

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE: Citizens Council**

**DATE:** Friday, February 17, 2006

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

**PRESENT:** Ruth Castonguay, Rich Moed, Nancy Porosky, Rasim Gusinac, Dick Wallace, Christie Corrigan, Sue Smith, Sarah Fox, Jim Pilliod Emily Clement, Mary Alice Warner, Micheline Roy **ABSENT:** Kevin Washburn, Katy Kanally-DeCarteret, Peter Michaud, **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **COUNCIL ASSOCIATES:** Andre Paquette **GUESTS:** Richard Keller, Ruth O'Hara

---

1. **Introductions:** Welcome to Micheline Roy, Council member-designee and Rick Keller who is considering Council membership. Ruth O'Hara, a friend of Christie Corrigan, came in after introductions.
2. **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** Agenda items adjusted to put presentation by Kate Dobrowski after 9am.
3. **Council Member Nomination (Micheline Roy)** Council members have reviewed the application packet from Micheline Roy sent earlier in the week. Micheline, a Registered Nurse, expresses an interest in working with issues that currently engage the Council. **Motion** to accept Micheline as a Council member was made by Rich Moed; second by Jim Pilliod. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Work Group Reports**
  - ♦ ***BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BARJ) – Andre Paquette reporting*** The BARJ Council Work Group will meet on February 22 and will begin setting task priorities for 2006. Current members include Rich Moed, Peter Michaud, and Council Associates: Gil Schohan, Leo Sanfacon, and Andre. New members are welcome.
    - *Victims Rights of Juvenile Crime brochure* – This is about ready to go to press. Copies will be distributed to law enforcement and others in contact with victims of juvenile crime.
    - *Victim Restitution Fund* They are currently processing an application on behalf of one victim for restitution funds. They are also securing donations to this fund, which is intended to be at least partially maintained through payments by offenders as part of their contracts and court orders. Jim Pilliod asked about potential connections with the NH Victims Assistance Commission run from the NH Attorney General's Office.
    - *Report Card to the Community* The technician at NH DJJS will finish his data entry from about 100 Case Closing Forms of juvenile cases in Belknap County by the end of February. Andre is also reviewing this data as a quality control measure. The data will be interpreted via narration, charts, and graphs. As a report expected out this spring, it will describe the current status and progress of the County's juvenile justice system.
    - *Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC)* will meet on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-9am in the River Room at the Busiel Mill. Andre noted that this group includes 25-30 representatives from the various segments of the County's juvenile justice system who meet together monthly to discuss current challenges and issues and potential solutions. It is a vital and active group.
  - ACTION:**
    - **Any Council member interested in working with the BARJ Work Group should contact Alan Robichaud.**
    - **Jim Pilliod will set up an appointment with the NH Victims Assistance Commission and BARJ**
  - ♦ ***ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) – Christie Corrigan reporting***
    - Current members include Sarah Fox, Dick Wallace, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, and Kevin Washburn. Christie thinks this group needs more general guidance on the focus it should take. There has been confusion around the status of this group, some thinking this workgroup was officially disbanded. Sue Smith clarified that no current workgroups have been eliminated; however the ABCD group does have a

wide range of issues and activities it could cover. Which is why, Christie stated that “some form of agreement and direction that comes from outside this workgroup is needed”. Christie also asked for assistance in developing a productive working relationship with Michael O’Malley, the Principal of Newfound Regional High School. The Newfound School District has recently created “Newfound Hope”, a community initiative focusing on drugs and alcohol.

- *Prime For Life* ABCD Work Group member, Dick Wallace, is working with a group from Alton who will be submitting a grant to the NH Charitable Foundation to bring the drug prevention course, “Prime For Life” to Alton schools. This program is highly rated as a best practice program by the Prevention Research Institute. The Alton Group hopes to offer this program to about 150 freshmen each year at Prospect Mountain High School at an approximate cost of \$20,000. They hope to fund this effort through grants and other donations. Youth Services Bureau has staff trained to teach this class and it is hoped that this, and similar resources around the County, will work together in some fashion to avoid duplication and overlaps.
- *Winter Fun Event at Gunstock* Dick also said that 66 tickets from Alton residents were sold to participate in the family Winter event for Alton residents at Gunstock.
- *Alton Information Exchange* Dick said they have held their third annual Exchange event that allows representatives from numerous organizations and agencies to each have 3-5 minutes to talk about their program and activities. This event has been very successful.
- *The Baysider* weekly newspaper is now Alton’s premier publication and has been very helpful in promoting Alton family and youth events.

**ACTION:**

- **Alan will meet further with this ABCD group to discuss a focus for 2006 and to generate ideas for specific goals for Christie Corrigan’s communications with the NRHS Principal. Marie Ross and Trisha Burton should be included in this conversation.**
  - **Alan and Dick Wallace will talk further about any potential for sharing other Prime For Life trainers and other resources throughout the County.**
- ◆ ***PREVENTION WORK GROUP– Ruth Castonguay reporting***
- *Parenting Support Group Training* Two experienced trainers from Massachusetts will spend Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> teaching parents interested in beginning support groups for other parents whose children have problems with substance abuse. This training is free and information has been distributed through the UpStream Email Network, schools, and the media.
  - *Work Group meeting times* continue on the first Tuesday of the month at 9am in the Busiel Mill. Ruth has asked Al Schneider, the AA Public Information Officer in this region to join the Prevention Work Group.
  - *New Futures Training* Ruth and a number of other County residents participated in a day-long training to build advocacy efforts around underage drinking.
  - *NH Friends of Recovery (NH FOR)* A local chapter is being organized in Belknap County, becoming one of four such chapters in New Hampshire. This group has goals to connect with disabled youth who have substance abuse issues, to help in creating a Recovery Support Group center, to participate in a telephone support network, and to support a Young People’s AA Group that is currently meeting at 12 noon, Thursdays at the Congregation Church in Laconia.

Questions were asked about the just recently released 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data. Sarah Fox said this information is now available at the NH Department of Education website. Gilford and Inter-Lakes Schools were among the schools that administered this survey. Gilford is releasing their data in an orderly fashion that first includes the students, then the parents, and third to the communities of Gilford and Gilmanton. It is not certain how the other schools will distribute their information, or even if enough students from County schools took this survey, therefore allowing the results to be generalized to the entire school population.

**ACTION:**

- **Sarah Fox will send the URL for the YRBS data to Council members.**
- **Alan will determine which schools in the County administered this YRBS in 2005.**

- ◆ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sue Smith reporting** It was agreed to fold in the By-law revisions, listed as a separate topic on the Agenda into Sue’s report.
  - *By-Law Revisions* Recommended changes to the By-laws had been previously emailed to Council members prior to reviewing these changes at today’s Council meeting. Final voting on these changes will occur at the March Council meeting. The Council reviewed the following recommended changes:
    - *Article V – Section 2*, adding language that further describes Council member responsibilities
    - *Article V – Section 8A*, deleting references to “excused absences from Council meetings”. There will be no provisions for excused absences
    - *Article VI – Section 2*, adding language that says Nomination of Council officers will be determined by a process chosen by Council members
    - *Article VI – Section 5*, changing language to more appropriately describe the Council Chair’s relationship to the County Commission
    - *Article IX – Section 1*, changing language that describes where Council meetings will be held. An additional recommendation from the Council was offered that changes wording around ADA requirements from “conformed” to “are in conformance with the”
    - *Article IX – Section 5*, changing language from “emergency” to “special” meetings of the Council
    - *Article XII*, deleting the word “second” in paragraph 2
  - *Council Initiatives* It was agreed to postpone this discussion until the March Council meeting

5. **Kate Dobrowski – Living Circles** Kate Dabrowski managed a Youth Enrichment Program in collaboration with the Warner Native American Museum. Based on promoting Native American survival skills and philosophies, this program targeted at-risk youth and was funded through County Incentive Funds and a grant from NH DCYS. While this program is no longer functioning, it was thought to be successful, primarily based on anecdotal information from the youth who participated, their families, and the adults who worked with these youths. The program included two intensive long weekends with the youth where they learned how to build “elements shelters” and how to survive alone for short periods in the outdoors. The youth were also matched with adult mentors and these pairs carried out community service projects. There was also a “parent component” facilitated by program staff, described as highly successful “because kids witnessed their parents being involved”. Students were referred by law enforcement, diversion programs, and schools. Younger siblings were also involved. Community presenters participated and taught the youth skills like “making drums”. The graduation from Living Circles involved the youths giving something personal (a gift from the heart or a handmade article) to each of the other youths.

Discussion with Kate included a suggestion that similar program components might be possible in Belknap County by using the resources at Gunstock and connections with Native Americans who live in this area.

6. **Director’s Report – Alan Robichaud reporting**

- ◆ *National Crime Victims Rights Week* Judy Buswell distributed a one-page summary sheet of the project recently funded through a federal grant from the Office of Victims of Crime to sponsor a countywide week-long observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in Belknap County. A steering committee, headed by Gil Schohan and including more than a dozen organizations in the County, will implement a series of activities that underscore the need to attend to the needs of crime victims. Activities described in the summary sheet include: production of a 6 minute DVD to air on local public access TV networks; creating life-size stand-up replicas of victims personalized with “victim stories” that will travel throughout the County; developing collateral information materials; a public presentation on cyber crime by Asst. County Attorney Wayne Coull; outreach into members of the refugee and immigrant communities; and one media event.
- ◆ *Council Recruitment efforts* are ongoing. Council members are urged to encourage appropriate people in their networks and communities to learn more about the Council, to attend Council meetings, and to consider Council membership.
- ◆ *Final Underage Drinking Seminar* is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Gilford High School. A panel of experts including people who will discuss the health, educational, and peer pressure impacts of underage drinking. The session will also be taped by Public Access TV for airing during later dates.

- ◆ *Budget Meeting* with Delegation is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. Council members are encouraged to attend.
- 7. **Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2005** A motion to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting held at the Winnepesaukee Expo Center on January 24<sup>th</sup> was made by Emily Clement and seconded by Sarah Fox. Motion carried.
- 8. **Public Comment** No public comment.

	<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>
<b>WHEN:</b>	<b>Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 8-10am</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>River Level Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, downtown Laconia</b>