

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, September 10, 2004

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

PRESENT: Alida Millham, Jim Pilliod (left at 8:30am), Kevin Washburn, Dick Wallace, Andre Paquette, Sarah Fox, Katy Kannaly-Decarteret, Christie Corrigan, Gil Schohan, Sue Smith **ABSENT:** Bob Rovella, Jim Carroll, Ruth Castonguay, Stephen Fountain, Peter Michaud, Nancy Porosky, Leo Sanfacon, Mary Alice Warner **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell
GUESTS: Judge Willard Martin, Teresa Skahill (Barnstead)

1. **Welcome/Introductions** Alida welcomed Teresa Scahill, a resident of Barnstead who has been participating in a community development initiative in her community.
2. **Approval of Minutes** Motion “to accept the minutes of Council meeting on August 13, 2004 as written was made by Gil Schohan; second by Dick Wallace. Motion carried.
3. **Additions/Amendments to Agenda** Agenda accepted as written with no changes.
4. **Chair’s Report** Alida noted that she attends many Council meetings. She believes “things are beginning to happen in a logical manner”. This year’s move to workgroups, while difficult at first, is beginning to bring greater connections to the communities in Belknap County, moving the Council closer to its mission.
4. **Work Group Reports**
 - ***BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice)*** Gil Schohan, Point Person, said that they have finished interviewing Police Chiefs in Belknap County. The BARJ Workgroup will meet the week of 9/13. Committee member, André Paquette, said he has finished reviewing the very “excellent” OJJDP Desk Top Manual distributed to JPPOs. As this manual clearly outlines the various components in the juvenile justice system (Courts, JPPOs, citizens etc), this resource should be available for others to read.
ACTION: Andre will prepare an Abstract of Desktop Manual for review by Council members and others. He and Council staff will research how to access additional copies. *N.B. The manual is titled “Desktop Guide to Juvenile Probation Practice”. Council staff has ordered 3 copies. <http://ncjj.servehttp.com/NCJJWebsite/publications/azlist/d.htm> Additional html links at end of these minutes.*

Christie Corrigan said she met with the Town Administrator of New Hampton and Police Chief Chip Sawyer who indicate that New Hampton youth do not usually offend in New Hampton, but elsewhere. Jim McCollum, Principal of the Newfound Middle School, was suggested as someone who could provide a school perspective on the status of New Hampton youth. It was noted that the New Hampton PD is very involved in prevention work with the New Hampton Elementary School. Judge Martin said that Chief Sawyer does bring Abuse and Neglect cases to the attention of the Court.

Katy Kannaly-Decarteret, who participated in a similar discussion with the Sanbornton Police Chief, shared her perspective of this meeting. Sanbornton and Tilton juveniles still do not have fair access to the same services offered through the Laconia District Court, as they must use the Franklin District Court. Kevin Washburn also voiced his ongoing concerns on this topic. This situation is complex, sensitive, and cannot be resolved at the Council level, but will require

ongoing collaboration and work to find any resolution. Alan referred to the facilitation work he completed with a group of people from the Winnisquam Regional School District and others and the final recommendations made in his summary report that was distributed to those involved. The group needs to follow the recommendations they endorsed.

- ***ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development)*** Christie Corrigan, Point Person, said this Workgroup has been meeting with the Reclaiming Futures and Youth Ventures representatives, as all three have similar goals as well as unique resources. Sara Fox, Council liaison to Youth Ventures, has contacted both the Tilton School and the Sant Bani School. Both schools are interested in making connections with Youth Ventures. Additional youth group contacts were provided Sara, including Becky Levesque (Belknap County 4-H), Sue Roberts (Belmont), Dianne Zawacki (Laconia Teen Center), Wendy Kennison (Youth Opportunities/Tilton-Northfield). Dick Wallace has met with Jim Hamel of Youth Ventures. He hopes his youth group in Alton will coordinate a YV meeting. Barnstead is also working on a YV project.

Christie mentioned that she and Bob Rovella hosted a Council display at the New Hampton Old Home Day celebration in August. They were able to talk with a number of community residents. Christie is also helping to organize a “Rocktober Fest”, (20 “punk” bands) on October 2 at the Wicwas Grange in Meredith.

We are awaiting word on whether a grant to the Alcoa Foundation via Noyes Fiber Optics (Belmont) has been approved. If so, we hope to establish a relationship for matching funds for Youth Venture activities with local banks and businesses throughout the Lakes Region.

- ***Prevention*** Sue Smith, Point Person, said her workgroup did not meet in August but will meet next on September 23. Sue said that two Council members, Christie Corrigan and Gil Schohan, would be attending a day-long training in preparation for administering the Tobacco Survey to students at Laconia High and Laconia Memorial Middle School. Laconia schools were randomly selected by the NH Tobacco Prevention Program to participate in this year’s survey.

PALS (Parents as Leaders in Society series): Registrations are coming in slowly so the deadline has been extended to October 1. As the program was first announced during the summer, the schools have not yet had an opportunity to distribute information to parents. Alan asked Council members to continue exploring their networks for potential applicants. Dick Wallace wonders if the term “leadership” might be intimidating to many. Alan cited the grassroots activities in Barnstead as an example of what “a leader is”. The PALS training will assist those parents who are looking for solutions to community and societal issues, but who have not yet found the necessary grass-roots connections. PALS will provide direction, support, and encouragement to parents who are interested in improving their communities.

- ***Communication*** Alida (in the absence of Peter Michaud, Point Person) said that this workgroup met this week with public relations professional, John Vorel. This Workgroup has asked John to submit a proposal for working with the Council on strategic communications. Mr. Vorel sees three phases for a communications plan: (1) Provide support and guidance to the Communication Workgroup in developing the specific pieces in this Communications Plan (2) Providing education for the Council in communicating the core messages (3) Delivering the broader message of Community Justice to the citizens and others in Belknap County. The Communication Workgroup will review John’s proposal.

Teresa Scahill explained the community work she is helping to facilitate in Barnstead. Their big challenge is around uniting the various “sectors and segments” in Barnstead, a community that

has distinct geographic centers as well as a long association with the neighboring town of Pittsfield. This group of citizens, selectmen, law enforcement and fire personnel has determined that their biggest need is around “Wellness”, and most particularly with the senior citizens. Sue Smith, Administrator at the Taylor Community, offered to assist Teresa with projects relating to seniors.

5. Professional Advisory Committees

- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) (Data Sub-Committee)** This committee is developing an annual “Report Card to the Community” from the Citizens Council and its committees and networks. The report will include data on children and families in Belknap County i.e. demographics, economic concerns etc. This information will also be used by the Council to set goals for future Council work.

JJAC and the BARJ Workgroup are working on establishing Benchmarks to assess how Belknap County is integrating the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice. Such indicators as (1) Victim Restitution and Victim Satisfaction (2) Rehabilitation of offenders, including the degrees of accountability mandated, and hours and quality of community service completed by juvenile offenders (3) Degree of perceived community safety i.e. recidivism rates, numbers of citizens involved in the restorative process (participation on panels, monitoring community service etc.) This information will also guide the Council in framing its future goals.

The Data Committee acknowledges the participation of two individuals: Carol Schonfeld, Administrator of Human Services in Belknap County, and John Cook, a data professional, who has been volunteering with this project.

- **Addictions Task Force** The Task Force is leading a countywide observance of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month during September. Activities began with a Press Briefing on Sept 1 at the County Complex and include the start of a year-long effort to collect statements from people in the Lakes Region who are successfully in recovery from addictions. Designed to address the barriers of stigmas and negative perceptions associated with addictions, these statements will be distributed throughout the Lakes Region. Judy Buswell is working with Jacqui Abikoff and Sue Caldon to prepare a grant proposal for funding from the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation. Other activities this month include presentations for clubs and organizations and an Open House at the Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency Program.

6. **Director’s Report** Alan shared his recent connection with the Welfare Officer in Barnstead who offered a unique presentation on alcohol and addictions to local high school students. This gentleman combined his experiences as someone in recovery with his affinity for motorcycles in a presentation that captivated the students. Alan cited this story as an example of how local resources can effectively address local problems.

Council Membership Bob Rovella who will be moving to Massachusetts, has resigned as a Council member. The Council now has five vacancies with the top priority being Barnstead, a community without a Council representative. Other specific needs include the communities of Alton, Gilmanton, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton who each have only one representative.

Multi Cultural Day Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, Sue Smith, Alida Millham, Christie Corrigan, and Gil Schohan will host the Council’s display throughout the day on September 11th.

Annual Meeting The date, already scheduled for Tuesday, January 11th 2005, conflicts with the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Addiction Forum in Belknap County and the Lakes

Region. To avoid competing for the same audience, Alan suggests combining the two events, with the Annual Meeting from 5-7pm and the Forum from 7-9pm. The anticipated site will be the Expo Center in Lakeport. Council members agreed that this is a good idea and urged Council staff to make the necessary arrangements with the Forum coordinators. Council members offering to assist with planning include Kevin Washburn, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, and Christie Corrigan. The first planning meeting will be scheduled soon.

Adolescent Treatment Initiative (ATI) New Futures will be holding a series of Informational Forums for potential grantees. ATI is a 5-year initiative of New Futures with the goal of creating a statewide, comprehensive system of non-residential ATOD treatment programs serving adolescents. The Forum dates are Sept 23rd in Littleton (10-11:30 am); Sept 29th in Concord (2-3pm); and Oct 1st in Nashua (11-12:30). Judy Buswell will attend the Concord session. Interested others are urged to attend.

Laconia District Court Renovation Gil Schohan will chair a committee interested in building legislative and public support for keeping the Laconia District Court in its current downtown Laconia location. Extensive renovations will be required. Committee members include Laconia MainStreet and the Court Administrator, Diane Lane. The first event, specifically designed to educate members of the County Delegation, is scheduled for October 15th and includes a tour of the facility.

NH Substance Abuse Conference Alan shared information about the 2-day conference on October 26 and 27th, "Prevention & Treatment Partners in Practice". Council funds are available to fund registration and hotel fees for those interested in attending. Council members or community partners who would like to attend this conference should contact Alan.

ACTION: Those interested are asked to contact Alan asap so that reservations can be made.

7. Other Business

- **Literacy Rates** Andre reminded Council members of the clear connection between low literacy rates in children and the elevated risk of these children becoming involved in the juvenile system. A number of literacy programs now underway in Belknap County were explained, including a Community-wide project sponsored by the Laconia library and schools; a formal connection made by primary care providers and the Family Birthplace at LRGH; a Barnstead project involving seniors,; and additional projects in Gilford and Sanbornton.

ACTION: Andre will contact Bob Champlin (Laconia School Superintendent) for additional information. Andre will also explore a possible role of the Council, perhaps in a countywide promotion of literacy, including a listing of current programs. This item will also be referred to the Prevention Work Group of the Council

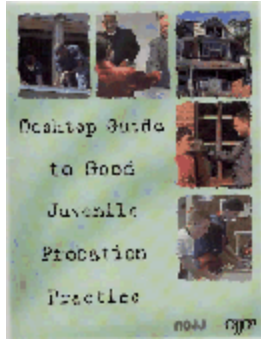
- **Lakes Region Charitable Foundation (LRCF)** Gil Schohan, a Board member of LRCF, announced that the Foundation has decided to add Operating Support grants for non-profits to the current funding categories. This decision is part of a national trend to add general operating support for non-profits to their funding options.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, October 8th 8-10am

WHERE: Busiel Mill, River Level Meeting Room

Desktop Guide to Good Juvenile Probation Practice (2002)



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Chapter 8

Disposition Recommendations

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Chapter 9

Supervision

[View PDF](#) 

Chapter 10

Selected Practice and Techniques

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Chapter 11

Special Populations


[View PDF](#) 

Chapter 12

A Call to Action

[View PDF](#) 

Glossary

[View PDF](#) 

Appendices

Selected Assessment Forms and Instruments

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Index

[View PDF](#) 