

## Carroll County Collaborative working toward countywide vision Jay Connor addresses group about how to work together differently

**TAMWORTH** – When it comes to approaching complex community problems, the solution should be like making a movie, said Jay Connor to a diverse group of Carroll County residents earlier this year. “The secret to making a good movie is when everyone is making the SAME movie,” he said as an example of why Martin Scorsese, director of the Godfather, is so successful. Working on community issues is no different. Everyone needs to be involved and everyone needs to have the same goal.

With nearly 40 representatives from business, education, county government and law enforcement in attendance at a recent presentation sponsored by the Carroll County Collaborative, Connor spoke about the importance of finding innovative solutions to various problems facing the county today. “There are many good people doing good things, but we have to move beyond that,” move beyond working within the silos that are set up based on funding streams, he said. But the community needs to start with the question, “What do we want to achieve” before it can move forward.



The founder and CEO of The Collaboratory for Community Support has spoken across North America on a wide variety of topics and has extensive leadership experience in the business, nonprofit, and public policy arenas. He is currently working with communities in Indiana, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, California, and Canada helping those communities focus on common goals and achieving measureable results.

Due to the very positive feedback from attendees, Connor returns to Carroll County from Sept. 21 to 23 to help people in the county determine what their community’s goals are and set their own agenda. Other communities Connor has worked with have addressed the questions of early childhood development, education, workplace success and community development, with businesses, government officials and educators all contributing to solve this one issue. Connor’s presentation is being sponsored by the Carroll County Collaborative, a program of Tri-County CAP.

Traditionally, funding from foundations and federal or state government sources is focused on specific funding priorities. As a result, sometimes the services available are based upon what someone is willing to pay for, rather than what a particular community or family might need to be healthy. This is a process to start putting the community first.

Dept. of Health and Human Services Commissioner Nick Toumpas expressed a similar philosophy at a recent presentation sponsored by the North Country Health Consortium. His goal is to reorganize the contracting structure in his department to better help targeted populations. For example, money comes from the Department of Education, Health and Human Services, the Division of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections to address mental health issues, each with their own focus.

While collaboration is definitely happening in Carroll County already, said Carroll County Collaborative director Cyndi Paulin, this will bring citizens into the fold to work alongside service providers. She said

she is impressed by the talent, energy and strong desire to make things better that she sees in every community she visits. “If we are able to harness even a portion of the existing energy and talent to work collaboratively toward a common goal, the results will be impressive.”

State Representative Mark McConkey (R-Ossipee) said the countywide approach to addressing an issue makes a lot of sense – bringing people from all sectors and all parts of the county together to solve a problem.

Community aspiration forums will be taking place across the county from Sept. 21 to 23. For more information or to help with the forums, please contact Paulin or Lori Lenart at 323-8139. The organization’s website is [www.tccap.org/ccc.htm](http://www.tccap.org/ccc.htm).

The mission of the Carroll County Collaborative is to create and facilitate dynamic responses to the needs of the citizens of Carroll County through the utilization of a collaborative social justice model designed to maximize existing assets within the region. The Collaborative is generously funded through the Schmitt Foundation.