

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2013
Akron Community Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roberta Aber, Dottie Achmoody, Elizabeth Bartz, Angela Tucker Cooper, Malcolm Costa, Pat Divoky, Ken Douglas, Kady Downing, Richard Enty, John Garofalo, David James, Rick Kavenagh, Connie Krauss, Bob Kulinski, James Lawrence, Gene Nixon, Linda Omobien, John Saros, Sandy Selby, Karen Talbott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nan McClenaghan, Brad Schroeder

GUESTS: Ali Capoun, Rose DeBord, Lisa Kamlowsky, Tom Leffler, Rich Marountas, Deb Matz, Liz Rosenberg, Donna Skoda, Joe Simmons

Chairperson Talbott called the meeting to order at 11:58 a.m. The minutes from the April 30th meeting were reviewed. Ms. Downing made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Omobien seconded the motion; all approved by voice vote.

Ms. Divoky informed the group that DJFS will be electronically submitting its Prevention, Retention, Contingency (PRC) plan to SSAB members for review and comments in August. The PRC plan is required to be reviewed every two years.

Ms. Deb Matz, Legal Counsel for Executive Pry, discussed SSAB member abstentions on votes. Concern has been expressed by the Executive regarding the number of members opting to abstain from voting. It is possible that there is a misunderstanding as to when it is appropriate/necessary to abstain. Ms. Matz said that, as an advisory board, the SSAB has no direct control over funding, personnel, or contracts. Member should abstain ONLY when the issue directly affects their financial interests. Or, in the case of the levy-funded agency members, they should abstain on votes regarding their particular agency.

The group discussed barring persons who intended to abstain from a vote from the preceding discussions and discussed potentially reviewing by-laws on this and related matters as an ad hoc SSAB group.

As for questions about voting, Ms. Matz said all inquiries could be referred to her office as she reviews the yearly disclosure forms.

Committee Reports

Forum Planning Committee

The October 25th event will have a theme of a "Network of Safety: Partners You Don't Expect". Due to a carryover balance from last year's event, sponsorships will not be sought this year. Ms. Divoky encouraged everyone to attend.

Executive Committee

Chairperson Talbott reported that Ms. Elaine Harlin has been appointed to the board to replace Ms. Barbara Vassel.

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Budget and Levy Review Committee

Ms. Bartz reported that the committee met on July 9th to discuss how the 2013 budgets/programs were progressing. The September 10th meeting will be re-scheduled due to conflicts with primary elections. Mr. Kavenagh now co-chairs this committee.

Health and Human Services Committee

Rev. Selby welcomed Ms. Cooper as co-chair of the committee. The committee met on July 2nd.

Mr. Saros provided an overview of the repeal of the Homestead Act which previously gave homeowners a 12.5% reduction on taxes collected for levy distribution with the state supplementing the levy-funded agencies the difference. He predicted difficulties for future levy passage.

Ms. Skoda explained the addendum to the Quality of Life contract provided to the board for review. The addendum accounts for carryover monies from the previous contract and additional projects for staff. Rev. Selby made a motion on behalf of the Health and Human Service Committee to approve the addendum; all approved by voice vote; Mr. Nixon abstained.

Rev. Selby referred to the 2nd quarter report for the Quality of Life initiatives for 2013 noting the new Coordinator for the Bridges Out of Poverty program, Mr. Ron Shadd.

Old Business

None

New Business/Announcements

Mr. Nixon announced that the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium is hosting a series of events to provide opportunities to observe and provide input for scenario planning for 2014. An open house will be held in Summit County at the Akron Urban League on August 1st from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Ms. Omobien encouraged everyone to contact state representatives to protest proposed HB 203 which supports "stand your ground" legislation.

Ms. Divoky announced that the Summit for Kids will be held on Saturday, August 17th and preceded with a luncheon and speakers on the 16th. More information on the event will be emailed to the board.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 11:45 a.m. at the Akron Community Foundation.

*Respectfully submitted on July 29th, 2013
By Ali Capoun, Summit County Public Health*