

**BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2004**

**SUMMARY**

**Attending:** Alida Millham, Gil Schohan, Jim Carroll, Christie Corrigan, Ruth Castonguay, Sarah Fox, Andre Paquette, Kevin Washburn, Sue Smith, Steve Fountain, Katy DeCarteret, Nancy Porosky, Mary Alice Warner, Dick Wallace **Guests:** County Commissioner Phillip Daigneault, DHHS Commissioner John Stephen, Joe Harding, Director, Office of Alcohol and Drug Policy, Greg Moore, Director Office of Public affairs and Governmental Relations. Renee Hill-Rockwell, Dan Harris, Heather Corriveau, Richard Moed. **Staff:** Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud **Summary by:** Alan Robichaud

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**Introductions**

All members and guests were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

**Summary and Findings of Police Chief Interviews**

Andre Paquette summarized current activity of the Balanced and Restorative Justice Work Group (BARJ), including their recent report, *“Perceptions of Local Law Enforcement about the Belknap County Juvenile Justice System”*. Copies of this document, emailed earlier to Council members, were distributed to guests. The BARJ workgroup gathered the information for this report through interviews with key administrators and staff in all of the County’s Police Departments. This report details findings from these interviews and makes recommendations for 2005 goals for the County’s juvenile justice system. This report will now be distributed to the Police Chiefs in each community and to members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) for further discussion and action.

**Work Groups Reports**

*Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)* - Andre Paquette said that a sub-committee on [Data Management](#) has been reviewing the benchmarks and outcome measures currently being studied by the [American Prosecutors Research Institute \(APRI\)](#), Gordon Bazemore, Denny Maloney, and others who have been involved with the Balanced and Restorative Justice movement for a number of years. A four-site study is about to be released on research conducted on these benchmarks. As part of the Council’s association with APRI, the Council has been invited to attend a training session in early January. A five member team, Andre Paquette, Judge Martin, Jim Sawyer, Jay Apicelli and Bill McGonagle, will attend this training and will report back to BARJ, JJAC and the Council at regularly scheduled meetings.

The BARJ Work Group is also planning to convene the region’s [School Resource Officers \(SROs\)](#) to gain their perspective on issues impacting juveniles. Similar processes will be considered with other groups as this BARJ workgroup continues to inform the Council on the balanced and restorative justice measures to be incorporated in each level of service across the system. Similarly, [victim status](#) will be given greater attention as we progress. Council member Peter Michaud will lend his talent and expertise to this discussion through attendance at future JJAC meetings.

*Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)* – Christie Corrigan reported that the group has been meeting with a combined group sponsored by [Reclaiming Futures](#). Recently, this group met with youth from the [Drug Court](#) program who talked about how their communities can help them explore their specific interests. The discussions have been revealing and have clarified a role that the ABCD work group and Council might play in making connections for youth in their communities. Sarah Fox and Christie have both been involved in various levels of [Youth Venture](#) opportunities. Sarah is the Council’s primary connection to Youth Venture, and with Katy DeCarteret and Kevin Washburn, has attended a *“Dream It- Do It”* workshop for youth in the Tilton/Sanbornton/Northfield area. Further presentations across the County are being planned.

Christie, whose daughter Alice participated as a recent Youth Venturer by organizing “Ocktoberfest”, a punk rock concert, is scheduled to have another event on December 18, 2004. Contact Christie for further details on this event.

*Prevention* – Sue Smith reported that the group has targeted its goal and objectives for 2005. She talked about the [Parent Leadership Series](#), the Council’s relationship with [CoRe](#), and the emerging [prevention coalition](#) activities. She encouraged Council members to think of ways they might connect with those parents who graduate from the five-session Parent Leadership Series.

*Under discussions with the Commissioner, below:* Mary Alice suggested that one possible link might be to engage Leadership graduates to assist in the development of Parent-to-Parent Centers. Any effort of this nature would need careful and deliberate coordination and collaboration with agencies currently providing similar services.

The work group’s next meeting is scheduled for January 21 at 9:00 AM. All Council members are welcome to attend.

### **Director’s Report**

Alan Robichaud noted items not already covered under the work group reports. He spoke about the various grant initiatives recently begun in Belknap County (e.g. [Prevention, Mentoring, Mediation, Youth Venture](#) and others). He mentioned the fine work being done in Alton and Barnstead through the work of our Council members and initiative partners, the [Prospect Mountain High School](#), and the rapidly emerging [Barnstead Community Resource Team](#), a local grassroots association tending to the needs of community folks. Further, Alan pointed out that the Council appreciates its relationships with several of Commissioner Stephen’s staff who have provided leadership and assistance in planning and in locating resources for Council projects. Staff members cited include Rob O’Hannon, Joe Harding, Jay Apicelli and Natalie Allen.

*Belknap County Mentor Initiative* Members were reminded to reply to Jim Doremus (NH Friends Program) regarding the [check lists of businesses](#) within their respective communities. This information is critical to the success of recruiting mentors. Jim and his staff are progressing rapidly with the organizational development of mentor services in the county but will continue to need Council assistance in identifying potential [centers of recruitment](#). If you have not yet done so, please complete this process before the holiday rush and get back to Jim directly at The Friends Program, 249 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301; [jdoremus@friendsprogram.org](mailto:jdoremus@friendsprogram.org); (603) 228-1193, ext 105. Ongoing Council effort and participation is needed to assure the success of the Belknap County Mentor initiative. Please get back to Jim today!

*2005 Convocation* Convocation materials were distributed. Alan encouraged Council members to wear their “Question Badge” and asked members to vigorously promote the event to families, schools, law enforcement, other community leaders and especially to youth and families. Refer people to the Council website for further registration and scheduling information.

Alan shared a short video, [Credo for Children and Families](#). Intended as a tool for discussion groups the Council will have throughout the region, this video was received very well by the Council and guests. It was also previewed this past week in Boston by members of the Robert Wood Johnson Reclaiming Futures Community Fellowship group. Alan’s son, Evan produced the video for Council use. (Thanks Ev! - Proud Dad talking here!)

### **Approval of Slate of Officers**

The Slate of Officers for 2005 was distributed for member review. The seven Council members, each a candidate for Council office, were offered an opportunity to say a few words. Alan said that this strong slate indicates “good depth on the Council”, thanking them “for their willingness to accept the challenges of these key elected positions”. The slate of Officers is as follows: **For Chair** – Sue Smith; **For Vice-Chair** – Ruth Castonguay, Christie Corrigan, Katy DeCarteret, Sarah Fox, Dick Wallace, Kevin Washburn. On a motion by Andre Paquette, seconded by Gil Schohan, the slate was passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

### **Discussion with the Commissioner**

Commissioner Stephen, referring to some of the work and direction of the Council, stated that he would like to create similar regional approaches to issues facing children and families. He noted that he hoped the Council “might become a model for other regions”. He stated that prevention is high on his agenda and from a public health perspective, he is working to not only make his Department’s resources more efficient but to leverage additional resources through better coordination at the local level, creating coalitions that can secure future grant funds, and building strong partnerships among state and local resources. He used the term “at-promise” to describe those who are ordinarily referred to as “at-risk” youth, thus emphasizing the potential of all youth to aspire, to learn, and to grow in their families, homes and communities.

Commissioner Stephen related two initiatives he is promoting that relate to Council activity:

- Parent-to parent support networks, including call centers for substance abuse issues.
- Increased emphasis on treatment for DWI cases, including treatment built in as diversion from criminal prosecution and incarceration. The Commissioner also mentioned that Patrick Herlihy is leading a residential initiative for people dealing with substance abuse and addiction and that the Council may be interested in this effort.

The Commissioner stated that there was “lots to talk about” and that he “may have to come back at a future date to continue the discussion”. The Council would welcome continued dialogue with the Commissioner and will encourage future opportunities to discuss issues, assets and projects that support the mission of the Council. The Council thanked the Commissioner for his time and attention.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** January 14, 2005

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

**LOCATION:** Busiel Community Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia

Respectfully submitted,  
Alan Robichaud

*Very Happy Holidays to you and your families!*