

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, July 21, 2006

TIME BEGAN: 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Jim Pilliod, Dick Wallace, Laurie Belanger, Micheline Roy, Christie Corrigan, Ruth Castonguay, Sue Smith, Kevin Washburn **GUESTS:** Ray Goodman, Project Director-Reclaiming Futures, Laurie Dunleavy-New Beginnings, Belknap County Family Violence Prevention Council (FVPC), Ces Quimby-FVPC, Mary Ellen Boudman, Laconia resident, **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** The order of agenda items was rearranged to accommodate several Council members who need to leave early. No additions requested.

2. **Director's Report** – Alan Robichaud reporting
 - ♦ ***State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice Grant – Status Report*** Alan has not yet heard if the proposal submitted in early May is approved. He has responded to several clarifying questions asked by the review panel. These funds will be used to support data collection and reporting.
 - ♦ ***Juvenile Justice Report Card*** Approximately 40,000 copies of a 4-page report on the status of the County's system of juvenile justice have been distributed around Belknap County as inserts in the Citizen, the Laconia Daily Sun, and four weeklies published by Salmon Press. Council members are asked to help distribute an additional 4,000 copies. Positive comments on producing this first report, one of only a handful of jurisdictions across the country that have done so, have come from several national leaders in juvenile justice: (1) *From Denny Maloney*, Associate Director, Cascades Center for Community Governance at Oregon State University-Cascades Campus in Bend, Oregon, "Your entire team can be proud (of this report). Congratulations for becoming a national leader in what I predict will become the next great movement for our nation's Juvenile Justice System." Maloney has also served as a consultant for the national Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). (2) *From Delores Hereis Ward*, Director of the National Juvenile Justice Prosecution Center, American Prosecutors Research Institute (A.P.R.I.). "Congratulations! This (report) is a tremendous accomplishment." And (3) *from Doug Thomas*, Research Associate with the National Center for Juvenile Justice, "While a joint effort involving many people, the Belknap County report project was led by the remarkable F. Andre Paquette, a retired school Superintendent and a volunteer."

Laurie Belanger said a Gilford High School Health teacher would like enough copies to incorporate this topic into their health curriculum. Other distribution venues were suggested.

ACTION:

 - **Laurie Belanger will give requested copies of Report to GHS teacher**
 - **Judy Buswell will provide enough copies to Becky Levesque to distribute at the Belknap County 4-H Fair in August.**
 - **Council members will distribute copies to venues in their communities such as libraries and town halls.**- ♦ ***New Futures Community Leadership Initiative*** New Futures wishes to expand its Leadership Trainings to include one specific to policy and advocacy. Belknap County and Manchester have been selected as two pilot sites to begin these trainings. The current interest focuses on law enforcement issues and while this is an easier process, Alan and Shannon Swett would like to see efforts made to change the culture and community norming around underage drinking. The Belknap County training is planned for sometime in October and will be available for around 40 people.

ACTION: Council members should consider attending this training.

- ♦ ***National Night Out – Tuesday, August 1*** This is the second year for this outdoor evening event at Wingate Apartments on Blueberry Lane. It is planned as a "neighborhood party" with activities for

children and information sharing with parents and adults on available social and human service, educational, health, and municipal programs and services. The Laconia Police Department is involved and this model is considered an excellent strategy for taking information directly into neighborhoods.

- ◆ **Multi-Cultural Market Day – September 9, 2006** This annual, very well attended event held in downtown Laconia is organized by a sub-committee of the Laconia Human Relations Committee, headed by Carol Pierce. While the Council does not plan to have its own information display, Council members are urged to support and assist with details of this day. Assistance is needed with set-up, beginning at 8am and continuing on until 8pm.
- ◆ **P.A.L.S. (Parents As Leaders in Society) Series** This annual series begins in October and will run monthly through March. Applications are now available on the Council's website and are also part of the Council packets for this meeting. Last year's program trained 12 parents in leadership and community development skills. While the program began with a grant written by the Citizens Council to the NH Children's' Trust Fund, it will now be managed as a collaborative project with Lakes Region United Way UpStream and Belknap County Cooperative Extension, with BCCE taking the lead.
- ◆ **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** The final report and request for reimbursement (just under \$5,000.) was submitted to the federal Office of Victims of Crime. The products generated with grant funds (the seven lifesize cut-outs and the DVD on Crime Victims in Belknap County) will continue to have use and application. The Council and JJAC are forming a new sub-committee on Crime Victims, chaired by Gil Schohan. The week-long observance organized by a large committee with members from agencies etc around Belknap County was "very successful" and initiated some productive dialogue around victim issues.

3. **Domestic Violence in the Workplace** Ces Quimby and Laurie Dunleavy offered a powerpoint presentation on the "Domestic Violence In The Workplace Initiative", developed by the Belknap County Family Violence Prevention Task Force. The goals of this initiative are to assist businesses and employers in developing workplace policies that support employees who are experiencing domestic violence and to minimize the impact of DV issues in the workplace. They wish to encourage businesses to create a climate where it is "a strength for employees to ask for help" when and where needed. DV does affect businesses through increased employee tardiness and absenteeism and difficulties in concentrating on work responsibilities. It is estimated that nationally this results in a \$3 billion loss to employers. Members of the FVPC are now introducing this project to networks of employers such as the Lakes Area Business Group and local Service Clubs. The presenters provide an attractive packet of materials with resources and information on domestic violence.

Jim Pilliod shared the two fears men and women have regarding domestic violence: (*Women*) Women fear being raped or being killed (*Men*) Men fear being humiliated. This led to a discussion of how to bring this and similar information on dating violence into schools. Laurie Belanger, a school guidance counselor and a Council member, suggested several "touchpoints" to distribute this type of information: Health Teachers, SAD leaders, and Guidance Counselors, reminding Council members that schools have many responsibilities and they cannot always be immediately responsive to community requests. Laurie Dunleavy said the New Beginnings has developed very good working relationships with schools. Mary Ellen Boudman encouraged FVPC to request a presentation at the NH Chapter of the National School Boards Association meeting, probably occurring soon as schools re-open in September.

ACTION: Alan Robichaud will follow up with the FVPC for a possible presentation on this topic with the School Boards Association.

4. **New Council Member Induction** Bud Daigneault, Chair of the Belknap County Commission, administered an oath of office to the newest Council members, Emily Clement, Laurie Belanger, and Micheline Roy.

5. Work Group Reports

- ◆ **BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice)** No members of this committee were present; no report offered
- ◆ **Community Development – Dick Wallace reporting** As an example of how individual efforts and persistence can produce productive results in communities, Dick explained the process he and others used in Alton and the Prospect Mountain High School (PMHS) to provide prevention and programs and positive youth development for youth from Alton and Barnstead. Following a Council-sponsored Community Forum held in Alton in November of 2002 that identified a need for positive youth activities, Dick was able to help organize the Alton Community Youth Activities group (CYA) that began to offer community activities for youth. He also worked on developing after-school programs at the elementary school including 4-H and YMCA.

Noting the ongoing community problems with underage drinking, CYA began exploring how to best focus on this issue. The “Prime For Life” (PFL) program emerged as an excellent research-based strategy. Dick and others talked with people like Sue Conboy from the Multiple Offender Program and Kendree Parker from Southeastern NH Services (SENH) that offers “Prime For Life”. Designed to be presented in school settings, the program goals are (1) to reduce the problems associated with drug abuse and substance abuse (2) reduce both long- and short-term impact of underage drinking and drugging (3) protect what the community values. Other important goals are (1) to increase AOD abstinence (2) delay age of first use and (3) reduce the numbers of high-risk choices that many youth make. PFL involves persuasion-based teaching in small-group discussions for up to 15 youth, ages 13-20. SENH has more than 10 years in administering prevention programs.

Dick’s next step was to secure the support of PMHS Principal, Russ Holden and together with Shannon Swett (Outreach Coordinator for the CoRe Program), they wrote two grants to support the start up of PFL for freshmen students along with refresher opportunities. Both grants totally \$20,000. (NH Charitable and Belknap County Incentive Funds) were awarded meaning the PFL Program will begin in the upcoming school year. PMHS has agreed to support this program in the following years.

On August 23, they are holding an Information Forum for parents of incoming freshmen and school staff. The PFL advisory committee will meet monthly to develop resources, implement the program and monitor outcomes. Additional goals include “retro-fitting PFL for younger students and to assist in sharing the process and outcomes with other schools.

Dick summarized his presentation by noting that “any Council member can observe what his/her community needs are and then be a spark to get things going that will address these needs”. He added that Council members need to be encouraged to share what they are observing and doing in their communities at each Council meeting. This process can introduce new ideas and solutions from other Council members. The networking that each Council member can do in his/her community also interests other residents in the Council and in possible Council membership. Dick’s experience suggests that the Council member is the initial facilitator and then “gets out of the way and follows”.

- ◆ **Prevention – Ruth Castonguay reporting**
 - *NH Friends of Recovery* is sponsoring a fundraiser, “Night Under the Stars”, an outdoor presentation of Shakespeare. Denise Devlin is organizing this event.
 - *Parent Support Group Facilitator Training* is underway and Council member, Nancy Porosky, is taking this 18-hour training. She and another class participant, Carol Murtaugh, are planning to start a parent support group in the Gilmanton, Alton, and Barnstead area this fall.
 - *AA Programs at the NH Community Technical College – Laconia* Ruth is working with NHCTC administrators to organize both an onsite AA group and a Parent Support Group.
 - *Relational Chart* Jim Pilliod is trying to locate the chart he referenced at an earlier Prevention meeting that visually shows how trauma imposed on children can result in health problems decades later as adults.

- *Outdoor Summer Theatre Project* Emily Clement and Sandy Webber have decided that they will not be able to organize any actual programs this summer but plan to keep working so these events will be possible next summer in downtown Laconia.
 - *P.A.L.S.* (See information in the Director's Report)
 - *Other:* Niki Miller (Director of NH Task Force on Women and Addictions) has been honored by NH Commission on the Status of Women as "Woman of The Year" for her work in prevention in recovery. The Women and Addictions Task Force is offering "Women's Leadership Training" in Canterbury on July 29, 30, and August 5th. This opportunity is for women in recovery who wish to be more active in policy development and advocacy.
 - *Next Prevention Workgroup meeting* is Tuesday, August 1 at 9am.
- ◆ ***Executive Committee - Sue Smith, reporting***
- *Governor's Commission* Alan Robichaud is an appointed member of this important statewide task force. Due to leadership and other changes, this group is still trying to designate its regular meeting date. While Alan would like to continue as a member, he notes that the Council has already changed its monthly meeting from the second to the third Friday to accommodate the previous Governor's Commission meeting schedule; he is reluctant to suggest another meeting change for the Council.
 - *Community Assessments/Conversations* The Executive Committee has asked the Community Development Workgroup to develop a plan for seeking input from residents around Belknap County. The last time this was formally done was in the fall of 2002. While the Executive Committee is not suggesting that the format used in 2002 should necessarily be repeated. Instead, intentional networking by Council members in their own communities will reveal what information is needed and how to gather this information. As an example, Sue cited her recent meeting with Dr. Paul DeMinico, Superintendent of Gilford schools. Dr. DeMinico expressed concern about the poor community response to the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey recently administered to Gilford students. Apparently only 4 citizens have responded to this information that indicates many students are engaging in a number of activities that are potentially dangerous and harmful. Sue and Dr. DeMinico discussed policy changes around school suspensions, parental involvement, zero tolerance for alcohol and drug use, much earlier intervention beginning in kindergarten through values education, and the cost benefits of mental health services for those in need. To change the negative and counter-productive aspects of the culture around us, we must get involved earlier and earlier in a child's life. Sue indicates that their discussion raised a number of issues that could constitute some type of community discussions in Gilford.
ACTION: The Community Development Workgroup will begin developing ideas for these community conversations.
 - *LRPA-TV / Citizens Council* There is potential for the Citizens Council to develop and host regular presentations on public access TV stations. The opportunity would include identifying relevant and appropriate themes, locating informed speakers and guests on these topics, scheduling shooting times with LRPA TV, and hosting these broadcasts. Suggested topics include interviewing municipal, county and state candidates on their positions on child and family issues; learning more about the vision held by area school superintendents for public schools; in-depth exploration of proposed legislation impacting children and families etc. Plans developed for these Council-hosted PATV shows must be sustainable without undue hardship on Council staff. This project has been referred to the Community Development Workgroup.
ACTION: Council members who are interested in working on this PATV project should share their ideas with the Community Development Workgroup.
 - *Next Council meeting* The next Council meeting is scheduled for Friday August 18th and Christie has offered to host this meeting at her home in New Hampton. She would like to invite town officers etc to this meeting. However, there may be some scheduling problems with vacations etc at this time of the year. If this is the case, Christie can also host this meeting in September.
ACTION: Judy will email Council members re their availability to attend a Council meeting on August 18.