

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, January 16, 2009

TIME BEGAN: 9:00am

TIME ENDED: 10:05am

FACILITATEDBY: Andre Paquette

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Andre Paquette, Jim Pilliod, Ruth O'Hara, Nancy Porosky, Deb Rosato, Rich Moed, Rasim Gusinac, Micheline Roy, Emily Clement, Gil Schohan, Betty Anson **GUESTS:** Jessica Blais, Coordinator (Belknap and Carroll County Prevention Coalition); Dorothy Derapelian (Family Counselor)
STAFF: Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Agenda Review** No additions or changes. The majority of Action Items will be a part of the Chair's Report.

2. **Reports**

A. ***Prevention Work Group – Micheline Roy, Chair*** Dan Kusch of the Appalachian Mountain Teen Project said his youth are participating in an MLK event in Portsmouth and would like to organize a similar event in the Lakes Region in 2010. The Prevention Work Group will assist Dan.

Micheline has already completed two interviews with women who volunteered to participate in the social services consumer outreach survey. Mich thinks much good information will be gathered through these interviews. These two contacts came from the promotion in the news media and personal invitations to clients by social service providers. The Prevention Work Group hopes to interview 100 current and/or former clients. Council members were given copies of the promotional materials and encouraged to invite appropriate people in their networks.

B. ***Communications Committee – Gil Schohan*** It is imperative that members be able to articulate the purpose and function of the Council. Council members were asked to react to a one-page Message Tree that begins with a short statement about the Council, expanding into other related messages. Copies of a detailed Communications Plan in draft format were given Council members to review.

As the Communications Committee will have ongoing responsibilities, additional committee members are needed. Deb Rosato agreed to be a committee member. Andre suggests that we may be able to secure volunteer assistance from public relations professionals in the community who can help the Council define its promotional strategies. Referring to a recent Letter to the Editor by a non-Council member, Gil noted that we will continue to need voices from "outside" sources to speak on behalf of the Council. Deb Rosato suggests that Facebook and other such social networking sites should be a part of Council communication planning.

As the Council does not provide direct services to children and families, primary constituencies of the Council are the numerous professionals and providers that are a part of Council networks. They are the link to children and families. We need to incorporate these providers and professionals effectively into our communications planning.

C. ***Service Integration Initiative – Rich Moed*** Work is well underway, including identifying needed data and process mapping. The Legal and Policy and Resource Committees are organizing and will begin regular meetings soon. The Leadership Executive Committee "is working very well".

There have been difficulties launching the work of the Administrative Oversight Committee. One problem has been “getting face time with the high level administrators” whose role in this project is to clear barriers and otherwise show support for the Initiative. Rich suggests scheduling a meeting with HHS Commissioner Nick Toumpas to discuss the significance and progress of the Systems Integration Initiative. Discussion comments included:

- NH Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NH NAMI) is needed as an advocate for this initiative. The consumer voice must be heard.
- The County Delegation should have information about this Systems Integration Initiative.
- The SII Steering Committee should meet with Commissioner Toumpas

ALAN ACTION ITEMS:

- **Alan will contact NAMI representative**
- **Alan will contact Alida Millham to arrange a time with the Delegation to explain SII**
- **Rich will arrange for meeting with Commissioner Toumpas**

D. Director’s Report – Alan Robichaud

- Child and Family Services Sponsored Conference This annual event is scheduled for March 20th. They have asked the Council to be a financial sponsor.
- System of Care Grant The Grant proposal was prepared and submitted to SAMHSA by the NH Institute on Disabilities earlier this week. While the State of NH is the applicant, Belknap County will serve as the pilot site for the majority of this 6-year grant period. Grant goals are around improving and better coordinating care for 44 juveniles, 80% with mental health issues, who are placed out of the county via court orders. The eventual goal is to care for these youth locally to the greatest extent possible. This grant also has a component to provide mental health care for the refugee-immigrant population now in Belknap County, who because of trauma associated with their leaving their homes in other countries now have complicated adjustment problems. There will be some opportunities to recoup some of the expected Council staff time for their work on this project. Grantees will be announced in May. If awarded, this grant could bring in about \$1 million annually for six years to the State. Some of these funds would also benefit Belknap County.
- Budget Sub-Committee Meeting The five-member Delegation sub-committee, chaired by Rep Beth Arseneault, will review the Council budget on Monday, January 19th at 10am. Council members are encouraged to attend.
- County Commissioners’ Meeting Alan, Andre, and Gil met this week with the three Commissioners. The Commissioners are asking the Council to provide more definitive expected outcomes from Council work.
- John Tuell Alan will ask for funds from the NH Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council (SAG) to continue with John Tuell as a consultant to the Systems Integration Initiative.
- Meeting - Gilford Selectmen Alan attended a recent meeting where the Gilford Selectmen discussed funding for outside agencies such as Youth Services Bureau. As part of the discussion, Alan had the opportunity to introduce the idea for a coordinated county juvenile justice system that will be a part of the soon to be released Issue Brief: “Belknap County Juvenile Justice At a Crossroads”. This coordinated approach will require a buy-in from a critical mass of citizens in Belknap County.

E. Chairman’s Report - Andre Paquette

- Juvenile Justice Crossroads Report Copies of this Issue Brief were given to Council members. Andre asked Council members to read through this publication. Deb Rosato suggested in addition to reading this Issue Brief that new Council members like herself would benefit from a general discussion of this Report along with some contextual information.
- Meetings Andre has met with Commissioners Boothby and Philpot; Brian Loanes, Executive Director of the Restorative Justice Program; Family Court Judge Cindy Sadler; Gil Schohan, Council vice Chair; and Lee Duncan, Youth Services Bureau Board member. He has meetings scheduled with Judge Sue Carbon; Dan French, Laconia District Office JPPO Supervisor; LR United Way Director, Jack Terrill; and Judge Bud Martin.

- JJAC/PAC This long-standing group will be re-organized to support the current primary efforts of the Citizens Council: the coordinated juvenile justice system approach and the Systems Integration Initiative.
- Conclusions and Direction for The Council Andre has identified seven areas of focus for Council efforts during 2009:
 1. Improve understanding of the Citizens Council by citizens throughout Belknap County
 2. Determine appropriate source of funding and develop plans to secure these funds
 3. Do something dramatic that affects children and families
 4. Expand the membership of the Council
 5. Improve communications between the Council Chair and Council members
 6. Restructure JJAC/PAC
 7. Implement the Action Plan articulated in the Crossroads Issues Brief, that of a coordinated and unified county juvenile justice system

3. Council Action Items:

1. **Request by *Child and Family Conference Conference* to financially support their March conference. Following a lengthy discussion, Emily Clement made a motion that the Council be a sponsor at the \$250 level. Jim Pilliod offered a second; motion carried.**
2. **Council Support for the *Systems of Care Grant* Rich Moed made a motion to approve ongoing Council involvement with the Systems of Care proposal submitted to SAMHSA. Jim Pilliod offered a second; motion carried.**
3. **Council members will review the *Crossroads Report* and share their comments, thoughts, suggestions etc with Andre by January 23rd.**
4. **Council meetings: Future *Council meetings* will be held at the County Complex.**
5. **Blank *In-Kind Contribution Forms* will be available at future Council meetings. Council members are responsible for completing and returning these forms to Alan as requested. Council members may also continue to submit them electronically.**
6. **Council members will review (1) the *Message Tree*, focusing particularly on the primary message, and (2) the *Draft Communication Plan*. Council members will provide feedback to Gil and Judy by January 23, 2009.**
7. ***Deb Rosato* will provide a 5" explanation at the next Council meeting on how the Council can benefit from such resources as FaceBook.**

4. **Other Business** Rasim Gusinac noted the MLK Celebration sponsored by the Laconia Human Relations Committee at the Laconia Memorial Middle School, 4-6pm on Sunday, January 18th. All are welcome.

<u>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING</u>	
WHEN:	Friday, February 20, 2009, 8-10am
WHERE:	Belknap County Complex, County Drive off North Main St in Laconia.