

**BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2005**

SUMMARY

Attending: Sue Smith, Nancy Porosky, Andre Paquette, Dick Wallace, Christie Corrigan, Jim Pilliod, Kevin Washburn, Alida Millham. **Staff:** Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud
Guests: Amy Howe (The Friends Program) and Jay Bachelder (Child and Family Services – ATI Initiative)

1. Introductions: The Council welcomed Jay Bachelder and Amy Howe as guests to the meeting.

2. Additions to the Agenda – There were none.

3. Work Group Reports

BARJ – Andre Paquette reported the group continues its work on the Performance Measures Report Card that will hopefully be ready for public distribution next spring. All pre-court, court-diverted, court-ordered program providers have been collaborating to complete the use of case closing forms in line with the state's DJJS to integrate reporting data with the *Bridges* case tracking system. The Data subcommittee has been following along with this development and is additionally looking at broader indicators of youth involvement in the DJJS and DCYF systems.

A report generated by the BARJ work group, as a result of a Victims' focus group, was brought forward for Council approval to distribute to JJAC. Work continues on the development of a Victims' Rights brochure and a Victims' Satisfaction Survey. These documents will be vetted through the Data subcommittee of BARJ before being put into circulation and usage.

Andre announced the recent placement of a juvenile probation and parole officer to the Laconia Police Department. This individual is available between the hours of 2:30 PM and 10:30 PM and assists law enforcement agencies throughout the county although stationed within the LPD. This allows office coverage, victim interviews and juvenile checks across 17 hours a day by the regional Juvenile Probation and Parole department.

Other positive developments are being seen within the Drug Court system through subcommittee activities pertaining to intake procedures, orientation processes, and graduation criteria to assist youth, families and providers in providing consistent functions and expectations of all parties. The recent nomination of Ned Gordon to the Franklin District Court, is a welcomed announcement.

Action: The Council unanimously approved a motion, duly made (Washburn) and seconded (Pilliod) that the Victims' Report Summary be forwarded to the JJAC for their discussion and future recommendations.

Action: Andre will discuss inviting Ned Gordon for an orientation with the BARJ work group.

ABCD – Christie Corrigan reported that the Community Youth Mapping process had gone well and she hosted a pizza party and volleyball game for the youth and staff who conducted the surveys. We wish thank Renee Rockwell and Shannon Swett for facilitating this initiative and we are looking forward to the results and next steps in the process. Youth will be asked to make presentations on their experience with this process and it has been reported that four youth were asked if they were interested in part-time jobs during the surveying.

In an attempt to recruit mentors for The Friends Program, Christie and others have hosted house parties hoping to attract interested community members. The Friends program is again staffed and has reorganized the organizational processes and communication between the Concord and Laconia offices to increase efficiencies. Amy Howe (guest) and Seth Perdue are our new mentor program coordinators for Belknap County. A recent difficulty being experienced, in addition to needing to continue to recruit mentors, is the lack of youth being referred for mentors. While we believe that some of this is a result of it being summer, hoping to see increased referrals when schools reconvene and a couple of weeks, all Council members are asked to assist by contacting their schools and reminding them there is a mentoring program in Belknap

County. Likewise, please encourage any families you may feel could benefit from their child having a mentor to apply to the program. Contact information for Amy and Seth follows:

Amy Howe	Seth Perdue
One Mill Plaza	One Mill Plaza'
Laconia, NH 03246	Laconia, NH 03246
ahowe@friendsprogram.org	sperdue@friendsprogram.org

(603) 737-0030 or 1-880-536-1193 (Amy and Seth)

Action: Council members contact their community schools (targeting Asst. Principals) for youth referrals (ages 8 to 14) to The Friends Program

Members of the ABCD work group are making inquiries as to the desire on the part of other agencies/organizations to conduct joint community forums this fall. It may be time to develop a more comprehensive approach to child and family issues. The committee will keep the Council apprised on this development.

Christie has approach an individual for possible interest in joining the Council. She will follow-up and invite her to a future meeting. (See Executive Committee Report for further discussion on recruitment).

Prevention – Judy Buswell reported for Ruth Castonguay. Judy distributed a comprehensive packet on September's Recovery Month festivities including a signing of a Proclamation by the County Commissioners; a Recovery Walk to the Post Office for a Press Conference and release of signed petitions requesting elected officials' assistance in acquiring resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services; and a host of other activities and events scheduled throughout the month. An updated Fact Sheet has been developed for use by groups throughout the region as well.

Ruth has done an incredible job not only working on Recovery Month initiatives but particularly in convening people in the Recovery community in forming a Belknap County chapter of Friends of Recovery. This consumer-driven group will be instrumental in assisting the Council's direction-setting in alcohol and other drug use, abuse, and addictions priorities. The Council is supporting the activities of this group in its early stages. Alan acknowledged the tremendous amount of assistance that Judy has contributed to the multitude of events, activities and promotion of this year's Recovery Month.

Executive Committee – Sue Smith reported that the committee is reviewing staff job descriptions for consistency with current needs of the Council. There appears to be appropriate alignment of descriptions, expectations and needs. Further, additional clerical support may be requested, as needed, from the County Administration office. Future discussions with other county departments will determine appropriateness of budget requests for program evaluation needs in the region.

Council recruitment was discussed as needing members' attention. A reminder that we have three vacancies and will have five term expirations come January's Annual Meeting. At previous Council member requests, staff has provided recruitment materials. We have said staff will go anywhere, anytime to meet with prospective candidates but this is also a Council responsibility and we need your help. If days of the month and times of the day are detrimental to recruitment then this needs to be revisited. However, by changing days and times for new folks, we could jeopardize attendance by current members. This is not an easy solution but we need to figure something out soon. It was suggested that a short survey be sent out again requesting input from Council members. Alida submitted some questions that could be added to such a survey (See below). Andre felt we had better attendance when the BJJJ convened at 7:00 AM. This provided opportunities for people to participate and still get to work at a reasonable hour. As is predictable, there will be no ideal time that meets everyone's schedule but we need to proceed with recruitment.

Action: A survey process will be discuss and distributed through the Executive Committee.

Alida's questions for consideration on the survey:

1. What barriers do you find in attending and participating in Council meeting?
2. What are the strengths of the Council's functions?
3. What Council meeting time would work best for you?

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM; 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM; 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM; Other _____

4. Adolescent Treatment Initiative – Jay Bachelder

The Council welcomed Jay Bachelder, Coordinator of the Adolescent Treatment Initiative (collaborative project of Child and Family Services and Genesis Behavioral Health). Jay gave an overview of how the new project, funded by a grant from New Futures, will play out in Belknap County. The Council was instrumental in facilitating the planning process that led to this project being funded and wish to acknowledge the support and assistance of Ray Barrett (Genesis) and especially Shari Landry (Child and Family Services) who wrote the final proposal to New Futures. Child and Family Services of New Hampshire is the lead agency in this venture and has hired Jay to coordinate it. We are excited to have this initiative bring much needed treatment services to our youth in Belknap County.

5. Director's Report

Alan Robichaud gave updates on the following initiatives, events and activities:

- A. Mediation training – Collaboration with Community Technical College, Youth Services Bureau, and Center for Civic Engagement;
- B. Convocation 2006 – January 24, 2006. Judge Kelly has agreed to serve as keynote presenter.
- C. Multi-Cultural Day – (Sept. 10) Volunteers needed to assist with vender/agency tables (call Alan)
- D. Business Show Case – October 27, Expo Center. We will combine with CoRe and feature the Community Mapping Project with some youth participants.
- E. Parents As Leaders in Society series starting up. Need Council help in recruiting parents. Application packets were handed out for distribution by Council members. (Call Alan). Great leadership connections are being made by past PALS graduates.
HELP! We need each Council member to give an application to two different families from your community. Application is attached for your convenience and those not present at today's meeting.
- F. Media Enrichment experience for Teen Center youth at New Hampton School this summer. Two of eleven participants were offered full scholarships to next summer's Performance Plus program!
- G. Kennedy School of Government briefing. Informational packets distributed and brief chat followed. Implications for the Council's work will follow at later date.

6. Approve Minutes of June Council meeting

Motion to accept the Minutes of June 10, 2005 Council meeting was made by Andre Paquette, seconded by Jim Pilliod, passed unanimously by the Council.

7. Future Meetings

The following schedule was set by the Executive Committee:

September 9, 2005

8:00 AM

Teen Center (off Gilford Avenue, Laconia behind Sacred Heart Church)

October 14, 2005

8:00 AM

Prospect Mountain High School, Alton (Rte. 11 to Alton Circle. Take first right onto Rte. 28. School is about a mile (more/less) up 28 on the right).

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Robichaud