

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Council Meeting

DATE: Friday, June 10th 2005

TIME BEGAN: 8:03am **TIME ENDED:** 10:05am **FACILITATED BY:** Sue Smith **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Rich Moed, Jim Carroll, Ruth Castonguay, Steve Fountain, Sue Smith, Nancy Porosky, Sarah Fox, Jim Pilliod, Dick Wallace, Mary Alice Warner, Christie Corrigan, Alida Millham **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUESTS:** Jim Doremus, Michelle Ribeiro **COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Leo Sanfacon, Andre Paquette, Katy Kannaly-DeCarteret, Kevin Washburn, Peter Michaud, Gil Schohan

1. **Additions/Amendments to the Agenda** Jim Doremus, Executive Director of Friends Program, will make brief comments. Voting on By-Laws amendment will move to top of the agenda.
2. **By-Laws Amendment**
The proposed amendment to Article VIII adds new language that names non-Council persons who work closely on Council projects as “Council Associates”. While Council Associates do not have voting rights on matters pertaining to the Council business, they are able to work on specific Council activities. Motion to accept this new language made by Rich Moed and seconded by Nancy Porosky. Motion carried.
3. **Jim Doremus** Jim explained some recent staff changes in the new Belknap County Mentoring Initiative which includes transferring a staff person to Laconia from their Concord office to cover several recent changes in their Laconia office staff. The Citizens Council is a primary partner in the Belknap County Mentoring Initiative, funded through a grant from the US Department of Education. Jim expressed ongoing commitment to recruiting/training mentors and matching them with identified youth in Belknap County. The Council requested that exit interviews be conducted to identify any issues/concerns that should be addressed prior to bringing on new staff.
4. **Practicum Student Summary – Michelle Ribeiro** Michelle is employed with the Lakes Region Community Service Council and as part of a degree program with the Community Technical College – Laconia, she has recently completed a 140-hour practicum with the Citizens Council. Her practicum project involved identifying community resources in Belknap County and included two components: (1) Collecting and assembling profile and contact information for each of the County’s 11 communities into separate binders. Michelle has donated one set for Council use (2) Interviewing youth from the Laconia Teen Center to better understand their perspective on several issues relevant to community development and the work of the Council. All Council members were given a summary of the teens’ responses. Sue Smith presented Michelle with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Council lapel pin for her contributions to the work of the Council.

Suggested follow-up activities to Ms. Ribeiro’s project include: (1) encouraging Council members to use the same survey template that Michelle developed and interview youth in their own communities. (2) encouraging the Belknap County Economic Development Council to add the information that Michelle has gathered to the town websites BCEDC has developed. (3) Present a copy of the Town Resource/Contact Guides to libraries for use in their reference collections.

5. **Work Group Reports**
 - ♦ ***Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) - Rich Moed reporting*** This workgroup recently sponsored a “victim focus group” with victims of juvenile crime to discuss their experiences. Rich said the evening was very informative and that a summary of findings is being prepared by fellow workgroup member, Peter Michaud. Rich described some insights from this meeting:
 - Victims retain the memories for many years after incident
 - Victims are often left out of the investigative process and are understandably confused and frustrated

- Victims often do not know the outcome of investigations etc

There is a great need to educate others about the victim experience. Suggestions include using the Center for Civic Engagement and Lakes Region Public Access TV as vehicles for a Victim Information course and for general awareness.

- ◆ ***Asset-based Community Development (ABCD) – Christie Corrigan reporting*** This workgroup has been involved in helping to recruit mentors for the Belknap County Mentoring Initiative. One recruitment strategy is to hold “House Parties”, where appropriate adults are invited to private homes for presentations on the Mentor Program. This workgroup is still collaborating with the Reclaiming Futures ABCD efforts.
- ◆ ***Prevention Workgroup – Ruth Castonguay reporting*** This group has a sub-committee to plan the county’s observance of National Drug and Alcohol Addictions Recovery Month in September. Plans are developing well. The committee’s next planning meeting is Monday, June 13th at 4pm at the Nathan Brody facility.

The Prevention Workgroup is also involved in creating a Lakes Region chapter of Friends of Recovery (F.O.R.) – NH. A recent exploratory meeting featuring Denise Devlin, Director of F.O.R. NH, attracted 13 adults from the Recovery Community. Ms. Devlin offered scholarships for specific educational seminars and trainings; 6 individuals were able to take advantage of these opportunities.

The Targeted Prevention for Girls Program will soon be underway at the Laconia Teen Center.

Ruth is expanding the Prevention Workgroup beyond Council members and has already recruited two new members.

The next Prevention Workgroup meeting will be Friday, June 17th at 9am.

- ◆ ***Executive Committee – Sue Smith reporting***
 - ***Staff clerical support*** Following up on the concerns of several Council members that Council staff needs secretarial assistance, it was decided:
 - A request at this time could undermine current relationship building process with the Commissioners and Delegation.
 - More information, such as time studies, would be needed to support request
 - Request should be re-framed to include broader view of County needs, such as a Program Evaluation/Data position that could be shared among all County departments
 - Managing an additional staff position does not fit the current work environment and work styles of Council staff
 - It may be possible to “borrow” County administrative staff to assist with special projects
 - ***Advocacy Sub-committee*** Alida Millham and Sarah Fox are spearheading efforts to connect with policy makers and to identify ways to get our message out.
 - ***July Council meeting*** As Alan will be at a 3-week seminar for state and local officials at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, a motion was made by Sue Smith to suspend the Executive and monthly Council meetings in July; seconded provided by Alida. Motion carried.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

- ◆ ***Annual meeting/Convocation date*** has changed from Jan 10 to January 24th with a snow date of January 26th. These extra 2 weeks will allow the additional preparation time needed after the Holidays.
- ◆ ***Workgroup Budgets*** Alan requests that each workgroup submit budget needs for the rest of 2005 to him by the August Council meeting.
ACTION: By August 12th, the Workgroup Chair will provide Alan with budget needs for the remainder of 2005
- ◆ ***Community Youth Mapping*** This project, directed and supported by the CoRePLUS federal SAMHSA Drug Free Communities grant, will “map” the County to identify resources available for youth. Youth will be hired and trained to carry out this project during the upcoming summer months.
- ◆ ***New Hampton Media Project*** CoRePLUS funds will support a Media Training Project at the New Hampton School for 8-10 teens from the Laconia Teen Center
- ◆ ***UpStream*** is merging with Lakes Region United Way. The Council has transitioned responsibilities and grant funds for the P.A.L.S. Program to UpStream who will now manage and implement this program
- ◆ ***Community Forums*** It is suggested that the Council should begin another round of community discussions throughout the County. Suggestion was made that the ABCD Workgroup facilitate this project.
ACTION: The ABCD Workgroup will begin discussing ideas and a format for the next round of community forums. Initial ideas from ABCD should be shared at the August Council meeting
- ◆ ***National youth and family advocacy*** Alan explained that there is interest on the federal level to develop strategies for gaining “the family voice” around substance abuse, treatment, and funding. Unfortunately, this population is underrepresented in local, state, and national dialogue and planning on this topic. Alan is working on an initiative through his Reclaiming Futures connections to discuss this concern and will be attending an initial meeting in early August in the DC area.
- ◆ ***Reclaiming Futures changes*** As funding for this project expires, Reclaiming Futures and Drug Court programs will transition to New Futures. Reclaiming Futures Director, Maria Gagnon, will incorporate responsibilities for these two programs in her new role as the Assistant Clinical Director at New Futures.

7. **Approve Minutes of the May 13th Council meeting** Motion made by Alida Millham; second provided by Rich Moed. Motion carried.

8. **Other Business** Mary Alice Warner shared from a recent article in the Christian Science Monitor on the national trend for juvenile justice systems to move from a punitive approach to one that is more rehabilitative.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING	
WHEN:	Friday, <u>August 12</u> 8-10am (There is no meeting in July)
WHERE:	Busiel Mill