

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, October 14, 2005

TIME BEGAN: 8:14am **TIME ENDED:** 10:10am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Christie Corrigan, Rich Moed, Andre Paquette, Nancy Porosky, Rasim Gusinac, Dick Wallace, Gil Schohan, Katy Kanally-DeCarteret, Kevin Washburn, Sue Smith, Sarah Fox **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUESTS:** Micheline Roy, Shannon Swett, and 4 PMHS students: Angelina, Mayghen, Ashley, and Maria

1. **Community Youth Mapping (CYM)** Shannon Swett, the CoRe Outreach Coordinator, offered a power point presentation on the Community Youth Mapping project that took place this summer. Close to two dozen youth from both Prospect Mountain and Inter-Lakes High Schools were trained and then participated in a three-week effort to identify and describe youth-related resources and assets that currently exist in Belknap County. The data they collected will be compiled and shared.

The CYM strategy, instituted by the AED Center for Youth Development and Policy Research, is ideally coordinated by a local public/private/non-profit partnership and led by a local community-based institution, in this case the CoRe Program. The Belknap County youth were paid through CoRe grant funds.

In addition to the goal of identifying community resources in Belknap County for youth, CYM also provides youth with an opportunity for meaningful community service while presenting these young people to the community in a positive and productive light. Shannon indicated that this CYM project should be carried out annually. The four teens joining Shannon for this presentation also shared their impressions and experiences with the CYM project.

These youths are members of the PMHS student group called C.O.O.L (Controlling Our Own Lives) which just received a \$1,000. Youth Ventures grant to promote and support C.O.O.L. activities and member recruitment.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to these four students on behalf of the Council by Sue Smith, Council Chair. The students then led Council members on a tour of the PMHS facility.

2. **Introductions** Following the tour, Sue Smith opened the business portion of the Council meeting by introducing her guest, Micheline Roy. Micheline, who lives in Laconia is interested in Council membership. Rasim Gusinac from Gilford, and the newest Council member, was welcomed to his first Council meeting.
3. **Work Group Reports**
 - ♦ ***Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)*** *Andre Paquette reporting.* The Laconia Police Department is working with the BARJ group to develop a Victim's Restitution Fund that will pay victims of juvenile crime up to \$250 as restitution for their loss. This fund will provide restitution much quicker than waiting for their cases to get through the court system. Offenders will then repay the fund instead of the victim. Youth Services Bureau is the fiscal agent for this fund that has already received \$500 in donations. Other businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to contribute.
 - ♦ ***Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)*** *Christie Corrigan reporting.* (1) Christie had a recent conversation with Brian Loanes (Director of the Belknap County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program) and discussed amount and quality of training that their restorative justice panelists receive. (2) The Belknap County Mentoring Initiative is progressing nicely with more youth being matched with mentors. (3) The Prospect Mountain High School student group, C.O.O.L, has recently been awarded a \$1000 grant from Youth Ventures to recruit new members and to develop new activities for the youth. (4) Dick Wallace reported that after school programs in Alton are growing, including 4-H activities twice weekly at Alton elementary school. The Alton school board and administration have also approved an after-school program administered through the YMCA. Dick noted that the recent "grandparent event" where kids honored their grandparents was very successful.

- ◆ **Prevention** Alan Robichaud reporting, in the absence of Prevention Workgroup chair, Ruth Castonguay. The Council Prevention workgroup has decided to join with the Addictions Task Force and members from the Recovery community in an effort to strengthen the work of all three groups. This newly reconstituted group will use the New Futures *Recommendations for Success* publication as a work plan for future activities.
- ◆ **Executive Committee** Sue Smith reporting. (1) The Executive Committee is currently analyzing the job tasks of Council staff. Drafts of revised job description for both Alan and Judy will be distributed to Council members for final approval. (2) A possible change in Council meeting times is being considered. A recent survey of Council members indicated that times other than the current 8 AM, Friday meeting time may be possible. Alan noted that there “is no ideal meeting time and any choice would likely not work for all Council members”.

ACTION: Further discussion on changing Council meeting time will be deferred until the Council’s Annual Meeting in January.

(3) The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held on Friday, November 18th to avoid Veteran’s Day, November 11th. (4) The Executive Committee will begin to look at the structure of Council workgroups and committees in an effort to identify optimal settings to carry out Council activities.

- ◆ **Director’s Report** Alan Robichaud reporting (1) Saturday, October 15th: UpStream parenting seminar featuring Harvard faculty member, Julie Wilson. This is also the first session of the new P.A.L.S. training. (2) Tuesday, October 25th is the third of the Underage Drinking Forums, jointly sponsored by Lakes Region Public Access TV and the Center for Civic Engagement. This event will be held at Prospect Mountain High School and will be preceded by a spaghetti supper, a fund-raiser for C.O.O.L. The subject for this third session is around societal pressures leading teens to drink. The next session will be held in late November or early December and will cover public safety. (3) Alan will meet with the Commissioners on Monday, October 17th for a preliminary conversation about the 2006 budget. While there are still unexpended line items in the 2005 budget, Alan is certain these will be spent down before the end of this year. (4) There are unspent funds from the Belknap County Family Mediation grant that is funneled from NH Division of Juvenile Justice Services through the County to Youth Services Bureau for managing the 3-year old Family Mediation Program. Permission has been granted to use this money to develop and distribute a Directory of Juvenile Justice Services. Current plans call for expanding a current similar directory that Youth Services Bureau has developed and then distributing this directory throughout the county, (5) Council members are asked to share information about the Schmitt UnSung Hero Award nomination process in their communities. This award will be presented to someone who has shown outstanding efforts on behalf of children and families in Belknap County on January 24th. (6) The Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th with a snow date on January 26th. Soup made by Patrick’s Pub will be served in bowls made school children from throughout Belknap County. Judge Edwin Kelly is the keynote speaker.

4. **Approve Minutes of September 9, 2005 Council Meeting** Motion made by Gil Schohan to accept minutes as written of September 9, 2005 Council meeting; second provided by Andre Paquette.

4. **Other Business** Rasim Gusinac expressed concerns that recent immigrant families from Turkey are having problems adjusting to their new lives in Laconia. Language barriers are a problem; the families do not leave their apartments; and their children have not yet enrolled in schools. He would like their sponsoring agency to be more responsive to the adjustment needs of these families.

ACTION: Rasim and Alan will determine appropriate next steps.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, November 18th at 8am (3RD Friday for this month only)

WHERE: T.B.A.