



NEW HAMPSHIRE JUVENILE COURT DIVERSION NETWORK

PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES
IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

Annual Meeting—May 15, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:15am by Chairwoman Nicole Rodler (Rochester) at the Bobcat Café in Plymouth, NH. Present were: Peter Brigham (Hillsboro), Diane Casale (Derry), Tim Tyler and Deb Naro (CADY Plymouth), Alecia Farquhar (Newport), Christina Connor (Nashua), Jessica Klingerman and Rich Cram (Merrimack County), John Donovan (Manchester), Regina Rice-Barker and Sara DeGennaro (Vermont), and Elisabeth Brown (Keene), Lance Zack (Tri County Restorative Justice), Brian Willett, (Intern/Guest) and Dawn Shimberg (Tilton).
2. The minutes of March 20, 2013 will be voted on at the next meeting of the NHJCDN in September.
3. Treasurer's Report—the current checking account balance is \$10,152.31. An expenditure of \$191.00 for training facilitators had not been deducted from this balance as of yet; nor had the expenses of the annual meeting luncheon. There are currently 12 or 13 paid members. This is the smallest membership the Network has ever had. The funding cuts in 2008 had a huge impact on diversion programs. There are currently no programs north of Plymouth. CADY is awaiting the decision of the Grafton County Delegation as to whether or not they will receive support for a county-wide diversion program. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.
4. Accreditation: Diane reported that 10 programs have been accredited this cycle and that 3 additional programs have requested extensions. This number is down from 17. All the programs did a great job on the addendums which she was able to return to those present. Diane has attempted to connect with those programs that had previously been accredited, but did not submit the addendum materials. So far she has not heard back from any of these programs. The Accreditation Committee will work on pulling together some of the numbers. Certificates of Accreditation will be sent to those programs that have met the standards. These certificates will be good for two years. If a program's accreditation has lapsed and they would like to have it reinstated, they should contact Diane to see what is needed.
5. Data Collection: Peter introduced Brian Willett who is an undergraduate student and a potential intern who could help with data collection for the Network. We would have to develop a job description and offer a stipend for his work. We may need additional help from a math/statistics department. Of utmost importance is making the network and member diversion programs more visible. Brian could reach out to each program to get what data we need. Some of this could be put up on the website for all to see. This could help with marketing our programs. It could be helpful to know how many of the youth we serve have serious mental health issues, are at risk for homelessness, etc. Diversion programs are getting more difficult cases from the courts because there are less alternative programs. Deb Naro volunteered to send out a power point they have developed for the Grafton County Delegation that could be helpful to other programs. They will find out the delegations decision on June 24th. A discussion ensued regarding program funding and county/local control. Once the data is compiled, it can be used by programs to show what we do and how successful diversion is. There is still much concern about submitting client names and/or birthdates for recidivism checks to the courts or state agencies. If we could submit our names to one entity (Bridget from the AOC)—and she could check the names statewide that would be very helpful.

These would be adjudicated and preadjudicated, successful diversion cases that have been completed for one year. Members discussed the potential for lawsuits when confidential information is shared. A legal clarification would be helpful, perhaps by the Attorney General's Office, so network members can decide upon an ethical practice. A Data Collection Research Committee was established consisting of: Elisabeth Brown, Peter Brigham, Rich Cram and possibly Marty Boldin if he can attend.

6. The need for the NHJCDN to have a strategic plan to bring to the legislature, the courts and the state was discussed. A Committee was established comprised of Nicole, Diane, Sara and Deb. They will work on developing such a plan and addressing the Center of Excellence initiative on the state level and with Judge Kelly. This should address "who we are, what we do and what we need". Betsy Houde of the Youth Council in Nashua has been in touch with Nicole and Peter. The NHJCDN needs to have representation on the SAG. There should be equity throughout the state. A social injustice exists when one youth has access to juvenile diversion and another youth does not and therefore goes to court.

7. The following members were voted unanimously into office:

Peter Brigham—Treasurer

Jessica Klingerman—Recording Secretary

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm. The next meeting of the NHJCDN will be in September. The time and location will be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn B. Shimberg, Recording Secretary

New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network.