

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Council Meeting

DATE: Friday, March 11, 2005 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:10am **TIME ENDED:** 10:10am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Sue Smith, Peter Michaud, Ruth Castonguay, Sarah Fox, Andre Paquette, Leo Sanfacon, Kevin Washburn, Mary Alice Warner, Christie Corrigan, Dick Wallace, Jim Pilliod, Katy Kannally-DeCarteret **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

ABSENT: Jim Carroll, Stephen Fountain, Alida Millham, Richard Moed, Nancy Porosky, Gil Schohan

1. **Approve Minutes** Motion to approve minutes of February 11, 2005 Council meeting as written made by Andre Paquette; second by Leo Sanfacon. Motion carried.

2. **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** No additions or changes to agenda

3. **Mentor Initiative Open House** An Open House launching the Belknap County Mentor Initiative (The Friends Program) is scheduled for 6-8pm, Wednesday, April 6th at the Winnepesaukee Exposition Center. The event will feature an explanation of the program, a key speaker, testimonials by current mentors and mentees, and light refreshments. With a goal of making 100 adult-child mentor matches in Belknap County during the grant period, this Open House is designed to educate and inform professionals and citizens as well as to attract potential mentor candidates. A large mailing will be sent out. Kevin Washburn, Katy DeCarteret and Leo Sanfacon are members of planning group.
ACTION: **Kevin Washburn will request help from Council members with bulk mailing**

Alan Robichaud offered a brief history of development of this grant-funded (US DOE) initiative, tracing its origins to a series of well attended meetings over a 2-year period. Part of the planning included discussions with Big Brother, Big Sister Mentor Program (BBBS) who at the time were not able to meet the needs as perceived by the planning group. The Friends Program (based on Concord), already operating a very successful mentor program in Merrimack County, offered to facilitate a process that led to a grant proposal to the US Dept of Ed to develop an adult-child school-based mentoring program in the Lakes Region. Part of the planning included developing Memos of Agreement with all the County's schools districts and the Citizens Council, a primary partner in this mentor initiative. The grant was awarded to Friends in the Fall of 2004 and program development efforts are now well underway. Alan would like Council members to acknowledge the significant and formal relationship between the Council and The Friends Program's Belknap County Mentoring Initiative. The Council is fully supportive of The Friends Program and appreciates the tremendous initiative put forward in planning, collaboration and development of the grant. We will continue to promote the recruitment of mentors for the program on behalf of youth throughout Belknap County.

4. **Balanced and Restorative Justice Workgroup** Andre Paquette reported.
Report Card to the Community project (*written materials describing outcomes of the juvenile justice system in lay terms, including the changes now underway*) is progressing well. BARJ members are now working with Jay Apicelli (JPPO Supervisor) to refine the "Case Closing" form that will be used as the determining point for all outcomes data.

Stakeholder Interviews Interviews with "Stakeholders" in the juvenile justice system are still underway with a current focus on understanding more about the role of School Resource Officers (SRO). The goal is to meet with each SRO individually and then together as a group. NH JusticeWorks (UNH) recently issued a report stating that SROs are "a very good prevention tool". Based on this study, the Citizens Council would like to fully incorporate SROs into their planning efforts. Most SROs are in place through federal start-up funds to law enforcement-school collaborations. Some of this federal support is now ending, creating some discussions in communities on how/if SRO positions will be maintained. While the Council has not adopted an official position on the impact of SROs the Council appreciates and supports

the prevention role SROs play in their communities. Alan suggested that Patti Moed (who is doing some volunteer public relations writing for the Council and its initiatives) might write a piece on SROs.

Andre Paquette reminded the Council that “progress is slow, but is occurring” as 15-20 years ago, during his tenure as a School Superintendent, school interactions with law enforcement were only in the most extreme cases. The partnership that now places law enforcement officers inside schools (SROs) as a prevention tool is a remarkable achievement.

Guide to Belknap County Juvenile Justice System will be written in the context of “Community Justice”. This requires that we have uniform definitions of both “Restorative Justice” and “Community Justice”. Andre distributed definitions of both terms (see below) explaining that the emphasis moves (1) to increased accountability for both youth and parents and (2) restoration of both victims and the community to their pre-offense status and (3) the offender to productive citizenship.

I. Community Justice In Belknap County

Community Justice is an approach to building community that reflects the vision of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Family:

“Belknap County is a community where children and families
can live safely with dignity and respect.”

We believe that we can achieve our vision by promoting and implementing:

1. The principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice:
2. The principle that prevention and early intervention help children and families more effectively and less expensively than other measures, applied later.
3. The principle that community development, building on existing assets, creates socio-economic conditions where children and families can live with dignity and respect.

II. Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice in Belknap County--Mission Statement

The mission of the Belknap County Balanced and Restorative Juvenile Justice System is to help realize the vision of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families:

“Belknap County is a community where children and families
can live safely with dignity and respect.”

The mission is pursued by promoting, supporting, and participating in a juvenile justice system based on the following restorative principles:

1. Holding offenders accountable as soon as possible after the delinquent act is committed;
2. Helping offenders understand the consequences of their delinquent behavior to their victims, their community, and themselves;
3. Keeping offenders within Belknap County—consistent with community safety;
4. Requiring offenders to make restitution to their victims;
5. Requiring offenders to perform supervised community service;
6. Restoring offenders to productive citizenship through competency development;
7. Involving willing victims in the juvenile justice process;
8. Involving other citizens in the juvenile justice process; and,
9. Reporting to all citizens on the effectiveness of the system.

Andre noted the philosophical shift away from what is “available” to what is “needed”, or to a system that is “purchaser” rather than “provider” driven. A motion was made by Andre Paquette and seconded by Leo Sanfacon to accept as written these definitions for use in written materials prepared by the Council and its networks. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion also occurred on the continuing difficulty in processing youth cases in one of the county’s school districts. Alan will contact the involved parties to see how they can deal with this issue. Council member, Kevin Washburn, would like to be included in this meeting.

Victims’ Rights and Restoration This area is chaired by Council members, Gil Schohan and Peter Michaud. They will inform the Council of their progress at a future Council meeting. Peter conducted a discussion on victims’ rights at the last JJAC meeting.

5. **Asset-Based Community Development** Report by Christie Corrigan. Due to bad weather and vacations, this Workgroup has not met in the last month. Katy Kannally-Decarteret, a Workgroup member, has asked for a “leave” from this committee. Currently she is “very busy” with the current Child Advocacy Center and the Belknap County Mentoring Initiative.

Rock Concerts are still scheduled to occur at the Meredith Center Grange Hall. While the youth are still enthusiastic, with bands coming from Maine and Vermont, there are some logistical challenges around parking and assuring adequate funds to pay for the rental of the hall, police coverage, and honorariums to the youth who participate. The Workgroup will continue to look for resolution to these obstacles.

Reclaiming Futures connections Efforts to involve Devin O’Hara with the youths in the Laconia District Drug Court has been lengthy and slow. There are communication and procedural difficulties in the Drug Court that need attention. Drug Court administrators feel that youth currently enrolled in the Drug Court program are not an appropriate match for Devin and that consensus around the referral process to Drug Court is needed. Following a lengthy discussion, Alan has been asked to bring up this concern with the NH Reclaiming Futures Advisory Committee where he is a member.

ACTION: Alan will ask the NH Reclaiming Futures Advisory Group to facilitate a discussion with those involved in the Laconia District Drug Court Program with the intent to understand how this court differs from others in the state and to determine how/if the community can participate with these youth.

6. **Prevention** Ruth Castonguay reported. This group met recently but as the attendance was poor, the group must find a mutually agreeable time to meet. Currently, the Prevention Work Group has three areas of focus: (1) *Support to the Parents As Leaders in Society (PALS)*. The last session of the current PALS class will be Saturday, March 19th which will include a graduation ceremony. Council members from the communities where the PALS participants live have been invited to attend. The goal is for PALS grads to work with these Council members so the PALS grads can use their new skills in their communities. PALS graduates will constitute a new network called Parent Empowerment Network or PEN PALS that will reconvene in 6 months to assess their progress; (2) *Support to the CoRePLUS underage drinking and drug use prevention outreach program*; and (3) *The Belknap County Addictions Task Force* Ruth would like to bring more recovery consumers into this Task Force as well as educators and representatives from health and wellness, and law enforcement.

ACTION: The next meeting of the Prevention Work Group is scheduled for 9am, Friday, March 18th at the Busiel Mill in Laconia.

7. **Executive Committee** Council Chair, Sue Smith, reported. Executive Committee members include Council staff, the point persons for each workgroup, the Council Chair and Council Vice Chair. Its role is to (1) Increase the motivation and participation of Council and Workgroup members (2) Council planning (3) Guidance to Executive Director regarding advocacy initiatives, budgetary, grants etc (4) Developing the Agenda for Council meetings (5) Evaluation of the Executive Director. The Committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 8am.

Council Advocacy Policy A subcommittee, Sarah Fox, Alida Millham, and Alan, is working on developing a process for how the Council can best support advocacy work locally, and on the County, State, and Federal levels. One of the first projects will be developing an education/information process for the County Delegation.

Guests at Council meetings At each Council meeting where there are guests and members of the public, the Council Chair will explain Council process for public input and comments, structuring these comments to a designated spot on the agenda.

8. **Director's Report** Alan Robichaud reported.

Volunteer Time Council members were given forms to record their time and mileage spent in attending Council-related meetings and working on Council projects. This information will be used in grant writing and in Alan's quarterly reports.

ACTION: Council staff will email In-Kind forms to Council members who will complete these forms monthly and email them to Kevin Washburn to compile for Council use.

Convocation 2006 The Council agreed to set the date for the 2006 Convocation on Children and Families/Council Annual Meeting for Tuesday, January 10th. Snow date, January 12th

Council Budget was approved with only several questions from the Delegation. Rep Alida Millham will not continue as Chair of the committee that oversees the budget of the Council due to a perceived conflict of interest. This responsibility will be assumed by Rep Janet Allen.

CoRe has submitted a grant to the Bureau of Public Health (NH DHHS) to support the salary of the CoRe Director, Renee Rockwell. Shannon Swett has recently been hired as the fulltime CoRe Outreach Coordinator and will be housed at the Prospect Mountain High School. Efforts during this first year are focused in Inter-Lakes, Alton, Barnstead, and Laconia.

Adolescent Treatment Initiative (ATI) This is a new initiative funded by New Futures to Child and Family Services of NH. CFSNH will lead an initiative in Belknap County to improve the screening and treatment of adolescents who have issues with substance use by incorporating the schools as integral partners. Seven school districts in Belknap County have expressed strong interest and arrangements for their formal participation are now underway. Initial efforts are expected to begin in Alton, Barnstead, Laconia, and Inter-Lakes to coincide with the prevention initiative (CoRe & CoRePLUS) and additionally, those schools that have completed Youth Risk Behavior Surveys.

ACTION: Alan will create some sort of visual/chart for Council members that describes the multi-faceted and multi-level relationships – especially those that involve the Council – in this project. (See attached chart and definitions)

Council Notebook materials were distributed. Included is a Council member Contact Sheet and information on the Commissioners and County Delegation. These materials will also be emailed to Council members along with the minutes of this March 11th Council meeting.

NEXT MEETING

WHEN: Friday, April 8th 8-10am

WHERE: T.B.A.