

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE: Citizens Council**

**DATE:** Friday, April 20, 2007

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10:00am **FACILITATED BY:** Sarah Fox **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Mary Alice Warner, Betty Anson, Micheline Roy, Rich Moed, Nancy Porosky, Christie Corrigan, Sarah Fox, Emily Clement **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell **GUESTS:** Deb Rosato, Belknap County Early Learning Council, Kim Slattery, Lakes Region Community Services Council, Linda Dunn, CASA Supervisor, Georgine Fabian and Deb Sargent, CASA volunteers

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1. **Welcome and Introductions** Welcome extended to Kim Slattery and Deb Rosato (Ms. Dunn, Fabian, and Sargent arrived at 9am) The meeting began with a discussion of the “Safe Schools and Springtime Stress; Prevention Issues” article that was forwarded to Council members by Sarah Fox. Council members are concerned that the media is providing so much coverage of all the details of the Virginia Tech College shootings on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah noted the photo and cutline in the Spring issue of the NH Children’s Trust Fund newsletter about the national conference on child abuse now occurring in Oregon. Alan, Judge Martin, Tammy Emery (UpStream), and Karen Carpenter (NHCTF) were invited to discuss Belknap County collaborative projects during one of the break-out sessions.

No additions or changes to the Agenda.

2. **Director’s Report** In the absence of Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell highlighted several items on the report Alan prepared. (*Full report at end of these minutes*)
  - ***United Way – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*** The Council is reserving a table at this May 7<sup>th</sup> event. Up to 8 spaces at the table are available. All interested in attending should contact Judy Buswell via email. The openings will be available on a first-come, first- served basis.
  - ***Website Enhancements*** The Council’s website ([www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org)) needs a major revision and update. Preparatory work includes defining the audience and determining exactly what we wish to communicate to them via our website. This basic information becomes the framework for how the website is organized. Council members are encouraged to join in this discussion. Betty Anson volunteered to participate.
  - ***Safe Schools Coalition (WRSD)*** “Rachel’s Challenge”, the presentation by the brother of the first student shot in the Columbine school incident, will be offered at WRSD on May 2. WRSD also plans an Open Space Forum this fall; Council members are urged to participate in this unique process.

**ACTION:**

- **Council members interested in attending the United Way Dinner on May 7<sup>th</sup> should contact Judy Buswell.**
- **Council members interested in helping to develop the Council’s website should contact either Alan or Judy.**

3. **Work Group Reports**

- ♦ ***BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BARJ) – Rich Moed reporting*** While this Workgroup is not meeting as the BARJ workgroup, all members are involved in activities including the following :
  - ***Data Initiative*** Includes working with grant-funded consultants in developing uniform data collection processes for the four providers in the Juvenile Justice System. This group is also examining data collected by Carol Schonfeld to better understand how resources are used for residential placements.
  - ***JJAC*** This group is beginning a focus on the prevention of juvenile delinquency.
  - ***Victim Support*** This group is working on developing a Victim Satisfaction Survey, developing follow-up activities for the life-size cut-outs and the DVD created as part of the 2006 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, and sponsoring a Forum targeted to school crisis teams in the fall.

Sarah indicated the Andre Paquette, Council Associate and the Chair of the JJAC group, is preparing a report on JJAC activities which Sarah will distribute to the Council.

- ♦ **PREVENTION** – *Micheline Roy reporting* Micheline noted that Alan Robichaud was recently honored with the Norman Marsh community service award by the Belknap County Economic Development Council.

The Prevention Work Group had two area School Superintendents as recent guests and now is beginning to organize around its goal of Life Skill development. Work Group member, Deb Rosato, suggested “Process Mapping” as a strategy for scanning the environment before beginning a large effort such as Life Skill development. She recommended the book, “How To Make Collaboration Work” by David Straud, that outlines how to design and implement “Process Mapping”.

Other topics discussed include:

- *“Parenting From The Inside”* Mary Alice Warner indicates this program where inmates are trained to talk with youth and their parents as a prevention tool is ready to operate but lacks referrals. As she understands Judge Ed Kelly can assist in generating necessary referrals, she has sent him a letter explaining this new program.
- *Even Start Grant* Deb Rosato said the LR Community Services Council is partnering with the Laconia School District for this early literacy grant. As part of their proposal, there would be funds available to work with families of the inmate population. However they have not had “the link” to prison networks to develop this aspect. Mary Alice and Emily Clement, both volunteers at the LR Facility, volunteered to help make this connection.  
**ACTION: Deb will talk with Mary Alice and Emily and send this information to Christina Toth at the LR Facility.**
- *Turbulent Teens Parent Support Group* This group is now meeting at the Boys & Girls of the Lakes Region. They also lack strong attendance. Nancy is talking with referral sources, including DCYF staff, School Guidance Counselors, and the UpStream/Cooperative Extension Parent Class. She will be talking with referral sources in the Court system as well. The Diversion programs are another good referral source.

The next Prevention Work Group meeting is Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am.

- ♦ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** - For the time being, Community Development reports will come from Council members who will talk about what is happening in their communities. No reports were made.
- ♦ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – *Sarah Fox reporting*
  - ***Council Member Development Committee*** Rich Moed, Laurie Belanger, and Betty Anson will be exploring strategies for recruiting new Council members and better networking with current members. They will be meeting soon.
  - ***Delegation Breakfast*** Alida Millham, Council Associate and State Representative, is contacting Stephen Nedeau, the Chair of the Belknap County Delegation, for an optimal time and setting for a meeting with the Delegation, preferably including some type of meal.
  - ***United Way Event*** Council members interested in attending this May 7<sup>th</sup> event are asked to contact Judy Buswell.

**ACTION:**

- ♦ **All Council members interested in attending the United Way dinner as part of the Citizens Council table should contact Judy asap.**
- ♦ **The new Council Chair and Council staff and others will work on organizing a Information Breakfast for the County Delegation**

- 4. **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** Linda Dunn, CASA Supervisor in the Plymouth and Laconia District that also extends to Lebanon and Haverhill, NH discussed the CASA Volunteer program. CASA of NH,

Inc is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to helping abused and neglected children find their way through the child welfare and juvenile court systems to safe, loving and permanent homes. Volunteers are carefully screened and then receive 40 hours of training. The CASA program was intentionally designed to involve citizens who are committed to good outcomes for children. This is not just to avoid fees to attorneys who act in a Guardian ad Litem capacity but to provide citizens who care about children with a meaningful role in the court process. The CASA volunteer (1) serves as a fact-finder for the judge by researching the background of each case (2) speaks for the child in the courtroom, representing the child's best interest (3) advocates for the child during the life of the case and (4) becomes a member of a team of professionals working on each case. Other discussion points include:

- CASA volunteers become involved when petitions are filed by DCYF. They are appointed in the role of Guardian Ad Litem (GAL). When CASA volunteers are not available, the District Court Judge appoints a paid attorney to fill that role.
- CASA volunteers usually have 1-2 cases at a time; however, as there are not enough available volunteers, volunteers can have additional cases assigned to them. Based on 1-2 cases, the anticipated time commitment is 15-20 hours/month.
- CASA volunteers are *very much* needed, especially in the Laconia District Court.
- CASA volunteers visit the child at least once a month and attend court hearings every three months.
- The relationship between the CASA volunteer and the child differs from that of an adult mentor and child. CASA volunteers may need to make recommendations to the judge in the best interests of the child but that may differ from the wishes of the child.
- Federal law mandates that a Permanency Plan must be in place within a year of the time that a child is removed from his/her home. CASA volunteers are involved when the Permanency Plans involve adoption.
- Both CASA volunteers, Ms Fabian and Sargent, said that testifying in court may initially be “very scary”, but that it becomes easier over time.
- Sarah Fox who is a former CASA volunteer said this experience “was life-changing” for her and led to her pursuing a JD degree.

5. **Public Comment** Kim Slattery said she looks forward to learning more about the Council. She will contact Alan and/or Judy to schedule an appointment to learn more about the Council and its networks.
6. **Approve Minutes of March 16, 2007** Motion to accept made by Emily Clement; second provided by Nancy Porosky. Motion carried.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**WHEN:** Friday, May 18 – 8-10am

**WHERE:** River Level Conference Room, Busiel Mill in Laconia (Special Guest will be Jeff St. Cyr, Alton School Board Member)

*Director's Report*

*Citizens Council Meeting*

*April 20, 2007*

| CATEGORY                | TOPIC & SPONSOR                            | STATUS  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Community Forums</b> | Educational Forum                          | Forum <i>on Follow the Child</i> initiative and <i>Student Aspirations</i> This event was a total success with 108 people attending and representation by all but one school district in Belknap County (Belmont). 69% of attendees completed evaluations indicating that 92% agreed/strongly agreed they have a better understanding of the <i>Follow the Child</i> model for primary education; 95% agreed/strongly agreed that supporting <i>Follow that Child</i> is in the best interest of the community; and 96% agreed/strongly agreed that the best chance for success of the <i>Follow the Child</i> model is through a coordinated and cohesive effort by the community. |
|                         | Children of Trauma – <u>Flyer attached</u> | To be held on Saturday morning, May 12 <sup>th</sup> at the NH Community Technical College-Laconia. Presentations on the Greater Lakes Region Child Advocacy Center, Genesis, New Beginnings and Child and Family Services of NH. Registration required. Sponsored by the Council, UpStream and the Center for Civic Engagement.  |
|                         | United Way – 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary  | The Council will have a reserved table at this event. Council members and staff (First come, first served). The event is scheduled for May 7 <sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Church Landing in Meredith. Contact Judy Buswell if interested.   |
| <b>Initiatives</b>      | Victims Rights Committee                   | Developing a Victims' Satisfaction Survey. Currently going through a committee vetting process and then on to providers and law enforcement for further review.   |
|                         | Delegation Breakfast                       | Sarah Fox is working with Alida Millham to set up this opportunity to engage delegation members.  |
|                         | Website Enhancements                       | Discussion of website updates and enhancements. Certain steps need to be accomplished before committing too much time and resources such as: Defining the audience(s); Defining the goals to be reached with the audience(s); How to market to the audience(s).<br><b>Need Council member participation before we can proceed!</b>  |
| <b>Coalitions</b>       | CoRe Coalition                             | A. Currently interviews are being conducted for the Assistant Director position<br>B. Organizational Task Force is reviewing Coalition structure and documents<br>C. Dick Wallace has joined the Executive Committee.   |
|                         | Strategic Prevention Frameworks            | A. Recruitment for Oversight Board in process, and<br>B. Final budget components being negotiated between Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health (Fiscal Agent) and Div. of Public Health.  |
|                         | Safe Schools Coalition (WRSD)              | Rachel's Challenge presentation – May 2.<br>Open Space Forum being planned for this Fall.   |
|                         | Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC)   | William Fenniman Jr., Director of the Division of Juvenile Justice Services will attend the May 25th JJAC meeting starting at 7:30 AM. Council members who wish to attend are most welcome.   |
| <b>Council Business</b> | Council Recruitment and Community Outreach | A. Membership committee established: Betty Anson, Rich Moed, Laurie Belanger<br>B. Awaiting a couple of additional applications (Belmont and Barnstead residents)<br>C. Orientation of new members to be scheduled in near future.  |