

## CITIZENS COUNCIL

### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2005

#### SUMMARY

**Attending:** Sue Smith, Jim Pilliod, Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette, Jim Carroll, Christie Corrigan, Alida Millham. **Guests:** Jim Doremus, Richard & Patti Moed, Georgia Edwards **Staff:** Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud. **Summary By:** Alan Robichaud

Introductions were made and guests were welcomed.

#### **Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2005**

On a **motion** duly made and seconded (Paquette/Carroll) the Minutes were approved unanimously by those present. Full acceptance by the Council will be made at a later date.

#### **Mentoring Update**

Jim Doremus of The Friends Program, attended and gave a status report of the Belknap County Mentoring Initiative. On or about March 1, office space will be available to accommodate staff in Belknap County. Jim has secured office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Busiel Mill down the hall from the Citizens Council.

To date, 3 people have been through the training and background checks and are approved as mentors. Five additional people are currently going through the training process and 9 others are at the preliminary inquiry stage. The big push is to identify mentors. Jim uses a two-pronged approach: mass media and one-to-one "Asks". The minimum target of the grant is to get 100 matches and sustain that level. With assistance from community groups and individuals, Jim is hopeful that many more matches can be made. Help is needed. The infrastructure is in place, staff is hired and trained, office support is being readied. The need is for us to assist in promoting people interested in serving as mentors.

Jim handed out "Ask" cards to use in recruiting people. This is simply a prompt that is given to individuals we know who we feel may be good mentors. Information is provided about becoming a "Senior Friend" and how to contact the program to learn more. Each Council member was given 5 cards and asked to give these to people they feel would be interested in becoming a mentor.

John Howe, Managing Editor of The Citizen, as agreed to publish "Friday's Child", a brief composite of a child in Belknap County known to want/need a mentor. Confidential information about the child will not be given but rather a statement about how a relationship with a Senior Friend would benefit this child. These notices will appear weekly, on Fridays, throughout the year. A similar process, "Sunday's Child", has worked successfully in the Concord Monitor for a number of years.

"Open House" plans are being drafted by volunteers including our own Katy DeCarteret, Kevin Washburn and Leo Sanfacon. Currently the group is looking for a location to conduct a grand opening formally announcing the Belknap County Mentoring Initiative. Hoping to receive 75 to 150 guests, the program will feature testimonials from mentors, mentees and partners in the initiative. A target date of early April is being considered.

Currently, mentors typically make up roughly 40% males and 60 % females. On a mentee scale, we are probably looking at 70% boys and 30 % girls indicating the need for males mentors in greater proportion than typical percentages are running. Jim Carroll suggested a strong tie with the Teen Center be made for possible mentees.

**Action:** Council members (present and excused) are asked to approach five individuals who they feel would make good mentors and give them an "Ask" card. Please keep track of whom you have given cards to so there can be follow-up by the program. You are asked to do this by the end of February.

### **Council Member Application**

Richard Moed has submitted his application for membership to the Council. Richard has shown a great deal of interest in the work of the Council and has attended meetings of both the Council and the Balanced and Restorative Justice Work Group. Sue Smith read Rich's personal interest statement to the group and invited him to speak further of his interests. He has extensive background in substance abuse, mental health, special education and healthcare administration. He hopes to apply these skills and interests to the work of the Council.

**Action:** As there was no quorum at this meeting, all Council members are asked to review the e-mail containing the motions of the meeting and respond to Judy no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday, February 16th. **Phone calls will not constitute voting. In order to be accepted, responses must be e-mailed.**

### **Work Group Reports**

*Balanced and Restorative Justice* – Andre Paquette reported on activities the group (Andre, Leo Sanfacon, Gil Schohan, Richard Moed, Peter Michaud) is undertaking this year include:

- developing and distributing a guide to Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice in Belknap County;
- emphasis on victim involvement;
- continued interviews with key stakeholders e.g. superintendents, school resource officers, etc.; and
- development of a juvenile justice report card to the community using standardized performance measures.

Andre reported on a recent training program attended by five representatives of our juvenile justice efforts here in Belknap County and subsequent activities that are influencing our direction toward creating consistent benchmarks in our system of services for juveniles. Performance measures will continue to be discussed with stakeholders through one-on-one and cluster group presentations (e.g. diversion providers) as well as with JJAC, data management team and others. The next JJAC meeting (February 25) will be devoted to victim rights, facilitated by Peter Michaud.

There is growing interest and support for our efforts in developing our approach to Balanced and Restorative Justice and with the development of performance outcome measures. More and more of this type of data and reporting is becoming an expectation of federal, state, county and foundation funders. These data will be necessary to maintain our collective ability to develop and sustain services in Belknap County. The state Division of Juvenile Justice Services is committing personnel to assist in this effort through Bill McGonagle and others.

Andre distributed copies of *Bringing Balance to Juvenile Justice*, a publication of the American Prosecutors Research Institute.

*Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)* – Christie Corrigan reported for the workgroup indicating that a proposal to Reclaiming Futures (a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation system change project) is in progress. Essentially the proposal addresses the involvement of a young man in the process of connecting drug court youth to their communities through pro-social activities geared to youth's strengths and people in the community who can serve as mentors, occupational guides, community learning sponsors, and the like. This concept is being vetted to a number of groups for input. Feedback from the Council was both supportive and cautious in terms of safeguards and assurances needed to help our young friend succeed. Continued efforts will be made to elicit further input as this proposal moves forward.

Christie indicated that Kevin Washburn is a welcomed new member of this workgroup and he and other members are diligently working on various projects. As mentioned above, Kevin and Katy, along with Kevin's wife Pam, are assisting Jim Doremus in planning the mentoring open house. Sara Fox is continuing her lead with Youth Ventures and is facilitating local "Dream It, Do It" workshops with area youth. Council staff and interested members continue to facilitate the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE). The current focus of the CCE is on Underage Drinking.

*Prevention Workgroup*- Currently this workgroup does not have a designed point person. It is scheduled to meet on Friday, February 18 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. We need a Council member to step up and

facilitate this group as there are many initiatives underway that coincide with this priority area. For further information, contact Alan at 528-3185.

*Executive Committee* – Sue Smith indicated that the Executive Committee is comprised of Council officers and designated representatives of each workgroup. She requested that each workgroup make such designation at their next meeting and let Alan know so we can set up meeting dates and agenda for the committee. Regular Executive Committee meeting dates currently are scheduled for 8:30 AM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month making Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> the date of the first meeting.

Sue read a card received from Dawn McCartney thanking the Council for her recent recognition as the Annette Schmitt Unsung Hero Award recipient for 2005. Dawn is very deserving of this recognition.

**Director’s Report**

Alan Robichaud introduced Patti Moed. Patti is a professional writer who has volunteered to assist the Council with its communication needs and will be working with us to develop a consistent means of getting information about our work into the media. Patti and Judy will be meeting soon with John Howe of *The Citizen* to develop a process we will follow to get routine articles in the newspaper. Thank you Patti and welcome aboard! This will be a tremendous assist to us.

A public session highlighting activities of the Department of Health and Human Services will be convened on February 18 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Moultonborough Town Hall. Executive Councilor Ray Burton has requested this forum of the DHHS Commissioner.

Alan requested Council consideration for his nomination by Tricia Lucas for the Caroline L. Gross Fellowship, a prestigious award that provides entry to the Kennedy School of Government’s Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. Nominees must apply by March 4<sup>th</sup> to qualify for review by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s Selection Committee. If accepted, Alan would be away from his office for three consecutive weeks this summer. This request will also need to be approved by the County Commissioners but, as a first step, we need Council endorsement if this is to go forward.

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**Public Comments**

There being none, a motion duly made and seconded (Pilliod/Paquette) was approved by consensus of those present. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan Robichaud*

Executive Director

<b><u>NEXT MEETING</u></b>	
<b>DATE: Friday, March 11, 2005</b>	<b>TIME: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM</b>
<b>LOCATION: Busiel Mill, River Level</b>	