

*Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families*

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**DATE:** Thursday, June 18, 2009

**TIME BEGAN:** 8:05 AM

**TIME ENDED:** 9:32 AM

**FACILITATEDBY:** Andre Paquette

**SUMMARY BY:** Alan Robichaud

**PRESENT:** Andre Paquette, Sandy McLaughlin, Rich Moed, Deb Rosato, Micheline Roy, Laurie Belanger, Jim Pilliod, Nancy Porosky, Rasim Gusinac

**COUNCIL ASSOCIATES:** Leo Sanfacon, Dick Wallace, Bud Martin, Alida Millham

**STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

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**1. Personnel Updates**

Alan gave an update on personnel matters indicating that the County Commissioners accepted his request to retire and subsequently be rehired on a part-time, temporary basis, through the end of December. Additional conditions were exercised as well including work week reduction to 34 hours, reduction in pay scale, and removal of compensated time off. This change becomes effective on July 1, 2009. Alan also informed the Council that it is Judy Buswell's intent to retire at the end of this calendar year as well.

Andre indicated that the Council will need to have a new Council plan in place by September 1, 2009.

Bud Martin suggested that the Council develop a one-paragraph statement as a reference to be given to the media each time an article is placed on, or by, the Council. The media still does not understand what the Council does. We are not just about juvenile justice.

**2. Report on Meetings with Non-Profit Organizations**

The Council had charged Alan to interview other non-profits which had similar missions as the Council and to explore possibilities for potential collaboration (e.g. merger, affiliation, etc.). Over the three weeks, interviews were conducted with eight organizations that work with children, youth, and families. Each had their own aspects of possibilities while all eight offered prospects for serving as a fiscal agent should the Council require such capacity in pursuing grants and other funding.

Questions (feedback) were asked as follows:

- Before future funding can be sought, the Council must develop a clear model from which to promote its vision and mission. Such model will further require a significant budget adjustment.
- The work of the Citizens Council is suggestive of county-wide efforts that are being discussed at the local Commissioners' forums and therefore should be considered eligible for County funding. People don't understand what the County does so it's no wonder they don't understand the work of the Citizens Council. We should redistribute Council materials to each community via the Selectmen's offices.
- Surprised by the feedback received by Council members particularly in light of the recent series of votes taken at Council meetings. It appears that there are more areas of interest than just the service integration initiative.
- Based on feedback coming out of the Commissioners' forums, this may be a real opportunity to dig down in terms of what the County might do.
- Question was raised about the budgeting process, what do we need to do to be part of the process?

Andre Paquette presented his observations through a written position statement based on agency interviews, feedback from Council members to the Executive Committee's inquiry, and a host of meetings and conversations he has conducted over the past several weeks. (See attached position statement). Feedback on Andre's position statement follow.

- It was suggested that there be a lot more work done with schools
- We need to be careful in affiliating with organizations doing direct service as we could lose our independent voice and create potential conflicts of interest going forward
- We need to map out a good vision
- The road map will need adequate resources to fund it.
- We have the same need to be funded by the County as does Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid.
- We need to sell ourselves beyond our longstanding involvement of juvenile justice. There is still a community prospective that that's all we do.
- We need to market to Selectmen, schools, JJAC agencies, others
- We need to emphasize the importance of the youth issues in Belknap County and develop a commitment to systemic change. Who are the stakeholders? How do we change the status quo?
- Business as usual is over.
- Need to inform officials at all levels who we are and what we do.
- The work of the Council belongs with the County.

Overall, members of the Council did not have any serious issues with the feedback we received from Council members as to the materials we sent out.

Going forward for the next 24 to 30 months, we would need to be looking for resources in the range of \$10,000/month.

Meeting ended at 9:32 AM

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, July 16, 2009
<b>TIME:</b>	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM
<b>PLACE:</b>	Belknap County Complex