

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

April 24, 2003

3:00 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

Chairman O'Neil asked the members to introduce themselves and the Clerk may want to make sure afterwards that they have correct addresses because we are a works in progress. LuAnn Oatman, Executive Director of Makin It Happen, Marty Boldin, Director of Social Services at Child Health Services, Tom Farrell, Friends of Recovery, Joe Harding, Executive Director of Friends of Recovery New Hampshire, Louis Craig, Executive Director of Serenity Place, Alderman O'Neil, Alderman Pinard, Detective Scott Fuller, Manchester Police Department, Sgt. Kevin Kelly, Manchester Police Department-Juvenile Division, Amy Hanulec, Juvenile Probation and Parole, David Scannell (late)

Mr. Craig stated there are some names that are on that list that I feel should not be on the list. Tess Gomes has left this Committee, Traci McCarthy is no longer with the Mental Health Center, and Linda King is not on this Committee. I think that those names should be stricken.

Chairman O'Neil added I think Kera MacKenzie she's one of the students and I think we've seen her at one meeting so far, but maybe for now we can leave her on. Chief your recommendation is Tess Gomes, Traci McCarthy and Linda King?

Mr. Craig replied yes.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 2 of the agenda:

2. Minutes of meeting held on March 27, 2003.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Mr. Craig, it was voted to accept the minutes of a meeting held on March 27, 2003.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Discussion regarding the brochure enclosure for City billings.

Mr. Craig stated I submitted a brochure to everybody and it's really in its roughest draft. I intend to sit down with a printer and to revise this brochure, but it's strictly on alcohol and the uses of alcohol and some of the pitfalls of alcohol. Once that is done Mr. Chairman, we will spruce this brochure up and I also want to talk to Diane Prew to figure out what's the best time to do this with the Manchester Water Works and what the cost is and the folding of the brochure and how many times it has to be done. I think there's about four or five mailings of water bills. Also the Office of Youth Services, Tom Jordan, has agreed to pick up the expense of the first mailing and I'm grateful to him for doing that. As I said, this brochure is in its rawest form and it will look much better than it is along with some color. When we get that printed up I will show it to the Committee but I'd like to get this in the bills as quickly as possible.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Discussion of upcoming May 12th summit in Aldermanic Chambers.

Joe Harding stated I just passed out a letter to you that. First of all I'd like to thank David Scannell for his efforts to help us with this. We've had 800 of the general letter printed up by the Mayor's office and that's the one that's on a copy of letterhead that I just passed out a minute ago. There is a letter that's on the official letterhead that's going out to individuals who are receiving a special invitation to speak on behalf of their organization at the Aldermanic forum. So we're doing a mailing tomorrow of sending out about 800 pieces of mail for invitations. For New Hampshire is involved in that. I'd like to thank LuAnn Oatman for making it happen. They're getting a bunch of kids together tomorrow to help do the mailing and in addition to that we've made up some posters that are being distributed at organizations throughout Manchester. Lou has talked to people over at Channel 9 to see if we can get some advertising for the forum from them. Fred Rusczyk is having the forum put on MCTV on their listing of community events. So we're doing lots of things to try to get people there and we're expecting a good turnout, or hoping for a good turnout. There are a couple of issues we need to discuss around logistics for food and that sort of thing. We had talked about the possibility of doing pizza. If we're doing a reception just prior to the forum, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and that we could get pizza and soft drinks and I think it was suggested that we could set those up in the board room right outside here. We're a little concerned if that's Okay, if people bring in soft drinks, I assume they shouldn't bring food in but how are we going stop that...

Chairman O'Neil interjected why don't I stop you there and maybe the City Clerk can help us out with the dos and don'ts because it's done fairly regularly.

City Clerk Bernier stated what I need to know is how many people do you think are going to participate? And if you want us to get the pizza and soda we'll be happy to do that. What usually happens is that the Aldermanic sweet, there's some refreshments and that's usually where we put pizza. People will come out and sit down and some gather in the NH Primary Room or the hallway. I assume it's just from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and make sure people get some food in their stomachs before we start the meeting.

Mr. Harding stated it's going to be hard to project how many people...we could be looking at 50 to 100 people.

City Clerk Bernier replied that's fine. We'll be able to deal with that. We will probably set the pizza and soda right in front of the Mayor's office as well as the Aldermanic suite. That will kind of break it up and if somebody wants to sit down they're always welcome to sit down anywhere on the third floor except for the Mayor's office and we will have extra staff here to make sure everything is done correctly.

Mr. Craig stated if we have an idea of how many people we should let you know?

City Clerk Bernier replied yes, that would be helpful. It makes a difference if you have between 50 and 100. Whatever you can get close to and we will take care of it.

Mr. Harding stated it will probably be a good idea to extend special invitation to the three Senators from Manchester and we thought it might be a good idea if they actually received a letter directly from you, Alderman O'Neil.

Chairman O'Neil responded Alderman Pinard and I will send one out.

Mr. Craig stated we want to make sure community TV will be on hand that night.

Chairman O'Neil replied we will coordinate with Jim McLean. He may give us a thumbs up and I'm sure we will coordinate that with MCTV.

Mr. Harding stated then the one other issue is logistics for when people testify. It was suggested that we have people come up to the center podium and testify there. However there is going to be...we had talked around and we weren't quite sure what to do...there's probably going to be about 20 people who have received special invitations to come and testify on behalf of their organization. We're asking people to testify three to five minutes. And then there is going to be people from the general

public and we're wondering what would be the best way to try to organize that. We could take a special invitation and then when people come in we could have them fill out a card that they want to testify. So you could alternate between special invitation and general public.

Chairman O'Neil stated MCTV is fine on that night. I would suggest again that we talk to the City Clerk because they coordinate this regularly. Probably use a similar sign up sheet to collect names for public testimony.

City Clerk Bernier stated that's correct. We will assist you in that process and we do have sign-up sheets. We do have portable mikes and we will coordinate it very well for you.

Chairman O'Neil added it just might make it easier if people just sign in whether they were special invites or just coming on their own.

Mr. Harding replied Okay. We could provide you with a sheet of invites if you want. And then other people will just sign up and we'd look for you to coordinate that?

City Clerk Bernier replied that's fine. We would be happy to do it.

Mr. Craig stated this forum really in my mind at least is for the general public to tell us what the problems of drug and alcohol is in the City and for anybody that's watching I think it's important that the general public knows that's the purpose of this forum. So they can tell us about drugs and alcohol within their families, within their neighborhoods, within their life and how they dealt with alcohol and drugs if they so desire and more specifically how we can respond to those problems. I think it's important that be said and that we extend an invitation to the general public.

Alderman Pinard stated we go along and we've had some very nice meetings, but I think that what Chief Craig just said has got a lot of merit because I think we don't give a phone number where people could call and ask for information for direction of what we're trying to do here. Who would be one to give their phone number?

Chairman O'Neil asked would any of the organizations call Serenity Place?

Mr. Craig replied we would be more than happy to provide information and any one of our agencies would do so. If anybody wants more information about this forum they can call Serenity Place at 625-6980.

Mr. Harding stated people are welcome to call For NH at 647-4629.

Chairman O'Neil replied that will be fine if one of you two would take the calls.

Mr. Harding stated we have put the number of For NH on the posters, just so everyone knows.

Alderman Pinard stated those posters that you have just showed, when are those going to be posted and how are they going to be posted? Are you going to keep a record of where they're being posted for future reference?

Mr. Harding replied that's probably a good idea. We have a very technical process in place for that. Tom is going get in a car with Marty and they're going to drive all over town and tack them up. Probably 100 of them or so. We could keep track of where they're going.

Chairman O'Neil asked are we going to get them in the schools?

Mr. Harding replied yes. As a matter of fact it might be helpful...maybe we should be mailing some of these to Dr. Bass and some others and certainly at the Manchester Police Department. We'd like to have some posted there and any other of the municipal buildings.

Chairman O'Neil asked Joe do you have any copies with you today?

Mr. Harding answered I do have a limited number and we're going to get more printed. We had made some samples for our sub-committee to approve. Which they did so we're going to have them made up now.

Chairman O'Neil stated if we could get them that would be good. Maybe Amy would want to take some for the State, the Police Department, etc. I'm sure if we get a couple of dozen anyway over to the School District they'll get them up at the schools.

Alderman Pinard stated if you want to give me a bunch of these where I'm retired and I'm all over the City, I would be happy to place them in different locations.

Mr. Harding replied that would be a great help to us. Thank you.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Any other business to come before the Committee.

Mr. Harding stated I did want to make the Committee aware that the Governor's Commission, some of you may be familiar with that. It came about as a result of a bill that was passed a couple of years ago by Representative LeFebvre and there's a fund that was also passed a couple of years ago in the NH Legislature, Senate Bill 153

which allocates a small percentage of liquor revenues towards treatment and prevention programs around the State. That fund just got eliminated from the House version of the budget and the Senate's going to be considering this matter next week. There's a Senate Finance Committee meeting on Monday, April 28, 2003 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and another hearing again that evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. But what I'm getting to is this money is funds for treatment prevention funds that went around the State. As a matter of fact, there are a number of organizations here that submitted a proposal. The City of Manchester received I think \$237,000 for this current year, but that fund is going to be eliminated unless we can get the Senate to reinstate it. We wanted to ask if it seems like a good idea if we could submit a letter on behalf of this Committee to Senate Finance to suggest that these funds are important to this community and help fund important treatment and prevention programs in the City.

Chairman O'Neil asked when is the Finance Committee meeting?

Mr. Harding replied there's a public hearing this Monday, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Chairman O'Neil asked any idea when they meet after that?

Mr. Harding answered I'm not sure when they're actually voting on it, but we assume that the Finance Committee will be making some kind of a recommendation toward the end of next week and that the full Senate will probably be considering the matter some time the follow week. The week of May 5th.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think a letter would be appropriate. Maybe Alderman Pinard and I could put it on City stationery and send it. If somebody could just do a draft of specific items, we could either email or fax it to the Clerk and then they can do it and then Alderman Pinard could sign as Co-Chair. I don't know by Monday, but we could at least send a letter of the Senate Finance Committee and copy the, I'm not sure if all three Manchester Senators are on it, but at least copy them on it letter as well.

Mr. Harding replied I could do that. Senators D'Allesandro and Gatsas are both on the Finance Committee.

Chairman O'Neil stated we could then copy Senator Martel on the letter.

On a motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Sgt. Kevin Kelly, it was voted unanimously that the Committee send a letter to the Senate Finance Committee requesting re-instatement of the Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Fund.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Joe will you do the draft? Just email it to the Clerk's office and we can get it out either tomorrow or Monday.

Mr. Harding replied yes.

Mr. Craig stated just to follow up on that. My agency was appropriated about \$45,000 to expand our programs to help and assist and treat female alcoholics and if we lose that money we will lose the ability to treat additional female alcoholics. So it's important to my agency and there are other agencies within the City of Manchester.

Chairman O'Neil asked do we know what agencies receive money in the City. Could we do fact sheet to go with it, if possible?

Mr. Craig replied yes and we can do that.

Chairman O'Neil stated the fact sheet could say in this past fiscal year Serenity Place received \$45,000. If there is the possibility we could include a fact sheet with it, that might be helpful.

Mr. Harding stated we had some information from that Recover Manchester document that we had provided the presentation earlier. Do you want any of that statistical data in that?

Chairman O'Neil replied fine. Having served in the Senate, the simpler the better. I think just a letter with the fact sheet might be get their attention. That would be my suggestion. So if you could get that to Valerie that would be great.

Chairman O'Neil asked is there anything else to come before the Committee?

Mr. Craig stated I would like to bring up a couple of things Mr. Chairman. I'm very delighted to see Kevin and Scotty here today. The last time we met Dr. Bass talked about prom night and graduation night and this Committee some time ago was under the impression that something was going to be done on those events, and I know that it was impossible to do as explained by Dr. Bass. I just bring it up today because I know that if we don't talk about it, it may be forgotten and if we don't start planning now, if we have to now for next year, or maybe develop a particular system in our minds that come January maybe we should start planning. Or something like that. Because everyone on this Committee feels this is extremely important, that something should be done within the high schools and I know you two gentlemen feel the same way.

Sgt. Kelly stated I believe a couple of months ago we were sitting in here and I'd mentioned that as far as getting something in the schools and making some sort of presentation to the schools, within each respective high school, Trinity included. We

met with Dr. Bass, myself personally several months ago, and apparently there was some logistical problems, it was too close towards the end of the year. I think he had commented on that in our meeting, if I'm not mistaken. We were looking for something along the lines of getting Dan Duval, I'm sure a lot of you people know him, but Dr. Bass is looking at something more along the lines of having something that night apparently. Like some sort of alcohol free party. That is what we were looking at and we're hoping to get that at some point. Bringing it into the schools maybe some sort of video presentation and then going from them. So we're still hoping to do that, but we're not going to forget about. That's certainly, definitely in the future on the horizon.

Mr. Craig stated what I'm saying is it's too bad we didn't do it this year, but for certain lets do it this year. And the second thing Mr. Chairman I just wanted to say that we're all set for the middle schools. I have dates and I have the speakers. I have a speaker from the NH State Prison for Women. We will be talking about drugs and alcohol to all of our middle schools and I think Dr. Bass for assisting in that. Also McDonalds has agreed to give hamburgers and Coca-Cola and we have 5000 brochures being made up as we speak. The brochures will contain information on alcohol, on cocaine, on club drugs, ecstasy, and hopefully every single middle school child will take that brochure home and discuss the drugs and alcohol with their parents. I think hopefully it will be very effective. I think this Committee for the support of this.

Alderman Pinard stated Louie if you'll remember at one of the meetings I would be showing again this year that movie about the accident, the death form Salem, NH and again MCTV should be starting to play these, so myself I am concerned about the proms and I hope that Dr. Bass and those here will work on something for next year. If you haven't seen the film, I hope you would because it gives you a very, very strong message about what alcohol can do.

Detective Fuller stated I think he's talking about "One Night Out". That's the name of the film he's looking at and we have done something similar to that in the past at each of the respective high schools. And again, we are trying to bring that back and something to that effect. Also bringing Dan Duval or a person who has actually gone through that sort of experience.

Alderman Pinard stated the film is in the library at MCTV and they are ready to start playing it very soon. I am with you on that, again we have this Committee, we have the Highway Safety Committee, there's another summit that's being worked on where I'm working with the NH Highway Safety and Dr. Sabato. You will all know when this happens that has to do with the drunk drivers specifically. So if we do this job and the message is really strong that there is a problem with the drugs and alcohol.

Chairman O'Neil stated I do know with my discussions with Dr. Bass and the Superintendent, Dr. Ludwell, they are very serious about this, they wanted to make a very strong effort this year but they just didn't think there was enough time to put together formal program to tie all four high schools together. I know they are committed in the future to making sure that happens, as well as doing what we can this year, both in the program with you in the middle school as well as working the Police Department and the high schools.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Detective Fuller, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee