

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

April 29th 2015
Akron Community Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dottie Achmoody, Julie Barnes, Elizabeth Bartz, Jerry Craig, Pete Crossland, Ken Douglas, Kady Downing, John Garofalo, Rick Kavenagh, Nan McClenaghan, Brian Nelsen, Linda Omobien, John Saros, Sandy Selby, Donna Skoda, Karen Talbott, John Trunk, Donae Ceja

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roberta Aber, Malcolm Costa, Pat Divoky, Richard Enty, Elaine Harlin, Connie Krauss, James Lawrence, Brad Schroeder,

GUESTS: Elizabeth James, Rich Marountas

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

The minutes from the April 29th, 2015 were accepted as presented. Motion by Elizabeth Bartz, Second by John Garofalo.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on July 22nd, 2015 to discuss the Board meeting agenda. Additionally, the group moved the September Executive Committee meeting from the 23rd to the 22nd at 1pm at the Akron Community Foundation.

Budget and Levy Review Committee

Elizabeth Bartz gave the report out for the Budget and Levy Committee. The group did not meet in July as there was not a need. All budget packets should be to Elizabeth Bartz by September 1st to ensure enough time to deliver to all Budget and Levy members. Elizabeth James will send updated addresses to Elizabeth Bartz as soon as possible.

Health and Human Services Committee

The Health and Human Services Committee met on July 16th, 2015. Elaine Harlin led the meeting but was out of town for the board meeting to give her report. The initiative update document was distributed to all present and minimal items were highlighted to allow time for a presentation on a report regarding single parenthood and the effects on local community agencies by Elizabeth James. The highlights from the presentation and initiative updates are as follows:

The Costs of Single Parenthood: Summit County, Ohio

- 43% of births in Summit County are to Single Mothers
- Poverty is 2-3 times greater among single mother households when compared to the general population
- 41% of female households with children under 18 years of age live in poverty
- 29% of female households with children under 5 live in poverty
- 3 out of 4 births in Central Akron and Southwest Akron clusters are to single mothers

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- 11.6% of babies born to single mothers had low birth weight, a risk factor for infant mortality
- Single parents are nearly 5 times more likely to have less than a high school education than those who are married
- The financial and human costs were highlighted among 4 of the interviewed agencies: Akron Children's Hospital, Akron City Schools, Summit County Juvenile Court and Summit County Children's Services.
- A few communities that have implemented campaigns to address this issue were highlighted: Colorado and St. Louis.
- There was some discussion among the group about potential solutions
 - There is a desire to know the cost to implement a pilot project similar to that done in Colorado and St. Louis.
 - It is important to frame this discussion as an anti-poverty/infant mortality strategy to avoid any political backlash around this particularly sensitive topic
 - It is important to implement in an upstream and downstream approach (i.e., reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies, fostering independence through education and jobs, and downstream, ensuring a second pregnancy does not occur before a secure foundation is facilitated).
 - There was mention of including these discussions possibly within the Bridges out of Poverty Framework
 - It is important to include community members from the communities we want to work in to obtain support. Target population needs to feel as if we are doing this with them, not to them.

Early Childhood

- Family Supports: There was a Fatherhood Engagement conference on June 26th for frontline staff that was a huge success. Due to this success, there will be another event in the fall.

New Business/Announcements

Communication Plans have begun and Elizabeth James, upon receiving feedback from the group, will work to implement a monthly newsletter and a Facebook page.

Healthy Connections Network – Donna Skoda informed the group that the Healthy Connections Network will continue to operate but will undergo a restructuring. The group typically hosts four educational/advocacy events a year and will continue to do so under the new framework. ASCA will handle the financial aspect of holding the 501c3 and the health department will take of the administrative responsibilities.

The wellness council and advisory committees started out of ABIA have merged and are currently working on a mission statement and name. There are about 60 organizations represented in this group and the main focus is to look at policy, systems and environmental programming.

*Respectfully submitted on August 5, 2015
By Elizabeth James, Summit County Public Health*