

MEETING SUMMARY

COMMITTEE: JJAC

DATE: Thursday, June 25, 2009

TIME BEGAN: 7:30am

TIME ENDED: 9:00am

FACILITATED BY: Alan Robichaud

SUMMARY BY: Judy Buswell

PRESENT: Brian Loanes, John Egan, Hilary Hartford, Nicole Soroko, Alicia Morey, Andre Paquette, Dan French, Martha Douglass
STAFF: Judy Buswell, Alan Robichaud

1. **Update Program Integration (Youth Services Bureau & Restorative Justice)** *Alicia Morey & Brian Loanes* While they are still two separate programs with separate offices, the newly organized Central Intake process, the first component in integrating programs and services of the two programs, is going well. Referrals are starting to come in. They are administering the GAIN-SS, a short screening tool to help identify youth with mental health, behavioral, or substance abuse issues who will then be referred on for appropriate services. This new centralized referral/AOD screening component is called Belknap County Youth Services. Barnstead, Gilford, and Laconia have been using this central intake. Meredith will begin participating soon. Brian and Alicia will visit Belmont Police Chief Baiocchetti, New Hampton Police Chief Doug Sanborn, and the Alton Police Department to introduce this new referral process and to encourage them to refer youth from their communities. Alicia and Brian are working with the County Administrator on County Incentive funds and other funding for both programs in 2010.

Youth Services Bureau will continue to offer their other programs, including Anger Management. The future of the Out-of-School Suspension Program is still unclear as this program needs to be fully funded and in an appropriate space to continue.

2. **Youth Assistance Program Update** – *Martha Douglass* Their program survived the budget process. While it was very stressful, they were able to provide good information to Sanbornton voters and their municipal officials. YAP has already started preparing for the 2010 Sanbornton budget process.

YAP offers violence prevention education, very similar to Anger Management but with a different focus, recognizing that some youth are “bullied” into violence and many parents expect their kids to “fight back”. The 3-M Foundation has granted them funds to support this program. Referrals are steady with the primary issues being drug and alcohol and simple assault offenses. YAP is working to get Sanbornton, Tilton and Northfield police departments to refer youth to them instead of using “counsel and release”, a strategy they may be using because they aren’t completely comfortable with the referral process and because their attention is often diverted by adult offenders and other pressing issues. Martha is finding that parents and others prefer 1-1 meetings rather than “group instruction” on their program.

3. **Other Juvenile Issues Discussed** Other topics raised during the Program Integration and YAP discussion include:

- While School Resource Officers play a helpful role, all may not have equal skills.
- Policies and practices can differ among the various police departments in the county. The Chief can be central to the philosophies and priorities of each department. As the staff changes so frequently, continual education is needed.
- Some police departments and patrol officers may not recognize that what appears to be a minimal offense by a youth is often the beginning of a series of problems where prevention and intervention would be very helpful.

- Perhaps one telephone number where patrol officers could leave a message after intervening with offending youth and ask diversion programs to call them back might remove some of the logistical referral details from a busy officer.
- The Belknap County Youth Services should organize some form of media coverage on their new services. Deb Shackett can provide guidelines around how to proceed with this release.
- It may be time to explore having a single county juvenile prosecutor to provide cost-efficient management of youth offender cases. It is important to know that it is far more expensive to process a youth through the court system than to use the three court diversion programs.

4. Status of Study Commission – Juvenile Court Diversion Law (HB 342)

This bill, organizing a study committee to look at the scope, outcomes, and application of diversion programming, was passed successfully by the NH legislature. Brian Loanes will be a member of this committee. Meetings will begin soon and a report will be generated by November 2009.

5. County Incentive Funds Youth Services Bureau and the County Restorative Justice Program are working with Deb Shackett to submit a joint request for County Incentive Funds. These funds are being managed by the State this year. It appears the state budget that just passed has decreased the amount of Incentive Funds available to counties. It was suggested that some sort of “Fee for Service” that requires parents to pay some of the costs should be included in the funding mix. The Citizens Council has provided a letter of support to the application.

6. Update on the Citizens Council - *Andre Paquette* The Council has been looking for funding to continue the Council after County funding ends on December 31, 2009. They are continuing a positive path and are hopeful that the Council can maintain its collaborative leadership in 2010. Planning includes several scenarios, including spinning off Council functions to other agencies, if necessary.

7. Program Updates

- ***Incentive Bank*** – *Hilary Hartford* Hilary, who coordinates this program, said they have received two recent cash donations to use as incentives/rewards for juveniles who successfully complete their contractual requirements. Youth Services Bureau is managing the money. Program leaders should submit their requests to Hilary or Alicia at Youth Services Bureau.
- ***Adolescent Treatment Initiative*** – *Hilary Hartford & Nicole Soroko* Maria Gagnon is preparing an educational powerpoint on ATI that will be shared with clients, agencies and others. Nicole will be filling in for Melissa Fernald who is on maternity leave. Referrals are a bit slow, not unusual for this time of year. Brian Loanes noted that “ATI is a great asset” to this area. As they are nearing the end of their initial 5-year grant, they are working now on funding for year six and beyond. In order to receive third-party payments (which would not sustain the program by itself), they must have licensed clinicians.
- ***DJJS Budget*** – *Dan French* DJJS lost 1/3 of its budget but Dan does not know yet how or where this reduction will impact them. As JPPOs are “their service point”, it will be difficult to cut those positions. They do not know yet how they will manage any expected increases in the numbers of petitions. These funding cuts underscore the need to promote community-based court diversion as these programs are far less costly than court involvement.

NEXT MEETING	
WHEN:	Thursday, July 23rd 7:30-9:00 AM
WHERE:	Belknap County Cooperative Extension Wing, County Complex, 36 County Drive, Laconia