

**BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2004**

**SUMMARY**

**Attending:** Alida Millham, Gil Schohan, Ruth Castonguay, Sarah Fox, Andre Paquette, Leo Sanfacon, Kevin Washburn, Jim Pilliod, Sue Smith, Steve Fountain, Katy DeCarteret, Mary Alice Warner, Dick Wallace **Guests:** Deb Milano, Richard Moed. **Staff:** Alan Robichaud **Summary:** Alan Robichaud

**Introductions**

**Deb Milano**, representing the Barnstead Community Resource Team attended her second Council meeting. Deb is considering membership to the Council. **Richard Moed** was attending today's meeting to meet some folks and get a feel for what the Council does. Richard and his family recently moved to Gilford from Connecticut. He has had a variety of experiences in the healthcare field related to mental health and substance abuse as well as with programs serving children and families. Welcome to Deb and Richard!

**Approval of Minutes**

**Action Taken** A motion, duly made and seconded (Pilliod/Washburn) to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2004 meeting was passed unanimously.

**Additions/Amendments to the Agenda**

Ruth Castonguay announced a curriculum planning meeting of the **NH Task Force on Women and Addictions** scheduled for November 23 at the Congregational Church in Laconia. Interested parties are welcome to call Ruth for further information.

**Chair's Report**

Alida Millham indicated that with four current **Council vacancies** and five anticipated vacancies next year due to term expirations, we need assistance in recruiting Council members. Alan is available to meet and discuss Council work with prospective members but needs Council assistance in finding viable candidates. The best way to help is to speak with individuals and if they have indicated a genuine interest in finding out more information, provide Alan with their contact information and a review of what conversations you have had with them.

Alida also mentioned that the **Executive Committee** will be examining its role including oversight of the Council work plan, Council recruitment and retention, and communications about Community Justice. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 at 4:30 PM to lay a foundation for next year.

Nominations for **Council officers** for next year was discussed. A Nomination Form was circulated along with an excerpt from the by-laws to guide Council nominating procedure. All Council members are asked to respond to Alan (via hard copy return of the Nomination form or by e-mail) **before November 30, 2004**.

Officer positions remain the same as in past years (Chair and Vice Chair). All members nominated for either position will receive a follow-up call from Alan to determine their level of interest in proceeding as a candidate. All those who wish to continue will have their names included on the slate that will be presented, for approval, to the full Council at its December 10 meeting. Voting for officers will occur at the Annual Meeting on January 11, 2005.

**Work Group Reports**

**Balanced & Restorative Justice (BARJ)** – Leo Sanfacon reported that the committee has completed interviews with all Chiefs of police throughout Belknap County and will be submitting a draft summary report to Council members prior to the December Council meeting. The final report will also be given to JJAC members and other invested stakeholders. The BARJ work group submitted its Goals & Objectives for 2005. Gil Schohan raised the concern that the three current BARJ members' terms will expire next year. Any other Council members wishing to join this committee should do so this next year.

**Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)** – Dick Wallace reported the Goals and Objectives for the work group. He also indicated that the group would be meeting separate from the Reclaiming Futures ABCD group to conduct other council-specific business regarding this initiative area. Sarah Fox gave an update on **Youth Venture** and distributed a flyer for a Dream It ...Do It workgroup scheduled for Tilton and Sanbornton on November 11, 2004. One Belknap County Youth Venture was conducted last month culminating in a Punk Rock Festival (*Rocktoberfest*) at which over 120 youth attended. Currently a youth for the Drug Court program is considering

submission of a proposal for a venture. Through the Council's Partnership Agreement with Youth Venture NH, we are projected to have 10 to 12 Ventures established during the year. Sarah is serving as Council Champion for this initiative. Andre Paquette and Richard Moed suggested there might be some involvement of youth developing in developing video tape promotional material for Youth Venture. Richard mentioned that the New Hampton School has a well-structured media department at the private school and might be approached for collaboration. Sarah will investigate further.

**Prevention** – Sue Smith reported that the work group was continuing with its Goals and Objective for this year as there are several ongoing development initiatives still pertinent to our work. The next meeting of the Prevention Work Group is scheduled for November 18 at 4:30 PM. Mary Alice reported on the opening session of the **Parents As Leaders** series. The morning session was combined as part of the UpStream conference, featuring Tym Rourke as keynote presenter. The afternoon session consisted of an introduction to the series, getting to know each series participant and sharing of personal Vision Statements presented by individual members. The series continues later this month.

**Communication** – Alida Millham reported that we will not have access to the consultant that began working with us do to increased workload at his primary place of work. The work group will need to develop new strategies for the coming year to elicit expertise to help frame and communicate the core messages the Council wishes to convey. We may need to devote a meeting of the Council to this discussion. Dick Wallace noted that knowing what needs to be communicated is an issue that we need to be clear about.

**Action Taken** On a motion made by Andre Paquette, seconded by Kevin Washburn, the Council approved the 2005 Work Plan. Council members were thanked for their efforts to bring this matter to conclusion.

### **Professional Advisory Committees**

**Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC)** – Andre Paquette reported that the **Data Management Team** of JJAC has been reviewing various data sets of the court, DJJS and other provider information. Most recently, we have asked providers to review and assess their use of benchmarks being reviewed by national studies in Juvenile Justice. The **Association of Prosecutors Research Institute** has conducted research on national standards for use by juvenile justice providers including our sister county, Deschutes County, Oregon. We have been invited to send a four person team to a training session in South Carolina in January, 2005. Under consideration for attendance at this writing are Judge Martin, Jay Apicelli, James Sawyer, and Bill McGonagle (NH DJJS). If we are able to send a fifth person, Andre will consider attending. Due to conflicts with holidays, the next JJAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 3 at 8:00 AM.

Alan indicated that Peter Michaud is considering attending JJAC meetings this next year. We feel this would bring the all-important aspect of victim advocacy to the discussion of restorative justice. JJAC's last meeting focused primarily on changing the paradigm of juvenile justice to balanced and restorative justice. This discussion will continue to dissect the various components of the system for recommendations of how to evolve BARJ principles into the current system. Finally, there is a need to meet with county's **School Resource Officers (SROs)** as it is believed there is a key prevention function being attributed to their work. Leo Sanfacon also mentioned that there will be a **Justice Works** report on the Restorative Justice Program released soon.

**Addiction Task Force** – Alan Robichaud reported that Child and Family Services of New Hampshire served as lead agency in the submission of a concept paper to New Futures for establishing an **Adolescent Treatment Initiative** in Belknap County. We are awaiting the results of that submission. Also, a series of screening training sessions for hospital and affiliated doctors' nursing staff throughout Belknap County will be conducted in December and January by Jacqui Abikoff (Horizons Counseling Services) and Sue Caldon (Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency Program) as part of continued efforts by the Addictions Task Force. The Task Force is also co-sponsoring the **Governor's Commission and Drug Czars' Forum**, in conjunction with the **Convocation on Children and Families** on January 11, 2005.

**Director's Report** – Alan Robichaud reported on a number of ongoing projects (e.g. Council Annual Meeting, Convocation, Business Showcase, and Nominations for the Family Violence Prevention Council. Katy DeCarteret and Kevin Washburn shared their latest developments in preparations for the Annual Meeting and Convocation. Work is progressing nicely and many, many people are working behind the scenes to collaborate on this project.

**Belknap County Mentoring Initiative** – Jim Doremus, Executive Director of [The Friends Program](#), was present and discussed the Mentoring grant received for Belknap County from the US Department of Education. This has been a great collaboration between the Council, The Friends Program and a number of planning committee participants representing several local provider agencies. Jim gave a history of The Friends Program in Merrimack County and its outreach services to Belknap and Sullivan Counties. Four objectives behind this initiatives include: meeting elements of best practice in Mentoring services, providing financial resources for start up, recruiting volunteers, and sustainability of effort. Jim indicated that all 9 School Administrative Units (SAUs) in Belknap County have signed Partnership Agreements and are enthusiastic about the effort. Jim pitched the need for Council members to open doors to their communities for the program to step through and explain the program for recruitment purposes. Program details (e.g. community –based, school-based and site-based mentoring) and marketing aspects (mass marketing, target marketing) were reviewed as were screening and training elements of the program. The program’s methods for recruitment and retention have yielded high results over the past ten to fifteen years. Volunteers are required to have/prove of vehicle insurance and must go through law enforcement background checks before final matches are made.

**Action Needed** Council members are asked to review the lists of businesses Jim distributed. Add others, delete those that are no longer current and assist in identifying other “centers of recruitment” by December 1, 2004. This will be critical to the early success of mentor recruitment. Please follow through on this and also send information simultaneously to Alan at the Council as this action will coincide with other initiatives of the Council (e.g. service learning opportunities, community service, youth venture, etc.).

**Other Business**

Sarah Fox distributed a publication from [NH Children’s Alliance](#) and nomination information regarding awards from the Alliance. Please review the materials and respond to the Alliance should you have any suggestions for nomination.

**NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, December 10, 2004

**TIME:** 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

**PLACE:** Busiel Meeting Room, River Level  
One Mill Plaza  
Laconia, New Hampshire

Respectfully,

*Alan Robichaud*