

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: Citizens Council

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2007

TIME BEGAN: 8:03am **TIME ENDED:** 9:30am **FACILITATED BY:** Sarah Fox **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Laurie Belanger, Sandy Webber, Micheline Roy, Rich Moed, Ruth Castonguay, Nancy Porosky, Rasim Gusinac, Christie Corrigan, Sue Smith, Sarah Fox, Gil Schohan, Emily Clement **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **COUNCIL ASSOCIATES:** Jim Pilliod, Judge Martin **GUESTS:** Deb Rosato, Lakes Region Community Services Council, Dan Collis and Richard Batstone, Belknap County Sheriffs Department

1. **Special Recognition** Council member, Gil Schohan, presented Lt Richard Batstone, who is retiring from the Belknap County Sheriffs Department after more than 30 years in law enforcement (19 of them with the BCSO) with a glass desk plaque in appreciation for his role as a member of the Belknap Juvenile Justice Initiative, the predecessor to the Belknap County Citizens Council. Lt Batstone was cited for his active participation in developing the Belknap County Restorative Justice Program. Both Sheriff Collis and Judge Martin commented on Rick's passion and constant dedication to improving the juvenile justice system in Belknap County

2. **Director's Report – Alan Robichaud reporting** Alan distributed a one-page summary of his report.
 - ***Convocation*** The event on January 23rd was a huge success with over 260 attending. This year's event was held at the Opechee Inn Conference Center but as they now require use of their in-house caterer which is more expensive, the venue for next year's event may need to change.
 - ***Open Space Forum*** More than 40 people, including a number of youth and four council members, attended this day-long event at the NH CTC that was sponsored by the NH Teen Institute.
 - ***UpStream Community Forums*** The first of these Forums is scheduled from 2:45 to 6pm on March 28, 2007 at the Opechee Inn and Conference Center. This Forum, part of the UpStream information sharing series, will focus on the "Follow the Child" initiative and Student Aspirations as presented by the Quaglia Institute. More details on Student Aspirations are available at www.qisa.org Commissioner Lyonel Tracy and Dr Quaglia will participate.
 - ***SAG Grant*** The proposal for the second year of Project P.R.O.V.E. It! is due March 15th. Preparing this application will be challenging as, due to several inevitable delays, the Council is only several months into the first year of this project. P.R.O.V.E. It! will develop the data collection, interpretation, and distribution capacity of programs serving children and families in Belknap County. The project's first phase is developing the data capacity in the county's system of juvenile justice.
 - ***Website Enhancements*** A small group met with consultant David Stamps to discuss the potential and process for expanding the Council's website: www.bccj.org More study and research is needed, including identifying the target audiences for the website.
 - ***CoRe Coalition*** Shannon Swett, the Outreach Coordinator for the Coalition for the past two years, has been hired as the Director of the Concord Substance Abuse Coalition. She will begin her duties on March 16th. The CoRe Coalition has just hired a new Executive Director.
 - ***Strategic Prevention Framework*** Shannon Swett has been working with Kim Mohan in Carroll County to prepare a proposal for a bi-county prevention coalition, part of NH's new approach to distribution of substance abuse prevention and treatment grant funds. The Lakes Region partnership for Public Health will act as Fiscal Agent for this bi-county coalition.
 - ***Council Budget – 2007*** The Budget Hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 5th, 2007 at 7pm at the Belknap County complex. The proposed operating budget for CFY is \$211,223.
 - ***Council Member Recruitment*** The recruitment sub-committee meeting was canceled because of bad weather. The Council will need to consider geographic representation and any under-represented sectors of the community, based on suggestions provided by this sub-committee. It is imperative that the Council identify and recruit strong Council members.
 - ***Council Greeting Cards*** Judy distributed packets to Council members of two cards: "Congratulations" and "Thank You" with encouragements for Council members to send these to people who are doing good things, large or small, on behalf of children and families.

3. Work Group Reports

- ***BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BARJ) – Gil Schohan reporting*** The committee is developing policies and practices for the use of two of the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week products, the DVD and life-size cut-outs. Andre Paquette is leading a review of the past five year’s work of the JJAC and Balanced and Restorative Justice groups and has submitted an expanded list of participants for this review.
- ***ASSET-BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ABCD) – Christie Corrigan reporting*** This workgroup is focusing more on informal outreach rather than holding formal committee meetings. Rick Keller and Christie attended a Parent Support Group meeting in New Hampton. Nancy Porosky is coordinating a parent group in Gilmanton Iron Works for parents of teens in Alton, Barnstead, Gilford and Gilmanton.
- ***PREVENTION WORK GROUP – Micheline Roy reporting*** Priorities as adopted by Workgroup members include advocating for life skills training, building support for families, and promoting the engagement of all citizens. Gilford Schools Superintendent, Paul DeMenico, the guest at the last meeting of the Prevention Work Group, made a presentation on values as manifested both in schools and in pop culture. Values in these two sectors are often in direct conflict with each other. Christie asked if someone might speak to the Confirmation class of 12 teens that she leads on values? Alan suggested that this class might consider convening an Open Space Forum for their congregation on this topic. Franklin Schools Superintendent, Jo Ellen Divoll, will be the guest at the March meeting and will talk about the process Franklin used to reduce their school drop-out rates. All council members are welcome to attend.
- ***EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sarah Fox reporting*** The planned meeting of the Executive Committee was canceled because of this week’s storm. Several items were introduced for Council consideration: (1) Council members were sent a summary of Council member applicant, Betty Anson of Laconia. Betty, a new resident of Laconia, is a family therapist with FamilyStrength. A motion to accept Betty as a member of the Council was made by Rich Moed; second provided by Christie Corrigan. Motion carried. (2) Sarah reviewed the summary of the short survey recently completed by 11 Council members at the request of Sarah. 60% of the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the monthly Council meetings are held at a time convenient for them; 60% of the respondents would like to receive summaries of all Council-related meetings. 100% preferred to receive communications by email. A majority of respondents feel positive about their participation on the Council and their grasp of Council work. Sarah would like suggestions for themes for future Council meetings.

6. Approve Minutes of January 19, 2007 A motion to accept the summary of the January 19, 2007 meeting of the Council was made by Rich Moed with a second from Emily Clement. Motion carried.

7. Public Comment Deb Rosato discussed her role with the Community Partners for Children, a project administered by Lakes Region Community Services Council. This project focuses on child and family readiness for learning. She is currently working on the first phase of a \$2.5 million Early Reading First federal grant that includes a research-based curriculum, professional development, and pre-reading skills. Deb also is involved with the Belknap County Early Learning Council and the Lakes Region United Way, Success By Six program.

<u>NEXT MEETING</u>	
WHEN:	Friday, March 16th 8-10am
WHERE:	River Level Meeting Room, Busiel Mill, downtown Laconia