

MEETING SUMMARY

Council Meeting

DATE: Friday, April 8, 2005

TIME BEGAN: 8:02am **TIME ENDED:** 10:02am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Nancy Porosky, Gil Schohan, Sue Smith, Jim Pilliod, Mary Alice Warner, Sarah Fox, Rich Moed, Andre Paquette, Christie Corrigan, Kevin Washburn, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **ABSENT:** Ruth Castonguay, Leo Sanfacon, Dick Wallace, Jim Carroll, Steve Fountain, Alida Millham, Peter Michaud **GUESTS:** Sheila Vachon (Meredith), Toni Barbato, Diane Beijer (Barnstead); Judge Willard Martin (Laconia District Court)

1. **Additions/Changes to Agenda:** None requested
2. **Proactive Voice of the Council** Council Vice Chair, Sarah Fox, who also is a member of a sub-committee developing an advocacy/education process for Council members, said that one recommendation from her committee is to spend 15” or so at each Council to discuss aspects of advocacy and communication together. The goal is to personalize as much as possible the work of the Council for each Council member. Council members then spent time writing their own personal vision statements which were shared. (Statements have been compiled as an attachment to these minutes.) The goal of this exercise is to encourage dialogue with others that is based on personal beliefs and convictions.

A brief discussion on the distinction between policy education and lobbying followed. The key is in how this process is carried out. It is permissible and appropriate to educate and promote good policy providing efforts are not to promote self-interests. One of the mandates for the Council is to advocate for policies that promote the well-being of children and families.

3. **Work Group Reports**
 - ***BARJ (Balanced and Restorative Justice)*** Andre Paquette reported that they are now working on a “Case Closing Form”, as part of the “Report Card to the Community”, a publication that will summarize the status of children and families in Belknap County, including information on juvenile offenders. They are also developing two other printed products: (1) A *Victim Brochure*, to give to victims of juvenile crime, outlining victim resources and the process that will be used to resolve their specific situation and (2) *Victim Satisfaction Survey* that will assess the results of interactions with the victims, from the victim point of view. Holly DeWald, Martha Douglass, Brian Loanes, and Jay Apicelli are assisting in developing these tools. The BARJ workgroup will be talking with selected victims during April who will also provide feedback and information. BARJ also hopes to produce a third publication, a booklet on the Juvenile Justice System in Belknap County with parents, youth, and general consumers as the audience.

It was noted that 3 members (Andre, Gil Schohan, and Leo Sanfacon) of BARJ committee will be leaving in January as their Council terms end at that time. New members will be needed.

- ***ABCD (Asset-Based Community Development)*** Christie Corrigan, Kevin Washburn, and Katie Kannaly-DeCarteret reported a very successful launching of the Belknap County Mentor Initiative held at the Expo Center. More than 50 community members attended this open house, sponsored by The Friends Program that is working with the Council to develop an adult-child mentor program in Belknap County. “Ask Cards” were given to Council members to facilitate conversations with others about this program, with a goal of recruiting potential mentors. As well, several “adult-child matches” from the Concord-area program are now available to speak to community organizations as part of the recruitment process in Belknap County.

Devin O'Hara is pursuing being hired as a "Community Liaison" for the youth involved in the Drug Court Program. Devin is an older youth who has experienced many aspects of the juvenile system and will be connecting to youth to share his experiences. As there could be potential issues for Devin and others, he will be receiving "clinical oversight" from Genesis once the position is secured. He is now available to speak to youth networks around the County as part of developing natural supports and peer-related connections for court-involved youth.

Sarah Fox said that a Youth Venture Selection Panel was recently held in the Laconia area and two projects were identified for Youth Venture support: The Interact Club, and a new Babysitting Club. Sarah, who has been trained to do Youth Venture workshops with youth, will continue to make presentations to community groups around the County.

- **Prevention** Mary Alice Warner said this group will be meeting 9am, Friday April 15th. The first PALS (Parents as Leaders in Society) program has ended and the graduates are now involved in implementing their personal projects. This program will continue next year under the leadership of UpStream and United Way. (UpStream will be formally merged with United Way, while still retaining its unique function and identity.)

Recovery Month Prevention Committee member, Ruth Castonguay, will chair 3rd Annual Belknap County Recovery Month. Her goal is to involve members of the Recovery Community in the planning and implementation of the next Recovery Month. Anyone interested in participating is invited to attend a planning meeting on April 13th at 1pm at the Nathan Brody Chemical Dependency building on Fairview Street (off Highland Street).

- **Executive Committee /Council Member Recruitment Strategies** Council Chair, Sue Smith, noted that there will be 5 vacancies on the Council in January 2006. These vacancies are the former BJI members (Gil Schohan, Andre Paquette, Leo Sanfacon, Alida Millham, and Jim Carroll) who are not eligible for a second term. New members will be needed from all communities in the County and every Council member should be involved in recruiting potential members from their towns. These "retiring" Council members will stay involved in some advisory capacity. Andre suggested that Council By-laws be updated to create some sort of "Council Associate" category. Council members requested some sort of "Recruit Card" to distribute to potential Council members.

ACTION:

- **The topic of amending By-laws to include capacity for a Council Advisory Group will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.**
- **Judy Buswell will develop prototype for Council Recruit card for next Executive Committee meeting**

4. Director's Report

- **Taping of Public Service Announcements** Alan has been working with Rich Moed and New Hampton School to shoot and edit PSA's on drug abuse etc. They hope to involve some youth at the Teen Center in Laconia who may possibly be involved in a 3-week internship at New Hampton to learn multi-media techniques. These New Hampton School connections may also be involved in developing programs on underage drinking for airing on public access TV.
- **PALS Program** As reported earlier, this program will continue in the Fall under the aegis of United Way and UpStream. Supported by roll-over funds from NH Children's Trust Fund grant
- **Belknap County Convocation on Children and Families 2006** The Expo Center has been reserved and the date set for Tuesday, January 10, 2006 for the next Convocation. (Snow Date, January 12th) Planning for this event is now underway
- **Volunteer Hours/Mileage Sheets** Council members are asked to complete and submit these forms each month Kevin Washburn has created a spread sheet for tracking and monitoring volunteer contributions.
- **Belknap County Family Violence Prevention Council** The key focus for this group during the coming year will be sharing information on how family violence impacts businesses in the community.
- **Center for Civic Engagement (CCE)** The key focus area for this group, of which the Council is a member with Alan as facilitator, will be around Underage Drinking. They plan to organize and produce a series of

educational sessions covering various aspects of this problem that will be aired over public access TV. New Hampton School may assist with the taping component.

CCE is also interested in working with Bert Whetstone, local Counselor, on appropriate strategies for interacting with kids who have ADHD. Families with children who have ADHD will be trained in these management strategies.

Carol Pierce, Chair of the Laconia Human Relations Committee that sponsors the annual Multi-Cultural Market Day in September, is also interested in promoting dialogue and public awareness around specific cultural sensitivities and to build cultural competencies in the Lakes Region.

- ***Child Advocacy Center Meeting*** A public meeting, where documents will be signed by numerous collaborative partners in preparation for submitting a grant proposal to develop a Child Advocacy Center in Belknap County, will be held Friday afternoon, April 8th at 4pm at the Community Action Center on Rte 106. A Child Advocacy Center allows children victimized by domestic violence to be interviewed in a safe setting by a specifically trained person, avoiding multiple interviews by the numerous parties involved in an investigation of this type. Creating a Child Advocacy Center around the State is an initiative supported by the NH Attorney General's Office.

5. **Other Business**

- *Judge Willard Martin*, who made possible the use of funds from the Annette Schmitt Trust to support the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative and the current Belknap County Citizens Council, is hoping to repeat this process in another county, such as Carroll County. Schmitt Funds supporting the Council are now being reduced as the County assumes financial responsibility. This Fund can now be available to replicate a Community Justice approach elsewhere. He will keep the Council posted on this goal.
- *Comments from Guests* Sheila Vachon, Deputy Town Clerk in Meredith, has always been busy with youth programming, especially in her home community of Meredith, and would like to be more involved with the Citizens Council. Toni Barbado and Diane Beijer, acquainted with the Council through the efforts of Alan Robichaud, are very involved in volunteer work in Barnstead – Diane as a member of the Barnstead School Board, and Tony Barbato, as a member of the Barnstead Community Resources Team. Both are considering expanded involvement as Barnstead representatives on the Council.

6. **Approve Minutes of March 11, 2005** Motion to accept minutes as written made by Andre Paquette and seconded by Christie Corrigan. Motion carried.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, May 13th 8-10am

WHERE: River Level Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia