

MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Thursday, July 16, 2009 **TIME BEGAN:** 8:05am **TIME ENDED:** 10am

FACILITATEDBY: Andre Paquette **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Emily Clement, Micheline Roy, Gil Schohan, Andre Paquette, Deb Rosato, Nancy Porosky, Jim Pilliod, Bud Martin

STAFF: Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

1. **Critical Issues and Strategies** Andre began with a general update, reminding members that the Executive Committee has been following up on several different options for continued funding for the Council in 2010. These strategies and accompanying points of discussion in today’s meeting include:
- Exploring options for some type of affiliation or merger with appropriate non-profits in Belknap County. Several agencies have been interested, but for many reasons there have been no specific suggestions or definitive planning on this type of option. Council members expressed concerns that the Council not be aligned too closely with a direct-service provider, feeling that the Council’s neutrality could be compromised. It was agreed that the optimal setting for this type of association would be with another non-service provider such as Lakes Region United Way.

ACTION: More specific information and details on potential “affiliations” are needed to move ahead

- Andre reported that the several sources of outside funding for the Council in 2010 that he has been pursuing have “fallen through”. As stated before in previous discussions, this funding option would be challenging for several reasons. Private funders do not want to be seen as assuming government responsibilities. Private funds most usually require matching funds. Most private funders do not make multi-year grants for general operating support. At some point it might make sense to pursue state funds, but due to the existing state budget deficit, that is not possible at this time.
2. **Council Budget Planning and Preparation** Council members discussed the possibility that we could still be asked to participate in the County budget submission process for 2010. As our status for 2010 is still not clear, it would be difficult to prepare this budget. However, it is clear that whatever status the Council assumes for 2010, it will look different than what we now have.

2. **Other Points of Discussion** Other points raised during this two-hour meeting include:
- The Council should preserve its independent role as an advocate for the well-being of children, youth and families in Belknap County.
 - Council members may be useful in a citizen advisory capacity to the juvenile justice diversion programs in Belknap County.
 - Even if the Council ends in December, it would be appropriate and fitting for Council members to assume leadership roles with any of the many non-profit organizations in the County. Council members won’t have to “shut off their passion” for kids and families if the Council does not exist in 2010

3. **NEXT STEPS:** As some sort of plan must be in place by the end of the summer, the Executive Committee will meet at their earliest opportunity to explore further several different options for the Council.

NEXT MEETING
DATE: Friday, August 20 8-10am
PLACE: County Complex