

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

October 24, 2002

4:00 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil and Pinard
Louis Craig, Chief Driscoll, Juvenile Detective Scott Fuller,
Sgt. Kevin Kelly, Fred Rusczek, Marty Boldin, Judy Cooper, Tess
Gomes, Kera MacKenzie, Traci McCarthy, Ellie Therrien

Absent: Laurel Buccino, Tom Jordan, Linda King, Dr. Michael Ludwell

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Introduction of current and new members.

Chairman O'Neil stated, Scott, if you'd start with the introductions around please and what agencies you're from.

Mr. Fuller stated my name is Scott Fuller, I'm assigned to the Juvenile Division of the Manchester Police Department.

Mr. Craig stated my name is Louis Craig and I'm the Executive Director of Serenity Place which is a detoxification center here in Manchester.

Chief Driscoll stated my name is Mark Driscoll, Chief of the Manchester Police Department.

Mr. Boldin stated my name is Martin Boldin, Director of Social Services with Child Health Services.

Ms. Gomes stated my name is Tess Gomes with Friends of Recovery New Hampshire.

Ms. Therrien stated my name is Ellie Therrien, Director with the Manchester Community Corrections Program.

Ms. McCarthy stated my name is Traci McCarthy with the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester.

Chairman O'Neil noted he was a member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Pinard stated not only a member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen but also Commissioner of the Highway Safety Agency.

Mr. Kelly stated my name is Kevin Kelly a Sergeant with the Manchester Police Department.

Ms. Cooper stated I am Judy Cooper with the Office of Youth Services.

Mr. Rusczek stated I'm Fred Rusczek from the Manchester Health Department.

Ms. MacKenzie stated I'm Kera MacKenzie a senior at Manchester Central High School.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Review and discussion relative to previous Committee's actions.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't know if everyone's had a chance to look at some of the minutes from when the Committee was active in the past and if anyone has any comments they would like to make with regard to that...it was more for informational purposes only.

Chairman O'Neil addressed items 5 & 6 the agenda:

5. Development of a new mission statement/purpose/goals.
6. Discussion relative to whether or not there is a need for a community summit.

Chairman O'Neil stated one of the things we have to do is figure out why we're here...about our Mission Statement, what's our purpose, what are some of our goals and with that I would like to open it up to some of the various community members here and see what you think. Louis, would you like to lead us off.

Mr. Craig stated I did peruse through this packet and I was looking for a Mission Statement and unless I missed it, I don't know if it's here or not.

Chairman O'Neil stated what I recall the mission was and I'm not sure it ever got put in writing...what can the City do for the City?...was kind of the focus when Alderman Cashin set up this committee year's ago. There was a lot of stuff going on with social service agencies, but the City really wasn't doing anything in-house to address the concerns and several things came out of it...the Student Assistance Program were formally adopted and expanded in the schools, the Employee Assistance Program was created in the City of Manchester, so those were two things that came out of it.

Ms. Cooper stated I have some concerns about the SAP (Student Assistance Programs) and their longevity. There's been some talk that they will be cut at the end this school year and that would be absolutely criminal. They're our first lines of defense with getting services to kids, so if we can do something about that I think that would be terribly important. SAP's for anybody who doesn't know are Student Assistance Program, like the EAP but they're in the schools.

Chairman O'Neil stated I believe we have one in all four middle schools as well as the three high schools.

Ms. Cooper replied yes.

Mr. Rusczek stated as far as our mission it might be a place to start to have a component of our mission be to inventory the current needs and services within the City and then working with the many community groups who are working on this and look at establishing or developing a summit to pull together the community to develop recommendations and third and finally to incorporate whatever recommendations we should that fall within the realm of City government. For example, some changes in enforcement and policies and continuation of services and what have you.

Alderman Pinard stated this morning I went to a meeting in Concord at the Highway Safety Agency and one of the topics was the alcohol and drugs that's going to come alive real strong. There was a Sergeant from the Dover Police Department, William Simmons, with two girls and they have a program in Dover and I've told the Sergeant and the Chief about it that it might be worth our while to join with the Sergeant to get legislation to stop these parties that these kids have, they barrel parties and so on and so forth which is how this came about. They have a committee called Special Program Bureau. Do we have such a thing here in Manchester, Chief?

Chief Driscoll replied I'm not sure exactly...tell me the title again.

Alderman Pinard replied the title is Special Program Bureau.

Sgt. Kelly interjected that is just his assignment within the Juvenile Division, he is probably assigned to the Juvenile Division.

Alderman Pinard stated it's something to work around or whatever, but check with them...another thing that this committee on Alcohol and Drugs...there is one thing that came out this morning on this committee...we are going to be looking at strongly the alcohol end of it. I had the Liquor Inspector there this morning from way back when I used to sell beer...the place, the establishment was left liable is somebody over drank and got into a fatal accident and I asked if that is still on the books and obviously it is on the books, so we are going to look at that and many other things and I think this is what this committee is all about...to try to establish something to try to curb all of these accidents that are happening and everything else. We didn't get involved with drugs this morning, but I think we will.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I recall there are really three areas of problems with alcohol and other drugs...1) what can we do for prevention; 2) the area of treatment; and 3) the area of law enforcement and I don't know if I'm missing, if there's a fourth one...does that sound right.

Det. Fuller stated I think it would be important to look at expanding the definition of prevention to educating professionals in the field. If I can speak back to a point that was made previously by Mr. Rusczek. There is another group in Manchester that has started to do some work on a taxonomy of prevention services in the City. That group would be more than willing to present that information at this task force, but in that group we're looking at not just what services are out there but we're also trying to figure out what ways we can expand existing services to meet the needs of the young people that are going unmet in Manchester at this time.

Ms. McCarthy stated if I could just add too, I think part of one of the components that you mentioned that is, I think, vital to talk about is access to treatment because there are barriers and it's one thing to expand treatment, but if people can't access because of various barriers because of insurance or homelessness or age or what have you, I know that a huge, huge piece of what my work entails in battling that.

Chairman O'Neil stated I understand that and I think Louis is the one who has educated me with this...over the last ten years there has been a significant reduction in the amount of "beds" available..."treatment centers" for people that need help. Louis, do you remember those numbers?

Mr. Craig replied fourteen (14) facilities over the last ten years that have closed.

Chairman O'Neil stated feel free to speak up, we'll eventually get going a little bit...

Mr. Craig stated getting back to...I think we have to come up with some splashy language for our Mission Statement in the areas that we've talked about: prevention treatment, law enforcement...if we want to talk about education professionals in the field that's fine and access to treatment, but I think we've got to fine tune that and all of these other things that we talk about insofar as supporting the school counselors those are things we can talk about and take a stance on it and indicate our support for the counselors being funded, but I think that for purposes of today we should really and truly come up with a Mission Statement, I believe that's important and the second thing we might want to consider if we have the necessary representation here, I think we do, but I know that there are other agencies that would like to participate...if there's duplication I don't deem it necessary, but those two things, I think, are very important: a Mission Statement and who should make up this committee.

Chairman O'Neil stated one of the things that I remember is the committee became kind of a sounding board for those whether it was City folks involved with treating those with substance abuse problems as well as the social service agencies...really became a sounding board and one of the greatest things that probably came out of it was just getting people sitting down at the same table which probably still doesn't happen as often as it should. Does anyone want to take a stab at a Mission Statement?

Chief Driscoll replied we did do a Mission Statement, I know that that exists from a historical perspective of the committee, I don't have a copy with me...but...

Chairman O'Neil asked do you think you might have a copy of it in the office somewhere.

Chief Driscoll replied I'm pretty sure I can dig through my personal archives and come up with the Mission Statement and that might be a good place to start, it might...it's been a number of years since this committee existed, but that might save us redoing that whole thing at this time. The other thing is I agree with what you said...one of the most valuable parts of this committee was when the committee met we would go around and discuss what each group was doing at each meeting and bring new information to the table and it was a real learning process to see what each person was offering and to hear their problems and I think as you probably remember different people would say I'm doing that too or I can help you with that or I know how you can solve that problem if you give this person a call and I just think it was one of the best things that came out of this committee was that information sharing that occurred.

Chairman O'Neil stated and probably my guess would be out in the real world is that there is probably some tied between the prevention and treatment people, they might run into each and maybe prevention and law enforcement and then treatment and law enforcement, but it might not be all three are working together...those three areas and that hopefully is where we can focus here is getting all three areas working together on the same page. So, for our next meeting, Chief, if you can get it to Paula and she'll get it out to everyone.

Chief Driscoll stated I might embarrass myself and not be able to find it, but I think I probably can.

Mr. Rusczek stated at our last meeting we talked about places to start and certainly we talked about the need for a Mission Statement but it also came up that perhaps some of the information that I passed around that was presented to the Healthy Manchester group by Friends of Recovery might be a good place to at least begin the dialogue around what the issues are, what the problems are so that we're all starting out on the same page.

Chairman O'Neil stated correct me if I'm wrong but some of the people who are steering that are here today.

Mr. Rusczek replied that is correct...Tess Gomes.

Chairman O'Neil stated these are two of the items that you handed out...can we get the rest of the committee copies of these or can we get them to the Clerk?

Mr. Rusczek replied I think I did last time, if I didn't I certainly will or Tess can.

Chairman O'Neil stated maybe Tess can go over the information at the next meeting.

Ms. Gomes stated I would like to add, I would just like to apologize that I wasn't here for the first meeting, so if I'm duplicating any discussion please let me know. But, what I've seen in Manchester as we've worked on the Manchester Demand Treatment Partnership is a great increase in the momentum in Manchester across a lot of the bodies who are in the trenches everyday from the treatment perspective Manchester Demand Treatment started to come together about a year and a half ago, it's a broad spectrum of providers and concerned citizens coming together... legislators...to talk about what do we need for treatment here and what does the problem look like and that's where all of that data came together, it was really a culmination of a year and a half of projects as well as some other items that we addressed. Another aspect in the City as Marty Boldin shared is that the Prevention Coalition has come together and that's the Greater Manchester Prevention group coming together and saying okay well what's happening in the prevention side of the world, what taxonomy is out there, what services are out there and how can we start to better communicate with one another as to what services are available. It's great if you know each other and you can make that phone call and you can call the friend you need from such-and-such an agency, but we really need to do this on a more formal basis. And, then the third thing that's happening is that the group has come together to apply for the grant for the Governor's Commission and that was a cross-section of treatment providers, prevention providers and criminal justice and we all sat around the table and said okay what are the priorities as we know them today, we're in the trenches, we have two weeks to do the whole thing, but what are the priorities here and that group was able to come together, put aside specific agency issues and say what does Manchester really needs, what's the critical need. So, that's been documented and submitted for approval and we're all sitting on the edges of our chairs waiting to hear about that. So, there's a lot of momentum and a lot of progress that's already been happening in these three specific areas as well as obviously other people working and talking with each other in other agencies that are doing their own individual programming. We've talked with Fred Rusczek and the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council making a presentation for all of the data that we have done to try to bring this message out the people in the community who have the ability to really implement the changes, to be able to say yeah, let's look at this and see the need and let's start to come together with a common goal of finding solutions. What Fred had brought up which I thought was an excellent idea and I would lend my support and my encouragement for us to consider is putting together a summit and that summit...I was actually very fortunate to find a web site in Australia that did a week long summit which is phenomenal, very extensive...obviously, we weren't talking about doing that,

maybe a half a day or something, but the principle still applies that it takes every facet of the community and how are we affected by substance abuse, by alcohol and other drugs and how then can we take that message and do our part, so that not one individual agency or group takes the load from that, but legislators start to look at the issues legislatively that you can put into place...the School system is going to start to say well, we've got this, we've got that, we can take the information from coalitions that are working such as a prevention group...and it would give us a chance to come get together unified with individual task forces that would meet as a part of that summit pulling all of that information together and I think that this sub-committee could be a wonderful sponsor of that summit maybe in partnership with the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council since there is such respect in the community for the groups.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think anytime and I don't want to speak for my colleague to my right but anytime that the elected officials can get educated on what's going on...I'll share this and I'm embarrassed to share this but the Chief and I had a discussion one time about heroin...I think everything's nice and rosy in the City of Manchester and the Chief indicated he has some concerns with heroin in the City and that's just one area and I think whether it's the law enforcement community, the treatment community or the prevention community that the elected officials can always stand to learn. There are maybe some things we can do within City government to try to make any one of those areas more accessible to prevention, to treatment, supporting our law enforcement community so they have the resources to do their job. We do have access to Manchester Community Television here trying to get a message out. So, I think it is a good idea and I think putting together a summit would be a good start.

Ms. Gomes stated I see there's two other pieces that would come under that and that is the media can help us, as you said...Manchester Community TV, but there's also the newspapers who don't cover it in a great amount of detail to say well, here's the issue and here are some of the solutions and here's what's happening and as someone said to me which I thought was very wise is if your neighbor who lives next door to you doesn't think it's a problem, it's not a problem and it comes down to perception and that's part of the education process that we can be a very powerful influence on is to say you need to know "general public"...as you were saying...heroin is a problem and it's starting to educate the public through the media, through communications from this sub-committee, through the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council...whatever other avenues we might have available. I think the other thing we have a great power here in Manchester that can help us is the hospitals...they're a great point of contact along with some of the other agencies that are represented here to the general public and I think as part of their missions to positively impact the health of the community

they can be a great player and I think they should be...maybe not necessarily at this table, but certainly in the other part of the Healthy Manchester Leadership Council and I think the summit would help bring that, would start to bring all of the pieces together, all those resources...we have employers that are not engaged...employers can do a lot...their employees can become volunteer staff to advocate...there's a lot of untapped potential in this community and a summit, I think, could bring it together if we start to look at how to pull each of those uninvolved pieces together and start to invite them to be accountable even as we've been trying to be accountable.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't know where we go specifically with setting up this summit. Fred, is that something you might be willing to...

Mr. Rusczek replied most certainly we would work with the group and Healthy Manchester and the others. I think what's important is that we don't do a community summit until we've really moved things along in this committee and until we kind of determined or at least develop some ideas...what is it we hope to achieve out of a summit...so, we go into it knowing what we want to get as a community and what we want to get in law enforcement and prevention and treatment. Perhaps not in specifics but at least in some general sense. So, that's probably down the road...my guess would be late winter or spring or so, but I think we first need to complete our assessment piece so that we all understand what the issues are and concerns and use this vehicle to get the different perceptions and different professional input into why these problems occur and then begin to form a little clearer vision of where a summit can go and what are some key things that this group can do. I think it's going to take us a little bit of time talking about the issues and problems before the solutions and some key things become clear.

Chairman O'Neil stated we've gone down through item 6 and I believe it might be a little early yet for a summit, but I think maybe at the next meeting a presentation on the Healthy Manchester...

Mr. Rusczek interjected it's actually the Friends of Recovery Report that was done with New Futures and my recommendation would be at the same time Marty Boldin be involved with the prevention...

Mr. Boldin stated the GMPC (Greater Manchester Prevention Coalition)...by the time this group meets again that coalition will have met again and finalized a draft questionnaire to ask of prevention providers throughout the City and we can present that here to see if there's any questions about that survey that we would

need to do before we actually start doing it. We do have the resources now available to start that process, so if this group could take a look at it at the next meeting that would be very helpful to us to start moving that project along.

Mr. Rusczek stated so the assessment piece, I suppose, at Friends of Recovery and New Futures put together would be a great presentation or vehicle to start.

Mr. Boldin stated if I could follow-up, Fred, to what you're saying. I think as I listen to Tess talking and I think about what the groups I'm involved with are doing...the whole area of treatment and prevention has really expanded and there's a lot of discussion out there as Tess mentioned around the impact of media on substance abuse and there's a lot of energy around now about media literacy and as I think about creating a taxonomy of all the different kinds of services in the City, I just think that it would be wise for us as we're looking at prevention and treatment be clear about what ages we're speaking about, what the contact points are...GMPC...we have a lot of players coming for a lot of different disciplines to the table, but as of yet that committee hasn't reached out to the law enforcement community, so there are big segments of this problem to look at and I'd just be careful when we're trying to analyze all of the components of this that we really expand and be clear about what are definitions of treatment and prevention are so that we are not leaving out important providers in the community.

Mr. Craig stated Chief Driscoll has mentioned before that this committee was always good when people went around and talked about the things that everyone is doing and I agree with him, I think that's very important. So, we don't have to do it today, I suppose, but when we meet the next time I guess we should make it a point that...I've got around 15 things going all at once and I'm sure that the Mental Health does and the Health Department and the Office of Youth Services. Things that we should have knowledge of and perhaps we can help one agency helping another.

Chairman O'Neil asked does it make some sense for each group that's represented here to maybe do a one-page summary of what's going on...I'll use the Police Department, for example.

Mr. Craig stated that's probably a good way of doing it, but I think that we should have an opportunity to talk about it as well.

Chairman O'Neil stated that's fine...talk about what they're doing with the school resource officers, what other activities are going on serving the young people whether in juvenile services or another area of the department, just as an example and I'm sure I'm missing some other things that the Police Department is doing and let's keep in mind...as much as we think we want to concentrate just on the young people there's an adult community out there that seems to get left behind a lot too that is affected in every aspect of this.

Mr. Boldin stated we really think that you can't address substance abuse in young people without addressing families and when those hands aren't aligned together we're really just whistling Dixie.

Chairman O'Neil stated so if everyone for the next meeting could do just a little one-page summary and if you can get it over to us, we can get enough copies made for the committee.

Mr. Craig asked do we send it down to you.

Chairman O'Neil replied get it to Paula...either fax it over to her, e-mail, mail or dropped off. One of the strengths that this committee has is that we do have the resources of City government behind us...the Clerk's Office...they're will be official minutes of the meetings, we'll be able to review those or you may be sitting at home some night and want to read them and we have the resources of not only getting this facility but other facilities in the City. So, those are two of the things we can come to the table with. Isn't that right, Alderman Pinard?

Alderman Pinard stated everything is there all we have to do is put a committee together and I know that John Stephens would be very happy to serve if you wanted.

Chairman O'Neil stated I just want to review items for the next meeting...

- 1) Mission Statement;
- 2) review of Greater Manchester Prevention Coalition Survey (Final Draft);
- 3) presentation by Tess Gomes of Friends of Recovery & New Futures report and statistics; and
- 4) discussion relative to social service agencies/city

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 7 of the agenda:

7. Discussion relative to tentative future dates and times of committee meetings as follows:

Thursday, October 24, 2002 @ 4:00 PM
(note: change in time due to Chambers previously reserved for 3:00 PM)
Thursday, November 21, 2002 @ 3:00 PM
(note: 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving)
Thursday, December 19, 2002 @ 3:00 PM
(note: 4th Thursday is the day after Christmas)
Thursday, January 23, 2003 @ 3:00 PM
Thursday, February 27, 2003 @ 3:00 PM
Thursday, March 27, 2003 @ 3:00 PM
Thursday, April 24, 2003 @ 3:00 PM
Thursday, May 22, 2003 @ 3:00 PM
Thursday, June 26, 2003 @ 3:00 PM

Chairman O'Neil stated what we try to do in City government is have regular meetings, the Aldermen are used to it, so another one doesn't hurt and the thought was Thursday was a good day at three o'clock in the afternoon was a good time. We know not everyone is going to be able to attend every meeting, but if we can generally get together it's a good idea. To finish this calendar year we're a little off schedule because we have Thanksgiving and Christmas involved, so the Clerk has recommended the dates that are on here. Hopefully, everyone has those, if not we'll get them to you and then starting in January we get on a regular schedule. Is there anyone who has a problem with what's laid out?

Mr. Craig stated I don't have a problem but I did mention before about expanding this committee...are we to say today, right now that this is the membership of the committee?

Chairman O'Neil replied absolutely not and I had that written at the top of my sheet. Are there any suggestions on who else we might like to invite?

Mr. Craig stated I personally think we're well represented.

Chairman O'Neil asked does anyone feel like we're missing anyone noting that Alderman Pinard has suggested possibly Assistant Commissioner Stephens.

Alderman Pinard stated John is very well...he's the legislative liaison for the NH Department of Safety and he's well-versed in everything that I think we want to do here...I think John would be a big help to us which is why I am recommending John Stephens.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Sgt. Kelly, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee