

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Friday, February 20, 2009

TIME BEGAN: 8:10am

TIME ENDED: 9:45am

FACILITATEDBY: Andre Paquette

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Andre Paquette, Betty Anson, Rich Moed, Sue Smith, Nancy Porosky, Leo Sanfacon, Emily Clement, Mary Alice Warner, Ruth O'Hara, Micheline Roy, Gil Schohan, Pam Kuczowski, Rasim Gusinac **GUESTS:** Kent Warner **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. Updates – Alan Robichaud

- **2008 Annual Report** A draft copy of the Council's Annual Report was distributed to Council members. A shorter version has already been submitted to be part of the County's annual report. **ACTION: Council members will review this report and get back to Judy with any edits by end of day on February 24th.**
- **CoRe Coalition** Grant funds will be eliminated and/or reduced, including funds for tobacco prevention and AOD money from the Governor's Commission. Jena Vincent, the Executive Director, is now applying for continued funding from the federal Drug Free Communities grant. Forty per-cent of these requests are usually funded.
- **State Budget Presentation** The NH Providers Association and New Futures will host a roundtable discussion of the NH State budget and the process surrounding its implementation on March 2nd from 3-4:30pm. A flyer describing this event was circulated
- **SII Meeting with Nick Toumpas** Several members of the SII Steering Committee and Alan attended a meeting in Concord with Commissioner Toumpas to discuss progress of the Systems Integration Initiative. While Commissioner Toumpas was not present until the end of the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Mary Ann Cooney did attend. She will be involved, attend future meetings, and will help to ensure that the needs of the initiative are met.

2. Future of the Citizens Council – Andre Paquette Andre offered a brief statement explaining that County funding for both the County Restorative Justice Program and the Citizens Council will end on December 31, 2009. The BARJ workgroup and JJAC are working on supplemental resources to sustain the Restorative Justice program along with the two court diversion programs in Belknap County. He is now, and will remain actively involved in this discussion.

The Council's primary activity is the Systems Integration Initiative. It is important that this effort be carried to a point where this work can continue with or without Council leadership and support.

A lengthy discussion followed covering the following:

- Funding support needs to be in harmony with original Council goals
- The Citizens Council and the Restorative Justice Program are still perceived as one and the same.
- The Council's founding Charter really describes a public-private partnership.
- The return on investment needs to be clearly articulated and understood; we need to put together numbers that support the work of the Council.
- As the Council does not produce "a product", it is more difficult to communicate the purpose of the Council.
- There should be a mechanism allowing providers/agencies to indicate support for the Council.
- We should show how the grant dollars we have generated are being spent; quantifiable outcomes are needed.
- Explore combinations/mergers/alliances with other entities
- Focus more on the preventive efforts and tap more into resources dedicated to prevention.

- What impact does the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) model have on the Council?
- There is a pendulum shift away from its “convening” role (as defined in the founding Charter 8 years ago) to producing a product. Demonstrate we have something “to sell”. Are we an “independent voice for children and families in Belknap County”?
- There are other initiatives on centralizing and better coordination of systems going on in Belknap County. Many different groups are working on the same issues. Are we aware of all these efforts?

It was decided to organize a sub-committee to study the future of the Council and to develop recommendations within a month.

ACTION: Alan and Andre will convene a smaller committee to explore the future of the Citizens Council, possible funding, and make recommendations before the March Council meeting on March 20th. Those agreeing to participate include Gil Schohan, Rich Moed, Pam Kuczkowski, Kent Warner. Other names were suggested. Andre and Alan will invite additional people to participate and make arrangements for the first meeting.

3. Other Business

- *Prevention Work Group – Micheline Roy* Several representatives from CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) were guests at the last Prevention Work Group. CASA is running a “100 Men in 100 Days” Campaign to encourage men, especially in this area, to apply to be CASA volunteers. There is a need for more men in these volunteer positions.

<u>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING</u>	
WHEN:	Friday, March 20, 2009, 8-10am
WHERE:	Belknap County Complex, 36 County Drive off North Main St. in Laconia.