

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

MEETING SUMMARY

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families

DATE: Friday, December 21, 2007 The Council's Annual Meeting

TIME BEGAN: 8:0am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Sarah Fox **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Micheline Roy, Nancy Porosky, Amy Hall, Christie Corrigan, Rasim Gusinac, Emily Clement, Sue Smith, Gil Schohan, Sarah Fox, Katie Brandt, Kate Miller, Sandy McLaughlin, Mary Alice Warner, Betty Anson **GUESTS:** Amy Myers
COUNCIL ASSOCIATES: Jim Pilliod, **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Omelettes by Al**: The Council's Annual Meeting began with a tasty breakfast planned by Council Member, Micheline Roy. Chef Al Robichaud whipped up some tasty and creative omelettes that were supplemented with an array of bagels, meats, juice, and coffee. Following dining and conversation, the business portion of the Annual Meeting began at 8:40am.



2. **Executive Committee Report** - Sarah Fox reporting

- ***Term Extensions*** As provided by the Council By-Laws, Gil Schohan offered a motion to extend the terms of three Council members, Rasim Gusinac, Rich Moed, and Sarah Fox whose terms expire at the end of 2007. Motion seconded by Emily Clement. Motion carried.
- ***2008 Slate of Officers*** Sue Smith made a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2008 as follows:
Chair: Christie Corrigan, Sarah Fox
Vice-Chair: Emily Clement, Amy Hall, Nancy Porosky. Motion seconded by Mary Alice Warner; motion carried. Council members voted via paper ballot. Sarah Fox will continue as Chair and Emily Clement will serve as Vice Chair.
- ***Recognition of outgoing Council members*** Words of recognition and appreciation were extended to Mary Alice Warner and Sue Smith who will be leaving the Council after completing two terms as Council members. Both members were given plaques as tokens

of appreciation. Micheline Roy presented a plaque to Sue Smith who has also served two years as Council Chair; Emily presented a plaque to Mary Alice Warner who has been a member of the Council's Prevention Work Group and who now leads parenting classes at the State Correctional Facility with Emily.

- ***Council Retreat*** This day long event on Friday, January 18, 2008 will be held from 8-3pm at the Woodside Building, The Taylor Community in Laconia. Donna Singer of Donna Singer Consulting, Portsmouth, NH and Boston, MA. Anticipated outcomes include developing clear goals for the Council in 2008. Invitations have been extended to Council Associates and former Council members. All attendees will be asked to commit to attending for the entire day. The County Commissioners have been invited to join Retreat attendees during the lunch period.
3. **Director's Report** – Alan Robichaud reporting (*Written report is included at the end of these minutes*)
Alan commented on several items in his report:

- **2008 Convocation** This annual event will be held again at the Opechee Inn (formerly the Expo) on Jan 22nd. Meal tickets are \$15.00/adults and \$10.00 for youth <= 12 years. Schools from around Belknap County will share their curriculum-based projects that underscore the theme: Community Sense Makes Common Sense. Close to 300 attendees are expected. The Council will pay for Council members, but spouses and others must register as directed on the Convocation flyer. **ACTION: Council members wishing to attend the Convocation are asked to register with Judy.** jsbuswell@bccj.org The registration deadline is January 7th.
- **Public Forums – Juvenile Justice** The Council in partnership with juvenile justice providers and others will sponsor a series of discussions with community members about their expectations for the juvenile justice system in the County. These forums will help to inform the growing controversy in many communities about continuing taxpayer funding for court diversion programs.
- **Victims Rights** Each of the four providers of juvenile justice services are distributing Victim Satisfaction Surveys to victims of juvenile crime. This effort is part of the Council’s initiative to pay better attention to victims. The Council Victims Rights Committee will study these surveys as part of developing further improvements in addressing victim needs.
- **Legislative Initiative** HB 1370, allowing Belknap County providers of juvenile justice services to share information so they can better track recidivism, was introduced by Rep Alida Millham of Gilford. Other co-sponsors include Reps. Beth Arsenault, Judie Reeve, Jim Pilliod, Senator Sgambati, and Rep Bettencourt from outside Belknap County. The bill will be introduced to the Children and Family Law Committee on Jan 2, 2008. Council members may be asked to attend and/or testify at specific hearings as the bill progress through the legislative process. While this bill is intentionally limited to Belknap County, the long-range goal would be for statewide implementation.
- **Policy Summit** Alan and others are arranging for a meeting with the DHHS Commissioner and all DHHS Department Heads. At this point all are willing to attend this meeting where they will review and discuss the “white paper” produced by the Citizens Council on Child Abuse and Neglect in Belknap County. Goals would be to develop a collaborative process between the county and state so that services are strengthened and better coordinated. Hopefully this gathering of identified stakeholders can create future partnerships with the Citizens Council to work on CHINS, Abuse and Neglect, and Delinquency issues. Some type of Summit is planned for early 2008.
- **Belknap County/Carroll County Community Prevention Coalition (CPC)** This coalition, organized to include both Belknap and Carroll Counties in prevention-oriented assessments and programs, has just hired a program Evaluator, Katie Shea, MPH who will begin work with Coalition Director, Colleen McDermott. Carroll and Belknap Counties are part of ten separate districts in NH organized by the State to carry out community assessments and deliver substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. The focus for 2008 will include gathering community input via 1-1 conversations and focus groups and to assess community needs in the arenas of substance abuse and prevention.
- **Program Integration** Youth Services Bureau and the County Restorative Justice Programs are continuing discussions around a potential merger of services. They recently made a presentation to the County Commissioners who, while they did not discourage this initiative, did indicate that the onus for promoting this concept to county taxpayers would be on these two programs and the Citizens Council. There are some current misperceptions around the current funding of these two programs. There are also ongoing needs to promote restorative, rather than punitive approaches to juvenile crime.
- **County Budget Hearing** The first step in the 2008 budgeting process will be a public hearing on Dec 10th with Delegation members present. Review sub-committees will then be appointed to do a close budget review with each of the County departments etc.

4. Work Group Reports –

- **Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ)** No report

- **Prevention** – *Micheline Roy reporting* This group is continuing to focus on developing a community response to the Follow The Child Initiative and other similar, individualized educational programs now being offered in most Lakes Region schools. The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project will facilitate a series of community Focus Group discussions.
- **Executive Committee** – *Sarah Fox reporting*
 (1) *Annual Meeting* It was agreed to hold the Council Annual Meeting as part of the regular Council meeting on Friday, December 21st. The meeting will include some form of breakfast and will include election of Council officers.

ACTION: Micheline Roy will organize food preparation for the breakfast.

(2) *Council Retreat* This event will be a full-day meeting on Friday, January 18th, the regular Council meeting time. Retreat goals are to:

- Identify three primary goals for the Council in 2008,
- Form stronger connections among Council members, and
- Inspire and motivate Council members to participate in Council projects.

Sue Smith offered the use of the Woodside facility at The Taylor community for this Retreat. Sarah indicated that full participation by all Council members, including all participants staying for the duration of the Retreat, is needed in order to accomplish Retreat goals. It was agreed that this day-long event should be facilitated by an outside professional. Laurie Belanger reported on the research she had done on several potential facilitators. We should expect to pay up to \$2,500. for this project which will include some preliminary work by the Facilitator with Council members and a wrap-up summary. It was agreed that the County Commissioners should be invited to the “working lunch” portion of this Retreat.

ACTION:

- **Laurie will continue her preparations in selecting a professional facilitator.**
- **The Retreat Committee will continue to plan this event.**
- **Sarah Fox will contact all Council members, asking for commitments to attend for the entire day.**

(3) *New Council Members* The applications of Kate Miller from Meredith, Sandy McLaughlin from Gilford, and Rep Jim Pilliod of Belmont for Council membership were reviewed. Jim, currently a Council Associate, will return for a second term as a Council member. He has remained very active in Council activities throughout this past year as an Associate. Ms. Miller has a background in community development and advocacy and Ms McLaughlin is a retired school administrator. A motion to accept all three as Council members, with terms beginning in January 2008, was made by Rich Moed; second provided by Emily Clement. Motion carried.

(4) *Council Elections* Nomination forms for 2008 Council officers (Chair and Vice Chair) are due by Nov 26th. Alan will contact each nominee and elections will be held at the December 21st meeting.

ACTION: Alan will prepare a slate of officers in preparation for Council elections on December 21st.

5. **Approve Minutes of August 17, 2007 meeting of the Citizens Council** A motion to approve these minutes as written was made by Rich Moed with a second offered by Micheline Roy. Motion carried.
6. **Public Comment** No member of the general public attended this Council meeting.

7. **Other Business** Katie Brandt from the NH Children's Trust Fund is working with Deb Rosato of the Born Learning Initiative to distribute parent education materials to five libraries in Belknap County. These resources were prepared through the NHCTF and will be a wonderful resource for this area.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (ANNUAL MEETING)

DATE: December 21, 2007

TIME: 8am-10am

LOCATION: River Level Conference Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia

Director's Report

Citizens Council Meeting

November 16, 2007

CATEGORY	TOPIC & SPONSOR	STATUS
Community Forums	Convocation - 2008	Save the date: January 22 nd and 23 rd . Will be held at the Expo Center again.
Initiatives	Victims Rights Committee	Developing a Victims' Satisfaction Survey. Checking on best way to return mail
	Legislative Initiative	Awaiting a bill number to be assigned. Alida has acquired sponsors. Thanks Alida!
	Policy Summit	To identify needs of children and families in Belknap County and plan future collaboration among state, county and local partners. Laying the seeds
	The Friends Program (Mentoring)	Notification of cut-back and attrition.
Coalitions	Community Prevention Coalition (CPC)	Coalition Coordinator has been hired and Evaluator interviews have been concluded. Decision pending.
	Safe Schools Coalition (WRSD)	School is planning a follow-up youth forum.
	Program Integration Committee	Youth Services Bureau and Restorative Justice examining potential consolidation scenarios. Meeting with County Commissioners went well. Work continues to develop stable funding source for Juvenile Justice.
	Community Assessment	Discussions continue with United Way and Lakes Region Partners for Public Health – Development of a comprehensive community assessment and plan
Council Business	Council Recruitment and Community Outreach	Membership Committee to activate recruitment initiatives. Three candidates brought before you today.
	Chapter 263 – Funding for youth services	Monitoring Commission progress on legislation. Ongoing to June 30, 2008
	CFY '08 Budget	County Budget Public Hearing scheduled for December 10th at 7:00 PM at the County Complex.
	Council Retreat	In the works – Laurie Belanger has been scouting out facilitator options.