

Citizens Council
Meeting of January 6, 2006

SUMMARY

Attending: Sue Smith , Ruth Castonguay, Leo Snfacon, Dick Wallace, Emily Clement, Nancy Porosky, Christie Corrigan, Steve Fountain, Gil Schohan, Mary Alice Warner, Sara Fox, Rasim Gusinac, Alida Millham, Kevin Washburn, Jim Pilliod, Katy DeCarteret.

Staff: Judy Bushwell, Alan Robichaud.

Introductions

Introductions were made as this was the first time that some members had had an opportunity to meet some of our newer Council members.

Additions/Amendments to the Agenda

There were none.

Officer Nomination response

Members were recalled to the fact that with only 42% of Council members participating in the Nomination process, and responses made by those who were initially nominated to serve in the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, we ended up having only one declared candidate for the two positions. A second candidate indicated interest in serving following the closure date. This low response may be an indication of several factors not the least of which is that we are asking very busy people to perform many leadership tasks.

Following much discussion, it was determined that Alan would redistribute the Nomination Form and the process will be conducted again. Those eligible for being considered for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, alphabetical order are as follows: Ruth Castonguay, Christie Corrigan, Katy DeCarteret, Peter Michaud, Jim Pilliod, Sue Smith, and Dick Wallace.

Action Alan will re-send the nomination forms to Council members. Responses are due back to him, via e-mail, by Wednesday, January 11 at 5:00 PM. From the results of this process, a final ballot will be prepared for the Annual Meeting.

Council Meeting Dates for 2006

During the above discussion, the issue of Council attendance arose based on impact of attendance. Members were polled as to which of three dates would be most conducive to their participation. After much deliberation , it was decided that the Council meeting dates and times for 2006 will be the 3rd Friday of each month at 8:00 AM.

Action Alan will develop and send to Council members, a schedule of meeting times for 2006.

Council Organizational Structure

Related to the issue of attendance was the discussion on type and level of Council member participation in Council-related initiatives that may prove more conducive to members' time commitment and schedules. Over the past three years we have changed our ways of viewing Council member participation to reflect time and interest areas, as well as Council needs. Questions surrounding Council member representation at Council meetings, at community forums, in community activities which support the mission of the Council were discussed. Members contributed to the need for accountability to each other, to the Council as a whole, and to the County. We need to find ways to credit member participation without watering down the need to communicate issues and accomplishments, and the integrity of the functions and purpose of the Council. We need to distinguish the difference between strong community service and leadership responsibility delegated by the County to the Council. There needs to be an accounting of member participation in the many community initiatives to assure there is direct, clear, and deliberate Council representation and feedback.

Action The Executive Committee was charged (*motion* duly made and seconded Andre/Dick, and approved by the Council) to review the issue of Council structure, attendance, and associated by-law revisions.

Council Attendance Report

It was the consensus of the Council to reflect on the attendance of its members on a quarterly basis.

Action Council member attendance will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2005 Council meeting.

Motion On a motion made and seconded (Andre/Gil) , the Minutes were approved, as written, by the Council.

Other Business

Mary Alice Warner mentioned that she interviewed a local church as part of using the Prevention Inventory Survey with CoRe. The purpose is to establish a baseline of what prevention programs and interventions currently exist within Belknap County and use this data as part of resource sharing and development in the future. She also mentioned the recent introduction of a bill by Rep. Splaine to lower the drinking age for military personnel. This led to ample discussion among Council members.

Andre Paquette indicated that part of each JJAC meeting asks attendees to provide program updates as a means of information sharing, issues identification, and service coordination.

Alida mentioned that she has drafted a memo to the Chairperson of the House Children and Family Law Committee requesting an informational exchange on the work of the Council. **Action** She will send the final draft to Alan for dissemination to the Council.

Ruth Castonguay announced a *save the date* for a March 11th session on *Parents Coping with Addictions* sponsored in part by the Friends of Recovery/NH, FOR/NH/Belknap County, and the Council.

Rasim spoke of the needs of our refugee community and how his and his wife's efforts, in working with Carol Pierce and others, are addressing the needs of families as they enter our community and negotiate services. Katy mentioned that this year's Santa's Fund has been instrumental in directly resources toward this population. Mention was made of an upcoming training session for volunteers assisting refugees. The session will be held at the Unitarian Church on January 24 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Kevin raised concern about juveniles being sent to state prison and Alida indicated that the bill to raise the age of eligibility to be served by the juvenile justice system has been raised to 18.

Council members were reminded and encouraged to attend the New Futures Community Leadership Initiative at the Belknap Mill on February 14. More information and to register, log on to www.new-futures.org . Registration is free.

Alan appraised the Council of efforts around establishing a statewide referendum on use of the Tobacco Settlement Fund. He has been working with a network of parents, youth and other organizations to look at how these important resources can be redirected to their intended purposes. NH ranks 51st in use of these funds for tobacco education and prevention.

The convocation is scheduled for January 24th with a snow date of January 26th. **DONT FORGET** to register with Judy. Council member's registration fees will be covered by the Council if registered by January 18th. Spouses and other guests will need to register at \$12.00/adult and \$6.00/youth under 18.

NEXT MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVOCAATION

DATE: Tuesday, January 24th **TIME:** 4:30 PM

LOCATION: Winnepesaukee Expo Center, Elm Street, Laconia, New Hampshire

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Friday, February 17, 2006 **TIME:** 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Busiel Mill, Laconia, NH

Respectfully submitted, *Alan Robichaud*