

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2017
Summit County Public Health

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roberta Aber, Julie Barnes, Elizabeth Bartz, Jerry Craig, Pat Divoky, Elaine Harlin, Rick Kavenaugh, Connie Krauss, Jim Mullen, Sandy Selby, Donna Skoda, Karen Talbott, John Trunk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Malcolm Costa, Pete Crossland, Kady Downing, Richard Enty, John Garofalo, Jim Lawrence, Brian Nelsen, Linda Omobien, Brad Schroeder, Sadie Winlock

GUESTS: Elizabeth Foster, Rich Marountas, Rose Debord

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on January 18th to set the agenda for the board meeting and prepare for a meeting with Ilene Shapiro on January 23rd. John Saros has submitted his resignation to Ilene Shapiro and he has been replaced with Sadie Winlock who is the CEO and President of the Akron Urban League. Dottie Achmoody has also submitted her resignation and will be retiring from Open M. The board formally thanks both John and Dottie for their commitment and dedication both to the board and the community. There are plans for a strategic planning retreat on the 29th of June. Time and location are to be determined.

The Executive Committee met with County Executive Ilene Shapiro on January 23rd. Ms. Shapiro was provided with an overview of SSAB and the orientation notebook. Karen informed the County Executive that Dottie Achmoody is retiring and therefor resigning from the board, thus leaving another seat to be filled. The committee asked that Ms. Shapiro consider someone from the business community with a skill set to sit on the Budget and Levy committee. Ms. Shapiro said that if the committee would get her some names, she would consider them. Ms. Shapiro also asked that the board be diverse when considering new members.

Ms. Shapiro was invited to the strategic planning retreat in June.

Sandy Selby and Elaine Harlin updated the County Executive about the role and activities of the Health and Human Services Committee. There was general discussion about the opiate epidemic and thinking outside of the box to address the issue. Ms. Shapiro noted that many in the private community are interested in helping. There is a need for a holistic approach and to view addiction/substance abuse as a chronic disease. There was discussion that 2017 should be the peak of the opiate epidemic but ADM is finding that cocaine and meth is on the rise. The substance may change but addiction is still the issue. Ms. Shapiro asked Pat Divoky to find out what the next steps are with the Change Direction campaign.

The second issue that the HHS committee is closely following is the potential repeal and/or changes to the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Shapiro urged the group to try to work to control what is within our span and try to find unique solutions to help Summit County's hardest to reach. It

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was noted that 32k individuals were added to enhanced Medicaid in Summit County. Prior to the expansion of Medicaid there was a volunteer network of doctors through the Access to Care program. This program still exists but on a lot smaller scale and only for primary/specialty care. Again the group was urged to think outside of the box to try and grow the safety net back.

Elizabeth Bartz provided an overview of the Budget and Levy Committee which generally meets twice a year. In levy years, the agency that is on the ballot meets with the committee one additional time. It was noted that DD is on the ballot in 2017, SCCS in 2018 and ADM in 2019. Elizabeth noted that Brian Nelsen is a very helpful asset on the committee and that the committee has a great rapport with each of the agencies. There was general conversation about the levy agencies and how levies, in general, are confusing to the public, thus there is a need for good communication around where and how taxpayer dollars are spent, especially if there is going to be an ask for an increase.

Ms. Shapiro had a general ask that came up throughout the various discussions and that was to think locally and not rely on state and federal funding, to be flexible and to allow for midcourse corrections as times/laws/issues change over time. She also asked that we continually look at how to streamline services and redirect dollars to meet needs as they arise.

Budget and Levy Committee

The Budget and Levy Committee is scheduled to meet on April 4th to check in with levy agencies and touch base about end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. DD is going on the ballot this year.

Health and Human Services Committee

The Health and Human Services Committee met on January 12th. One of the requests at the meeting was to have an update from Jim Mullen regarding the Healthier Buckeye Council grant funding. Jim presented that the project has undergone 2 of 4 cycles with 122 of 400 individuals participating. United Way is working with other counties to seek an extension of the grant. Some of the roadblocks identified were starting a cycle in the winter months before holidays as there was some drop off. Bridges continues to work to train businesses in Summit County and there will be an estimated 1,000 persons trained between December- February. There was a video that was done in Summit County that was debuted recently. Jim will make sure that everyone on SSAB is able to have access. Metrics selected for Getting Ahead graduates tracks for two years after completion. The program plans to bring the classes to the neighborhoods to eliminate barriers due to transportation.

Elizabeth Foster presented highlights from the 2015-2016 Quality of Life project period. Sandy Selby asked that the minutes reflect the board's gratitude to the health department for the work on these initiatives.

Elaine Harlin then presented on the discussion about looking forward to 2017 and the items identified by HHS to keep a pulse on: The opiate epidemic and the Affordable Care Act repeal/replace.

There was some discussion around an event being put on by the Income Education Workforce Development committee. Rich informed the group that the Employer Appreciation Summit will take place on the 3rd of February and passed out invitations to all in attendance.

There was general discussion around the SSAB board taking a position on Planned Parenthood funding issues. Ms. Shapiro will be in support of this initiative so the board will have to determine what type of

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action would be most helpful. It was recommended by Elizabeth Bartz to reach out to state PP representatives.

There was no other business brought forward.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10 PM.