

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**COMMITTEE:** Prevention Work Group

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 4, 2008

**TIME BEGAN:** 9:00am **TIME ENDED:** 10:30 **FACILITATED BY:** Micheline Roy **SUMMARY BY:** Judy Buswell

**PRESENT:** Dan Kusch, Ruth O'Hara, Wendy Williams, Micheline Roy, Laurie Belanger **STAFF:** Alan Robichaud, Judy Buswell

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**1. Consumer Outreach**

Micheline, Laurie, and Ruth each has used the draft survey to interview one consumer of any variety of juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence services over the past several years. This consumer outreach effort will gather reactions and suggestions from those who have used services and is part of the Systems Integration Initiative now led by the Citizens Council. Each interviewee explained his/her experiences and offered suggestions during their interview. The goal is to talk with at least 100 more consumers. Interviews will be by phone or in some cases, 1-1 meetings.

Ruth interviewed a teenage girl who willingly shared her experience with DJJS, trackers, and school guidance personnel. Micheline interviewed this girl's mother and Laurie spoke with another student. Mich, Laurie, and Ruth felt that the anecdotal comments gathered in these interviews would provide as much information as the other more direct questions in the survey. They agreed that most people "are hungry to share their story, especially if they know they won't be judged on their comments."

The survey still needs some modification and these updates are now underway.

There was discussion on how to identify additional consumers to interview. This process will be two-pronged: (1) Ask designated providers to identify a small number of people that would be willing to participate. School personnel, including SPED, guidance, SROs, and Assistant Principals are excellent referral sources. (2) Promote this survey opportunity through print and electronic media as a way to: (a) provide general information to residents of Belknap County about the SII and this interview project and (b) to interest additional people who are interested in participating in this interview activity.

**ACTION:**

- **Ruth O'Hara is speaking to the Pediatric Service Group and will explain this interview project to them, inviting members to recommend possible participants.**
- **Prevention Work Group members will recommend specific providers that can provide consumers that could be interviewed.**
- **Dan Kusch will serve as the liaison to both the Laconia Middle and High Schools.**

- 2. Focus Group Discussion with Agricultural Sector** - *Dan Kusch* The 4<sup>th</sup> Student Aspirations Focus Group was held this morning, this time with about six representatives from the forestry and agricultural sector. Dan facilitated a very rich discussion with them about how to involve and motivate youth in their arenas of work. Participants suggested a number of possible activities, including a "Community Growers Dinner", a Community Land Use Festival, and more use of state and national learning opportunities that are available. It appears these people are self-motivated and will continue with these ideas on their own.

This Focus Group and the prior three (Early Childhood, Faith-Based, and Financial) generated lively discussion among Prevention Work Group members about other creative community inter-generational activities now underway in the Lakes Region. Such activities include the Chimney Fund to raise dollars to help with heating needs of county residents and Hat Day where students and faculty pay \$1.00 to wear a hat on a designated school day. The proceeds are for home heating oil for designated Gilford families this coming winter. The most recent Hat Day raised \$600.

**ACTION:**

- **Dan Kusch will prepare the summary for the Agriculture Focus Group.**
- **Dan and Alan will discuss how to share these Focus Group summaries with the Follow The Child effort and the Quaglia Institute that has been working with the Laconia School District.**

**3. Program Updates**

- ***CoRe Great American Smokeout*** – *Wendy Williams* CoRe will participate in a Health Fair at the Lakes Region Prison Facility on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Great American Smokeout. The youth will share information about the effects of smoking and the dangers of second-hand smoke. This fair is part of the Facility’s effort to raise awareness among the inmates about the dangers of tobacco use.
- ***Appalachian Mountain Teen Project*** – *Dan Kusch* AMTP has had two “very successful” trips for the teens. Eight teens visited The Thompson School at UNH-Durham and The NH Food Bank. These trips provided wonderful exposure to two different college campuses, a first-time experience for most of these teens. The people they met and the activities they did at these sites stimulated the teens to do some “futures planning”, a key step in self-esteem and competency development for youth.
- ***Free Fire Wood*** Ruth O’Hara says that she has observed a large amount of harvested timber on property owned by the power company, adjacent to her property that she felt should be donated to families. The wood would need to be cut and split. The foresters/loggers at this morning’s Focus Group may be interested in preparing this wood for appropriate families.

**ACTION: Dan will see if there is interest from the foresters he knows re helping prepare the wood referenced by Ruth O’Hara.**

**4. Future Agenda Items**

- Further discussion on getting names from providers for the Consumer Outreach Telephone Surveys
- Integrating the work of the Prevention Work Group as part of the Systems Integration Initiative.

**ACTION: Work Group members will forward other agenda items to Alan or Judy by Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**NEXT PREVENTION WORK GROUP MEETING**

**WHEN: Tuesday, December 4, 2008 9-10:30am**

**WHERE: Community Room, Busiel Mill, Laconia**