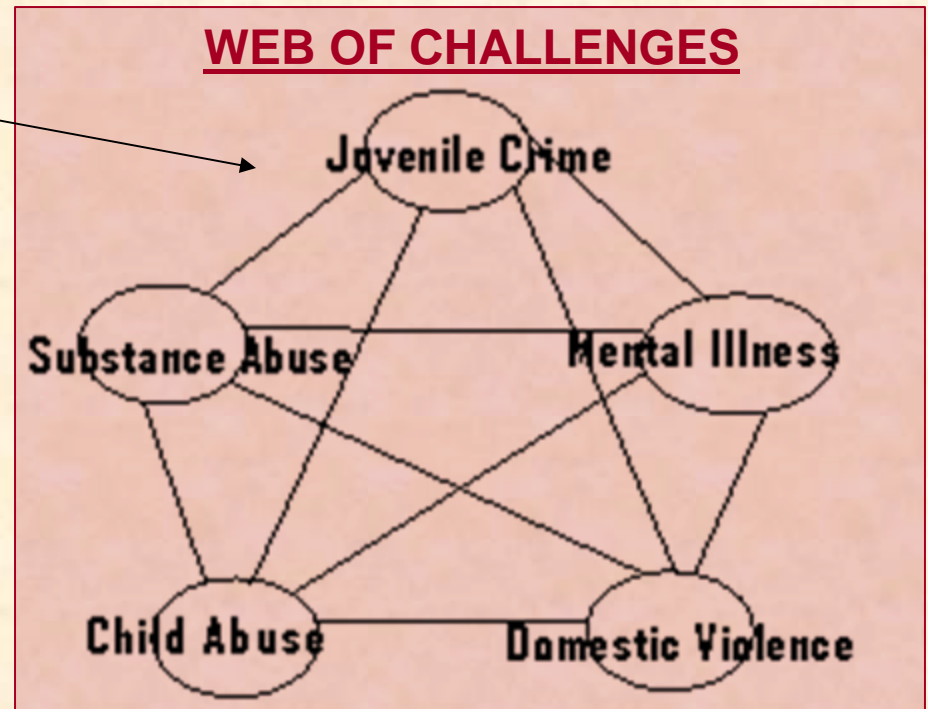




Who and What is the Belknap County Citizens Council?

- Followed 2 yrs of study and conversation by local citizens & professional providers
- Proclamation by County Commissioners in November 2001
- Unique to NH, based on model in Oregon



Community Justice Guides Our Work



What are the Ingredients?

- Citizen involvement, first and foremost
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Planning
- Advocacy
- Stewardship
- Time and Patience!



Remember: The Ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals!

WHO Are We?

- Age 30-80+
- Employed & retired
- From throughout the County
- Variety of skills, interests, and resources
- Appointed by County Commissioners
- ALL: passionate about children and families





Council Networking



Prevention	Balanced & Restorative Justice	Community Development
LR United Way UpStream	Juvenile Justice Advisory Council	LR United Way Investment Advisory Team
L.R. Partnership for Public Health	Victims' Rights/Restitution Committee	Center for Civic Engagement
CoRe Coalition	Data Committee	Community Forums
Belknap County Family Mediation	American Prosecutors' Research Institute	Reclaiming Futures RWJ Foundation
Belknap County Early Learning Council	S.A.M.H.S.A.	Belknap County Convocation on Children & Families
Parents As Leaders in Society	Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center	Friends of Recovery/NH
Belknap County Cooperative Extension	Adolescent Treatment Initiative	The Lakes Business Group
Prevention Workgroup	B.A.R.J. Workgroup	Asset-Based Community Development
Belknap County Mentoring Initiative	Florida Atlantic University	Laconia Human Relations Committee

A Creed to Guide Community Development



- **All the resources we're ever going to get are all the resources we already have.**
- **All the resources we need to do what needs to be done are already here.**
- **Who we know is how we think.**

Asset-Based Community Development

- Identify current community assets rather than deficits
- Understand what they are currently doing
- Get them moving in the direction you want them to go

TWO Examples:

1. Juvenile Justice System reform in Belknap County
2. Sanborn Park



Juvenile Justice System Reform

<i>ASSETS...</i>	<i>CURRENTLY DOING...</i>
•District Court Judge	•Managing court & kids
•Private Trust Fund	•Seed funds
•County Commission	•Managing County svcs
•Service Providers	•Programs for youth
•Citizen Volunteers	•Waiting to be asked
•Deschutes County, OR	•Model Program

Convened weekly planning sessions to discuss & develop a change process that would improve juvenile justice system in Belknap County.

Juvenile Justice System Reform

RESULTS... 😊

- **County Juvenile Restorative Justice Program**
- **Citizens Council**



UNINTENDED 😊 😊 **CONSEQUENCES...**

- **Professional Advisory Councils**
- **Public/private \$\$**
- **Involved citizens!**
- **Parent Leadership**
- **Informed voters**

Sanborn Park

<i>ASSETS...</i>	<i>CURRENTLY DOING...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizens Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convening & facilitating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laconia Police Dep't	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law Enforcement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restorative Justice Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Service & Offender Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbors, businesses, other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared concerns

Conducted a community forum to determine community vision and define roles for stakeholders and participants

Sanborn Park

RESULTS... 😊

- 120 attended Forum
- Neighborhood organized
- Park cleaned up
- Drug dealers moved
- New playground

UNINTENDED 😊 😊 **CONSEQUENCES...**

- Laconia City Parks & Recreation has committed \$250,000. to maintain the park over a 10-year period



Partnerships With Citizen Volunteers WORK!



Andre Paquette (R), Volunteer and JJAC Chair, talks with local school personnel about communication strategies and data management.

Making A Difference

CHALLENGE...

- No way to discuss systems issues
- Too many youth at YDC
- No family mediation
- All Belknap County youth did not have same access to services

TODAY...

- JJAC
- YDC is last resort
- Belknap County Family Mediation
- All County youth now benefit from Drug Court & Restorative Justice

Making A Difference

CHALLENGE...

- No outcomes reporting: County system of Juvenile Justice
- No comprehensive substance treatment for teens
- No organized focus on principles of Community Justice

TODAY...

- Annual Report Cards to the Community
- Adolescent Treatment Initiative
- Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families