

**JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2009**

SUMMARY

Attending: Andre Paquette, Jena Vincent, Dan French, Brian Loanes, Hilary Hartford, Nicole Soroko, Melissa Fernald, Alida Millham, Leo Sanfacon, Devon Benson, Alicia Morey, Ray Barrett, Alan Robichaud.

Presentation on Child and Family services of New Hampshire – Nicole Soroko

Nicole, accompanied by Hilary Hartford and Melissa Fernald, gave an overview of services provided by Child and Family Services of New Hampshire. Nicole provided a handout describing the various services and how access is gained to them.

There was a good deal of discussion about the importance of the ATI program and concern voiced over the fact that it is in its fifth and final year of grant funding from New Futures. This program has become relied upon by our restorative justice and juvenile probation and parole programs as well as schools throughout the county.

Nicole was asked about the availability of data and program evaluation. Alan will contact Ron Cohen and/or Amy Pepin about data from the program and see how we can all be supportive of future funding plans to sustain this critical program. Thanks Nicole!

2. Study Commission in Juvenile Court Diversion Law

Dan French and Brian Loanes reported on the recent Study Commission meeting.

Issues discussed included liability issues for youth performing community services under the supervision of diversion programs; defining “court diversion” programs; certification standards and oversight by DJJS; time limitations of youth participation in programs; and funding streams. Reference was made to a Canadian study on length of participation in programs by Judge Lawrence indicating that the longer youth stay involved in services (e.g. diversion, probation, etc.) the greater the chances of the youth recidivating. We will try to get a copy of this study.

The Citizens Council may wish to examine a role in developing community opportunities for youth once they are closed out of services that will promote positive youth development and keep kids out of the system.

The group received a copy of a position paper jointly approved by the Citizens Council and the Belknap County Commission. This paper will be submitted to, and in support of, the Study Commission with support toward state funding for diversion services.

3. CoRe Coalition Funding

Jena Vincent reported that CoRe was not awarded continuation funds from the Drug Free Community’s grant program. CoRe also lost \$25,000 in tobacco funds while gaining \$31,000 from the Bureau of Drugs and Alcohol Services due to 90% restoration in the Alcohol fund in the last legislative session. Jena does not anticipate any further money from the state beyond June 2010 and her Executive Committee is looking for alternative funding and the possibility of having to fall back to concentrating solely on the Inter-Lakes community in the future. They are working on a sustainability plan.

Jena also mentioned that there are no smoking cessation programs for teens in this area. She indicated that she could provide websites that may be helpful to anyone interested.

Contact Jena for further information.

4. Other Business

A job posting from Appalachian Mountain Teen Project, a part-time Youth Counselor/Experiential Educator was distributed as was a brochure for a Youth-Adult Think Tank in Plymouth on October 20 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM.

Next Meeting

October 23, 2009
8:30 AM to 10:00 AM
Belknap County Complex