

ADOPTED

City of Keene
New Hampshire

COLLEGE/CITY COMMISSION

Monday, July 20, 2015

5:00 PM

KSC Alumni Center

Members Present:

Michael Welsh, Co-Chair
Emily Hague, Councilor/Co-Chair
Dick Berry
Chris Hrynowski
Margaret Rice
Paula Jessup
Marcia Kayser
Kelly Ricaurte
Ted McGreer
Philip Jones, Councilor

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Andy Robinson, KSC Liaison
Brian Costa, Captain KPD
Medard Kopczynski, Code Enforcement
Brian Quigley, KSC
Michele Morrow, KSC
Pat Halloran, KSC
Jessica Gagne Cloutier, KSC
Casey Wilson Justice, KSC

Members Not Present:

Caitlin Licence
Cynthia Georgina
Chris Cusack
Bart Sapeta
Dottie Morris

Others Present:

1) Call to order

Co-Chair Hague called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM welcoming those present; introductions were made all around.

2) Review Minutes – July 6, 2015

Co-Chair Welsh made a motion to accept the minutes of July 6, 2015 with the following changes/corrections: on Page 2 paragraph 4, first sentence change “outsource” to “off-campus”. Councilor Jones seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

3) April 2015 Community Conversation Report – Final Draft Update

Co-Chair Hague reported that the April 2015 Community Conversation report has been finalized, and the Commission’s comments were sent back to NH Listens. This report will be available at the end of August for the public to review.

4) Linking Report to Commission Recommendations - Behavior and Substance Abuse Issues

This item was combined with the presentations and discussions in item 5.

5) Presentations and Discussion from Guest Community Experts

Co-Chair Hague verified that Commission members have received a copy of the report of the Keene State College (KSC) Alcohol and Other Drug Committee (2010-2012), authored by Brian Quigley, Ph.D. and John Finneran, Ph.D. Co-Chair Hague asked Dr. Quigley if any of the recommendations in the report had changed. Dr. Quigley outlined the revisions to the work groups proposed in the report that will be launched in the Fall semester. Dr. Quigley introduced Dr. Michele Morrow, noting that her position came out of some of those recommendations. Dr. Morrow will play a primary role in the coordination of various activities and programs around drug prevention, education, and treatment.

There being no additional questions or comments for Dr. Quigley regarding this report, Co-Chair Hague reiterated the Commission's work to date including the areas to be addressed for the guests present. She suggested that the presentation from the community experts present at this meeting be guided by the following questions:

- What are your current programs? Do they involve the College and/or the City?
- What are some of the most recent focuses of your work?
- What about your work has/has not been successful? What have you tried in the past?
- What would you suggest this Commission recommends when making its formal recommendations?
- Where should we be going from here around the topic of substance abuse?

a. Presentation by Dr. Brian Quigley, Counseling Center Director at KSC

Dr. Quigley noted that there are intervention-based treatment services for students who are struggling with alcohol and other drug issues. He explained that most of these students are self-referred and that those in need of intensive treatment are referred to local agencies. Dr. Quigley reported that we are seeing more and more students presenting with severe drug and alcohol issues. He noted that providing treatment for these students is beyond the scope of higher education/college mental health.

Dr. Quigley addressed prevention noting that all freshman students are required to complete an online survey before attending KSC, which has proven to be helpful in making more informed decisions around alcohol and substance misuse. The follow-up takes place 30 days later. Dr. Quigley added that there is a 50% response rate to the module. Dr. Quigley also outlined the other collaborations the Center participates in to provide programming throughout the year. Dr. Quigley also outlined the Referred Learning Program, noting these services are partly prevention and partly treatment. Students are often referred to these services through the Conduct Office. Dr. Quigley reported that in the last year 189 students participated in the Referred Learning Program. Five years ago, 57 students participated in this program.

Questions and Comments:

- Co-Chair Welsh: Referring to national changes, Co-Chair Welsh asked if we are seeing similar needs for these types of referral programs at other institutions. Dr. Quigley noted that the increased need for this level of support is not unique to KSC. Dr. Quigley addressed his observation of the spike in opiate addiction and un-prescribed prescription drug misuse in the local area. Dr. Quigley commented that a component of what Dr. Morrow will be looking at is how to create a more supportive community around treatment and prevention. Dr. Quigley also noted the intensive efforts made elsewhere and the challenges of pulling them off; especially, the ability to resource them.
- Co-Chair Hague: Asked, what changes are they hoping to make with Dr. Morrow coming onboard, what resources would be helpful to make the program more effective, and what is recommended for going forward? Dr. Quigley reiterated that Dr. Morrow would serve as a coordinator and added that in the past there has not been a lot of coordination. He also noted that there are many faculty members dedicated to helping find healthier ways for students to make this rite of passage. Dr. Quigley also made note of Forrest Seymour's nationally recognized work on- and off-campus.
- Dick Berry: Asked, Dr. Quigley to expand on the concept of rite of passage. Dr. Quigley explained that some will come to college with the attitude that partying it up and binge drinking is the behavioral norm. Dr. Morrow noted that studies have shown there is a large disparity between the perceptions students have about drinking behaviors and reality. She indicated national statistics suggest that only 20% of students actually engage in this behavior. Ms. Hrynowski commented on the longevity of the rite of passage idea. Dr. Quigley reported there are prevention strategies around dispelling that myth.
- Medard Kopczynski: Making reference to contact after hospitalization, Mr. Kopczynski asked Dr. Quigley how much of his effort is directed off-campus, and how much is proactive, such as reaching out to the students after hospitalization. Dr. Quigley explained that contact efforts are coordinated by the KSC Center for Health and Wellness for any students we receive police logs on. Mr. Kopczynski clarified if the students are referred to you then you do something, but you don't actually seek out students. Dr. Quigley replied no we don't seek them out; he also noted the involvement of the Conduct Office, indicating the efforts are primarily reactive.

b. Presentation by Pat Halloran, KSC Director of Academic and Career Advising, and Casey Wilson Justice, KCS Coordinator of First Year Residential Experience

Ms. Halloran provided the background on KSC's pre-semester orientation from 2007 to the present noting that the missing link has been the parents. Ms. Halloran reported that the June orientation was reinstated this year in addition to Welcome Days in hopes of building partnerships with parents and students. Parents and students now hear the same messages. Ms. Halloran suggests this might be a powerful coalition moving forward in Keene.

Ms. Wilson Justice reported that last June's program ran from June 5th to 17th. She added that they still maintain an overnight program with four different sessions. Ms. Wilson Justice reported 875 of the 950 first year students attended. Ms. Wilson Justice commented that a lot of

it is to start that conversation about what it means to be a KSC student and welcoming them (students and parents) to the campus. Parents were given a lot of information on alcohol and substance abuse. In addition to the other presentations given there Campus Safety, Residential Life Conduct, and the Keene Police Department (KPD) conducted a combined session. Ms. Wilson Justice noted the work of the KPD Liaison and the effect this has on students to demonstrate the good working relationship between the College and the City. So as not to overburden first year students with information, Ms. Wilson Justice noted first year students will still move in early, and still have four days of Welcome Days in August. Ms. Wilson Justice explained the expectations for this programming and outlined the after-hours programming available during the first six weeks in the residence halls to keep the students on-campus. She agreed the programming is a little more reactive than proactive. Ms. Wilson Justice also mentioned the Off-Campus Housing Orientation program and reported that less than 30 students received the fine for not attending. Ms. Wilson Justice noted that they are trying to build up the January orientation as well to accommodate transfer students.

Questions and Comments:

- Co-Chair Hague: Asked, what kind of cross-pollination is there in KSC orientation sessions with the KSC Counseling Center and the preventive resources that are available? Ms. Wilson Justice replied that the June program involved a presentation from the Counseling Center for the parents. The June program first year students met their orientation leader, which is a connection to the campus that is maintained throughout the summer, and the orientation leaders did floor meetings in the residence halls. Ms. Wilson Justice reiterated the concerns regarding overburdening first year students and noted the differences in the information provided in June and August.
- Co-Chair Welsh: Commented on the architecture of residence halls, which is now deliberately different than from when he was a student. He inquired about the new residence hall under construction. Ms. Wilson Justice explained the differences between dormitories and residence halls; noting, they are very specific about the students referring to them as residence halls. She noted the concept that the residence hall is your home, not just a place to sleep. Ms. Wilson Justice noted the intent to create larger spaces, and create an environment where students could study and attend different programs. She continued to explain that each floor has a Resident Assistant with 25 to 30 residents per floor. The Resident Assistants can work with different offices to coordinate programming and bring in area experts. Ms. Halloran also noted the community is integrated here. Co-Chair Welsh made the following two observations:
 - It seems like you're increasing the likelihood that students will take advantage of the programs with this different kind of setup versus just a dormitory.
 - There is a conventional understanding that these apartment buildings going up off-campus are like dormitories. What has been described is quite different than the buildings going up.
- Ms. Wilson Justice explained that the difference is we have the staff specific to creating those intentional programs and communities, which might not happen in one of the larger apartment buildings off-campus.

c. Presentation by Jessica Gagne Cloutier, KSC Coordinator of Community Service

Ms. Gagne Cloutier noted that Community Service falls under the Department of Student Involvement, which also includes Fraternity and Sorority Life, Leadership Development, After Hours / Late Night Programs and Student Activities and Organizations. She continued there is a group of professional staff dedicated to getting students involved in ways that meet their needs. Ms. Gagne Cloutier indicated that she would speak to the programs that offer alternatives to the consumption of alcohol or drugs. She noted that her office is not addressing substance prevention or treatment; however, their programs provide students opportunities for social involvement. Ms. Gagne Cloutier described the two programs that are alcohol-free and drug-free:

- *PreServe Summer Program* is a week-long program where incoming students live on-campus, work with non-profits in the community, and are asked to abstain from drug or alcohol activities.
- *Alternative Break Program* sends approximately 110-130 students out across the country and internationally and students are asked to abstain.

Ms. Gagne Cloutier reported on the positive feedback received from the students who participated in these programs. Ms. Gagne Cloutier addressed the Fraternities and Sororities noting they have local and national expectations relative to providing programming related to drug and alcohol issues. Ms. Gagne Cloutier addressed the After Hours Late Night Programs, which offer free programs monthly, such as First Friday, Third Thursday, and Second Saturday, which provide an alternative to partying. Ms. Gagne Cloutier reported seeing a wider audience attending these programs. Ms. Gagne Cloutier noted within these programs a lot of forms are used and shared with other student groups. She also pointed out that the entire staff is part of the Conduct process. Ms. Gagne Cloutier also outlined the goals and participation in Community Service Day.

Questions and Comments:

- Co-Chair Hague: Asked if it is known how many students participate in either Community Service or the Alternative Break Program. Ms. Gagne Cloutier reported the Alternative Break Program reaches about 130 students per year with the numbers increasing over the past few years. The number of students participating in Community Service is approximately 1,000 per year; with over 100,000 hours last year. In response to Co-Chair Hague, Ms. Gagne Cloutier noted that they have redefined how they count and define Community Outreach and Community Service on the campus so the numbers look smaller. She also suggested they are still learning what the benchmark is.
- Dick Berry: Referring to the residence hall programs, Mr. Berry asked if there is a method to measure how well they are working. Ms. Wilson Justice replied that they know it is working when their conduct numbers start to decrease. Ms. Wilson Justice also noted that the most common violations include underage drinking and smoking marijuana. Ms. Wilson Justice also noted that she could not say that one particular program causes the students to change their behavior; however, providing these outlets for students gives them the chance to rethink the reason why they are here. Mr. Berry then asked if it was fair to say they track these numbers. Ms. Wilson Justice commented that the Conduct Office counts the numbers every

semester; and, they do keep track of how many students attend programs. She also noted she does reach out to students if they go through the Conduct Office twice in a short period of time (new process this year). Ms. Wilson Justice pointed out there are always students they cannot get into any of the programs; adding that making programs mandatory would be difficult due to class scheduling. She does feel the programs are working. A short discussion ensued regarding community service as a punitive measure and the difficulties this entails.

d. Presentation by Brian Costa, Keene Chief of Police

Chief Costa referred to the Mandatory Off-Campus Orientation Program, noting his Department is interested in seeing what this looks like as it is newly developed. Commenting on the topic of how to curb undesirable behavior, Chief Costa noted his interest in working hand-in-hand with the College. He added that this is currently being addressed through the position of College Liaison Officer (CLO), Kyle Macie. Chief Costa noted that treatment and recovery have already been touched upon in the presentations; however, he would add enforcement as a component of this discussion. He stated that the KPD approaches enforcement in a number of different ways. They rely heavily on the education piece (e.g. CLO) and their officers. The enforcement model they have used over the past several years is placing extra patrols at designated off-campus housing areas that tend to have issues. These extra patrols are tasked with zero enforcement. Their hope is that through these programs the expectations have already been laid out (articulate expectations and consistent enforcement). Chief Costa commented that their goal is not to have the highest number of arrests, it is to change unwanted behavior, and a piece of the way you get to that end is through enforcement. He also commented that they try to educate the new students coming in, and provide refresher training for returning students that is carried on throughout the year. Addressing the funding issue, Chief Costa noted grants do expire so when needed the costs are absorbed through KPD's overtime budget. Chief Costa reported there will be a relevant discussion on heroin at the City's Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure (MSFI) Committee meeting, on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers. This meeting is open to the public. Chief Costa provided the relevant background for the meeting.

Questions and Comments:

- Co-Chair Hague: Asked the Chief if he has noticed trends of activities going on in the community affecting student behavior (e.g. substance abuse). Chief Costa reported they have not seen high numbers of heroin use at the college relative to the community.
- Co-Chair Welsh: Asked the Chief if the City has received grants to fund the extra patrols he discussed. Chief Costa replied that historically the state issued grants to the counties for PAC Details which were specific towards the enforcement of alcohol and other related issues. Chief Costa noted that although the state discontinued this funding, the City has continued those patrols by absorbing the costs in the KPD budget. One of the area intervention groups did grant the KPD between \$4,500 and \$5,000 per semester to help with the costs.
- Dick Berry: Asked the Chief to comment on granting arrest powers to Campus Security. Chief Costa outlined the process and training requirement for hiring new Officers. Chief

Costa noted that Plymouth and Durham do have fully sworn Police Departments at the University campuses. At KSC, the Campus Security are not fully sworn police officers, and the campus is the KPD jurisdiction.

- Tim Zinn, of Grove Street asked how the College and City are going to work together to limit the number of students at a party. He provided the Chief with an example from last spring noting this is not normal or acceptable. Chief Costa agreed this was unacceptable and reported the party was broken up after they were notified. Chief Costa noted the difference in events/parties held throughout the year, attributing the better behaviors potentially to the education programs and KPD efforts taking place. Chief Costa agreed with Mr. Zinn that limiting the numbers at parties is worth a discussion.
- Ms. Jessup noted her comments made at the last meeting regarding landlords, adding her biggest concern is that this issue is not going to be resolved. She suggested help is needed and noted the City does not have to accept 300 people out on the lawn as the norm.

e. Presentation by Medard Kopczynski, Code Enforcement/Assistant City Manager

Mr. Kopczynski noted he too has seen his neighborhood change over the past 15 years, primarily because the rentals have changed into student housing. Mr. Kopczynski indicated that alcohol more than drugs is the nexus of the problem. He also suggested the efforts that take place on campus also need to take place off-campus, adding that landlords and associations also need to be more proactive in these things as well. He explained that when the City becomes involved in the properties, from the standpoint of alcohol, it is due to litter, trash, and destruction of the property. After additional comments, Mr. Kopczynski added that we are entering the problem from the standpoint of reactivity. Mr. Kopczynski suggested the proactive side of this is the Land Use side, and provided his reasoning. He also suggested that if we can find a mechanism to control the behavior side (as it is related to alcohol) it will help with all other issues.

Mr. Kopczynski reiterated his comments from the last meeting noting that with Ms. Riley, Mr. Gorman, and Mr. Parsells gone we have lost a needed experience level. He noted that one Officer has been hired and they will be looking to hire a second one as well. Mr. Kopczynski added our intention is to concentrate more on the genuine housing issues as opposed to litter, trash, and debris.

Questions and Comments:

- Regina Wright, a Keene landlord addressed the terms specified in her leases noting the stated quiet hours are between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. When she issues warning letters they are sent to the parents as well. Ms. Wright also noted when a ticketed offense occurs at one of her properties there is a \$250 fine levied, which the parents are asked to include in the next month's rent. Ms. Wright recommended 25 as an acceptable number for a party. In response to Co-Chair Welsh, Ms. Wright noted she developed the language for her lease. With regards to the effectiveness Ms. Wright noted 98% of the parents are cooperative, with the other 2% being uncooperative.

- Dawn Kopczynski, of Keene asked if there was any way to deal with houses that already have a history. Mr. Zinn noted the Keene Neighborhood Group has talked about publishing the top five violators every month in their newsletter.
- Ms. Jessup noted there is nobody in the Code Enforcement Department at the moment, and commented there needs to be someone in charge. Mr. Kopczynski commented this is why he raised it as a Land Use issue; because it is a Land Use issue. Ultimately, the enforcement issue is going to be with the landowner, not the City.
- Dr. Quigley asked if there were clearly defined objectives for this Commission regarding this issue. Co-Chair Welsh noted the discussion today went into the area of housing; he added these two issues are closely related. He continued that the things this Commission would like to do are come up with off/on-campus policies that will improve the situation. As far as substance use and abuse, it is harder to come up with concrete recommendations. There are a good number of programs the Commission would like to call attention to and have people make more or better use of, and there is less of a regulatory array of recommendations. He also commented that the Commission does not propose that they will be able to solve the problem. Dr. Quigley discussed this as a national, cultural problem.
- Not speaking for the Commission, Mr. Lamb commented that the general intent was to educate ourselves about what is taking place in the City so that we're fully informed about the range of options or circumstances.

6) Other or New Business

The next meeting will take place on August 3, 2015 with a focus on: Communications, Relationships between the City and KSC, Events and Traditions

Co-Chair Welsh reported the next meeting will be the last of the Commission's fact finding meetings. The two or three meetings following that will be spent writing the recommendations that will be included in our final report.

Councilor Jones will touch base with Mr. Berry regarding the guest speakers for the next meeting.

6) Public Comment

None at this time.

7) Adjourn

Co-Chair Hague adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Sheats-Hall, Minute-taker
July 23, 2015