

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families Welcomes Two New Members

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LACONIA: Two women, Sandra McLaughlin from Gilford, and Kate Miller from Meredith are the newest members of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families, a unique county department that

works with local citizens to build a supportive environment for children and families. Both women have been active members in their communities and bring an array of skills and expertise including

community leadership, educational administration, writing, public relations, and state, regional and federal advocacy.

Kate Miller, a

graduate of Stanford University, spent more than a decade in Washington DC as a press secretary on Capitol Hill to several committees and members of Congress, as a special assistant to the secretary of a federal agency, and as a registered lobbyist. In New Hampshire and the Lakes Region, she is a founder/director of a Montessori School in Sanbornton and has volunteered with



Sandra McLaughlin of Gilford (L) and Kate Miller of Meredith meet together as the newest members of the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. The Belknap County Citizens Council was created in 2002 as a County Department and is unique in New Hampshire and New England for using the expertise and initiative of citizens in resolving critical issues facing children and families. Council members meet together and with networks of professionals, business leaders, representatives of the faith community, and other citizens to develop and advocate for innovative solutions, build effective partnerships, explore new resources, and to exchange information.

the Rape and Domestic Violence Center in Concord. She has been a CASA Board member and case worker and the Secretary for the NH Humane Society. Currently she is a member of the Board of Directors for the NH Music Festival in Center Harbor and serves as Chair of the Festival's Education Committee. She and her husband James are the parents of seven children, four of them adopted from Vietnam, India, and Africa.

Sandra McLaughlin, most recently retired as Principal of the Holderness Central School with more than 20 years in the Lakes Region as a Special Education teacher, Learning Disabilities Specialist, school administrator, and educational consultant, is now the Education Resource Specialist for the NH Music Festival. While serving as Assistant Principal at Gilford Middle High School, she was honored in 2000 as NH Assistant Principal of the Year with an Excellence in Education Award (EDie). A graduate of the University of Massachusetts in journalism and English, Sandra began her career as a technical writer and editor for Raytheon and Alden Company in Massachusetts and later as Associate Editor and writer for Mainelife and Farmstead magazines. She also spent time as a VISTA worker teaching English to Navajos and coordinating social services and the learning center.

“These two women have wonderful skills in prevention, community development, and restorative justice, the three components of Community Justice guiding our work,” says Sarah Fox of Sanbornton and Chair of the Council. “We are always looking for unique individuals with a passion for improving the well being of children and families and who would also like to be Council members.”

More information on the Belknap County Citizens Council is available at www.bccj.org or by calling 528-3185.