

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, December 9, 2005

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

PRESENT: Gil Schohan, Kevin Washburn, Leo Sanfacon, Jim Pilliod, Ruth Castonguay, Andre Paquette, Emily Clement, Christie Corrigan, Sarah Fox, Alida Millham, Sue Smith **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUESTS:** Jim Doremus, Bill Seed, Judge Martin

Additions/Amendments to Agenda No changes

Work Group Reports

- ***Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)*** Andre Paquette reporting. Andre and Alan had very positive meeting with the newly appointed Franklin District Court Judge, Ned Gordon. They shared the history of the Council, BARJ and JJAC (Juvenile Justice Advisory Council) initiatives, and stressed the importance of offering the same services to youth in Belknap County who are served by the Franklin District Court. Judge Gordon was very interested in the work and mandate of the Council. The BARJ workgroup will continue to update Judge Gordon. He has also been added to the JJAC information loop.

Andre believes that the work of the Council “is beginning to take hold regarding juvenile justice initiatives”. Momentum for new programs and services such as the Victim Restitution Fund and the Directory of Resources for Juvenile Justice Programs and Services is an obvious by-product of the networking and collaboration made possible through JJAC.

Alida noted that the Child and Family Law and Juvenile Justice Legislative Committee is very interested in learning about the Citizens Council and its Community Justice-focused effort and would like to set up an ad-hoc study group for this purpose. Alida is working with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair to facilitate these connections.

Alan noted that the JJAC Data Committee will be boosted by the contributions of John Cook, a professional data analyst and evaluator who has been volunteering with JJAC, but who can now be paid through an approved use of the Council budget. The output of this Data Committee will be evident when the first Report Card to the Community is published, sometime in early 2006.

- ***Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)*** Christie Corrigan reporting. According to Sarah Fox, the Belknap County point person with the NH Youth Ventures Program, the Belknap County 4-H program and the Teen Center of the Lakes Region will sponsor a Youth Ventures workshop.

Christie continues as a panelist for the Restorative Justice Program and says that they are building a larger inventory of competency building opportunities for the juveniles, citing a shadowing opportunity that was developed for a youth interested in the legal profession. Christie is also very involved as a Jr/Sr Friends mentor.

- ***Prevention*** Ruth Castonguay reporting. This group is doing very well with new members and energy brought by combining the Addictions Task Force with those interested in promoting the recovery movement. They are also making good connections into the faith community.

A county chapter of Friends of Recovery-NH (FOR-NH) has been created and recently held its first meeting in combination with the Annual Meeting of the statewide FOR. Two Belknap County Chapter members will be on the NH FOR Board.

The Prevention Workgroup will be working with the CoRe Coalition to bring a motivational speaker on parenting issues to Belknap County. The Prevention Group is also working with CoRe and others to do some asset-mapping of prevention programs that currently exist – especially in schools and churches.

Ruth is currently attending the Women's Leadership Training Institute that is being offered in Laconia. She and 9 other women are developing leadership skills that will enhance their participation in the recovery movement. Ruth will also be taking the New Futures Leadership Training scheduled in Laconia on February 14th and encourages Council members and others to also participate.

- **Executive Committee** Sue Smith reporting. The revised *job descriptions for Alan and Judy* were approved through a motion by Andre that was seconded by Ruth. Motion carried. Sue explained that examining and revising these job descriptions is one step in analyzing staff support needs.

Emily Clement was accepted as a new Council member, term beginning in January 2006 through a motion made by Andre and seconded by Gil. Emily briefly explained her background that has involved teaching, resource development, guidance counseling, and work with adjudicated boys, taking her throughout NH, Alaska, and several spots in Eastern Europe. She is now the Director of Christian Education at the Laconia Congregational Church and is "very happy to be putting her efforts" to local community initiatives such as the Citizens Council.

Council Meeting schedule Council members were asked to consider three options for Council meeting schedules. As some Council members have indicated a need to change the day and time of Council meetings to better accommodate their schedules and to boost recruitment for the Council, three options were presented as possible options: The third Thursday from 8-10am; the third Thursday from 5-7pm, and to remain the same with the second Friday from 8-10am. Council members will vote on these options at the Annual Meeting in January.

Council Structure Following a preliminary discussion at the December Executive Committee meeting, Sue proposes some changes to the by-laws that would remove the requirement for Council members to serve on at least one committee or workgroup and remove all references in the by-laws to standing committees. The Executive Committee would include the Council Chair and Vice-Chair and the leaders of current Council initiatives. This will offer greater latitude for Council members in working where their interests lie and open up participation to the community. It would also broaden the ability for Council members to be in "good standing without workgroup attendance requirements". Andre suggests that in making any changes that the Council must follow two principles (1) We cannot create any context where one person speaks on behalf of the Council. Any initiative must be a part of the Council's overall mission and goals for the year. (2) The Executive Committee should produce a clear written charge for each "workgroup/initiative/project" of the Council. Alida said that in addition to building interest groups there still must be some basic structure that keeps the Council focused and on task. There must be accountability and responsibility. Alida and the other 4 members graduating off the Council will be able to continue their involvement with the Council, participating with interest groups as they are able. There were concerns expressed that this suggested approach is not really much different than what is happening currently. Jim Pilliod noted that the "accomplishments of the Council" need to be promoted to the public. It was proposed to develop some sort of mentor relationship that would allow new Council members to learn from established Council members. It was decided that Council members need more time to think about these proposed changes and that further discussion be planned for the Annual Meeting and beyond.

The Friends Mentor Program Jim Doremus, Executive Director of the Friends Program that began a mentor program in Belknap County in partnership with the Council about a year ago, provided an update on their progress. They have had several challenges including recruiting mentors and working through the red tape to identify mentees. Jim provided Council members with a packet of materials that included a statistical report and samples from a media campaign now underway. There are currently 10 active matches with other mentors waiting to be screened, interviewed, and trained. As the most powerful recruiting tool is face-to-face discussion, Jim invited Council members to consider hosting "house parties" where a small group of interested friends would hear a short presentation on mentoring. Jim noted that two Council members, Christie Corrigan and Kevin Washburn, are now active mentors. Mentoring opportunities are available both in school settings (1 hr/wk) and community settings, which can involve more contact with the mentee. Mentors for both settings are needed.

Jim introduced Bill Seed who spoke about his community-based experiences with his Junior Friend. Bill has been involved since July and is completely enjoying his time in this program.

Executive Director's Report Due to time constraints, Alan mentioned only two items:

- ***Officer Nomination status*** Alan has followed up on officer nominations provided by some Council members. There is only 1 person that is willing to run for either slot. Andre said “this is very key and should be of concern.” He recommended that all Council members should take some time to think about Council service and that a special Council meeting should be called to discuss this issue. This meeting is scheduled for Friday January 6th at 8am.

ACTION: Council staff will inform all Council members of this special meeting to discuss this apparent lack of interest in Council leadership positions.

- ***Extended Annual Meeting*** Alan is concerned that 30” is not enough time to conduct the business of Annual Meeting and recommends that the time be extended by 30” to begin at 4:30 instead of 5pm. This Annual Meeting is part of the Convocation on Children and Families on January 24th.

Other Business There were no other business items introduced.

NEXT MEETINGS

(1) **WHEN: Friday, January 6th 8-10am to discuss 2006 Council Leadership**

WHERE: Busiel Mill

(2) **WHEN: Tuesday, January 24th 4:30pm (Annual Meeting)**

WHERE: Winnepesaukee Expo Center, Lakeport