT may not be the most cost-effective use of these funds. Instead, NH DJJS would like to see communities pick up JOLT expenses. Joe Diament also points to an increase in the amount of money paid to other “tracking” programs. As well, he is not able to make a connection between Belknap County’s decreased admissions to YDC and the JOLT Program. Current funding extends through September and after October 1, it appears that other sustainability arrangements will need to be made to continue JOLT such as flex scheduling for the JPPOs.

Jim Carroll expressed his “philosophical opposition” to JOLT, as this program “is paying people to do what they should be doing anyway. If curfews are ordered, then follow-through strategies should also be available”. Jim Pilliod says if we determine this Program works, then we should not let a lack of funds “kill it”. Jim’s comments underscore the need for reliable data, an “initiative of JJAC and the Council”, according to Alida. **ACTION: The Council Executive Committee and JJAC will continue to monitor the status and impact of JOLT and will continue to search for alternate funding options.**

Alida and Alan explained that JJAC has identified three major areas of priority and has agreed to work in sub-committees around each of these areas:

- Increased community awareness of the County’s juvenile justice system and its needs
- Keeping kids in Belknap County by providing the necessary services within the County, with foster and shelter care beds being the biggest void.
- Developing solid and integrated data from each aspect of the County’s juvenile justice system that will help to identify needs, describe outcomes, and that can be shared among all the agencies and organizations that interact with juveniles and their families.

Each of these three JJAC sub-committees will have at least one Council member, helping to provide the necessary link to the Citizens Council. Alida stressed that the “agenda of JJAC is the Council’s agenda and that our challenge is to ask pertinent questions of JJAC and to help tease out other options that might not be readily obvious to JJAC members.

Jim Pilliod said that what is really needed is “independent living” situations as many of these kids if returned to their dysfunctional home situations, simply regress. These are “re-entry” issues and will be further explored in these JJAC committees. Both Mary Alice Warner and Katy Kanally-DeCarteret expressed a strong interest in helping to develop “independent living” situations.

ACTION: Mary Alice Warner and Katy Kannally-DeCartaret will be added to the JJAC list and will be encouraged to attend these meetings, especially as the discussion relates to strengthening “re-entry” supports.

Other points of discussion included:

- Would like to study outcomes from Deschutes model
- It is very difficult to access at-risk families. Attempts to contact them through the schools have not been productive. Would like to create some sort of structure or process to engage parents.
- One-on-one dialogue with the opportunity to ask directly “what their needs are” works. Scott AndersEn requires a meeting with any student (and their parents) who decides to drop out of school. Often solutions to keep the student in school emerge in these sessions.
- There are 4 elements that need attention to resolve issues in a child’s life: the child, the parents, the child’s relationship with his/her parents, and the child’s environment. This is “community justice”
- We need to move from an environment of “court or school ordered mandates” to one of “a community that cares”. Perhaps some sort of “Community Wellness Check” strategy could be developed.
- The work of the Council should be “about improving the lot of all families and kids, not just those at-risk or in trouble”.

4. **Planning Committee** Gil Schohan reminded Council members that their feedback is needed on the draft Goals and Objectives emailed to them on July 28, by August 15. The Planning and Executive Committees have provided their input and have approved the documents. Judy and Alan are now expanding these Goals

and Objectives with specific strategies and activities, time lines, responsibilities, outcome measures etc and will email this expanded draft document to Council members by August 22 for their input.

Peter Michaud suggested that Objective 1, under Goal 1 should include victim participation and citizen involvement in addition to youth rehabilitation. It is these 3 components together that makes a “Balanced and Restorative Justice” philosophy.

Jim Pilliod suggests that Goal 3 around Prevention should reference “evidence-based” rather than “strength-based.

5. **Public Relations** Katy Kanally-DeCartaret, Chair of the Council Annual Meeting, provided an update. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13 at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center. Keynote speaker is Laura Nissen. A theme for the meeting is being developed; perhaps the comments from this Council meeting can be incorporated.. Additional members to serve on Annual Meeting Committee are needed. Teachers may be able to earn CEUs by attending this event.

Judge Martin will present the Schmitt Award for an outstanding “behind the scenes” volunteer. Gil is chairing this Award Committee and will be sending out the Request for Applications to a variety of non-profits and schools after Labor Day. Sue Smith offered to help Alida with the selection process.

The invitation list for the Annual Meeting is being developed.

ACTION:

- **Council members will forward their suggestions for Invitation List to Annual Meeting to Katy or to Council staff.**
- **Council members who wish to work with Katy on the Annual Meeting should contact Katy or Council staff**

6. **Legislative Committee** Mary Alice Warner, Chair, asked if others perceived any role for the Legislative Committee at this time? The legislators will vote on the Budget resolution on September 4th and a two-thirds vote is necessary for it to pass. Jim Pilliod encouraged others to study the budget figures. On the surface it appears as if most programs have been preserved; however, there have been some pieces removed, e.g. no Tobacco Settlement funds will be used for tobacco cessation or prevention nor will any revenue from alcohol sales be used for treatment or prevention. It was noted that NH CAN is now assembling its priorities for the next year and is looking for input. Jim Pilliod has been determined to be the Council’s liaison to NH CAN.

7. **Grants and Finance** This committee has not met in the last month; the next meeting is Monday, August 11th

8. **Restorative Justice** Gil, a member of the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee, explained that Brian Loanes is looking for “employment opportunities” for several juveniles who need to pay restitution fees, such as yard work or other home tasks.

ACTION: Council members who have a need for house or yard tasks, or know others who might should contact Brian Loanes at 527-5454.

9. **Director’s Report - Alan Robichaud**

- **Restorative Justice** is a philosophy, not just a program, and other agencies etc are incorporating this philosophy into their interactions with youth. He recently participated as a panelist for Youth Services Bureau and noted that the panelists emphasized the impact of the juvenile’s offense on the victim and the community.
- **Steven Bingler Event** is scheduled for October 16-17 and is the result of input provided by County citizens at the Community Forums during the fall of 2002. Steven Bingler, from New Orleans, has had experience in helping others throughout the country, including in New Hampshire, think beyond bricks and mortar projects such as Community Centers, one of the top priorities identified at last fall’s forums. The Council received a \$5,000 grant from LR Charitable Foundation and a commitment of \$500 from NH Cooperative Extension to bring Bingler to NH. Mr. Bingler is also interested in juvenile justice issues and

how these issues impact community dynamics and needs. Alan has prepared a tentative schedule for the October residency and encourages all Council members to participate. Council members will be asked to lead the effort around inviting citizens and leaders from their communities to attend. As the goal of Council efforts is to embed philosophies that build healthy communities, we will work with other entities such as Reclaiming Futures to sponsor appropriate follow-up activities.

- **Interlakes Financial Advisory Committee** Alan noted that Scott Andersen has created a “Financial Advisory Committee”, composed of community leaders, business people, and others to dialogue on school priorities and budgeting issues. Alan has been observing these meetings.

- 10. NH DADAPR Structure** Alida explained that Riley Regan, Director of NH Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Recovery, is interested in placing of federal funds that they receive with counties for management and distribution. Currently DADAPR staff is developing administrative models to handle this change; the model recently introduced to the Addictions Committee was perceived as “somewhat complicated and bureaucratic and one not completely in sync with Council goals and processes.” This proposed model has three tiers that include (1) Addictions coalitions in each community; (2) a middle tier that includes representatives from each of the community coalitions who discuss funding priorities, and (3) an executive level composed of reps from the middle tier, and from the provider and recovery communities. A county-level Coordinator (paid by state funds) will be responsible for developing and working with all three levels.

The key concern is how the Council will interact with this re-structuring. This interface is critical but in order to better define the Council role, much more information is needed. Alida noted that Riley Regan would be asked to attend the September 8th meeting of the Planning Committee where he can answer questions and explain his idea more completely. Council members are invited to attend this meeting.

- 11. Summaries** One word summaries by Council members of today’s meeting include: “Exciting”, “Fine”, “Progress”, and “good start on Goals & Objectives”.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, September 12th 8-10am

WHERE: Gilmanton - TBA