

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 17, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Elizabeth Bartz
May Chen
Angela Tucker Cooper
Delores Jones
Sarah Kisner
Connie Krauss
Jim Lawrence
Gene Nixon
Bob Pfaff
Reverend Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Cheryl Urban
Mike Wise

DJFS STAFF:

Pat Divoky
Julie Seeley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Tom Armstrong
Jeff Heintz
Jean Van Ness
Dr. Carl Simmers
Bernett Williams
Elaine Woloshyn

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1ST, 2006 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 1st, 2006 Board meeting were unanimously approved with one correction. Reverend Sandra Selby was not at the meeting. Corrected copies of the minutes will be sent to members.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Karen reported that there had been two Executive Committee meetings since the last Board meeting, one on November 27th, and one on January 10th. At the November meeting the SSAB Retreat Task Force actions were discussed as well as the letter from Randy Zumbar regarding out of County placement of children. A report from Jean Van Ness, who is Chairing a sub-committee regarding this issue, was distributed to all Board members. Karen read the report, as Jean was not able to be present. Randy Zumbar and Vivian Celeste Neal have volunteered to assist on the sub-committee. The Executive Committee also discussed issues regarding Children Services at the two meetings.

At the January 10th meeting, Tom Harnden and Delores Jones spoke with the Committee regarding what was needed to launch the first Finance Forum meeting. Greg Brown spoke about an initial outline for a Summit 2010 Transition Plan. Donna Skoda noted that there would be a procedure for release of Summit 2010 data, and that the Social Services Advisory Board would view the information first, prior to its release. The SSAB Retreat Task Force recommendations were discussed, as well as some Children Services levy plans. The Executive Committee would like to schedule a meeting with the Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board to report on the progress of Summit 2010.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Bartz stated that Summit County Council is meeting this afternoon to discuss the 2007 budget for Children Services, as only a portion of Children Services' budget has been approved thus far. Elizabeth said that she and Katerina Papas will be attending the meeting.

Elizabeth stated there is concern about levy requests for 2007. The County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board (ADM) stated they are planning to be on the ballot in November 2007 and Children Services is also planning on placing a levy on the November ballot. The Budget & Levy Review Committee will be meeting with Children Services and ADM prior to the next SSAB Board meeting so that the Committee is aware of their plans. Children Services will not receive funding in 2008 if a levy is not placed on the November ballot or the levy does not pass. ADM does have next year to put a levy on the ballot, but wanted to place a levy on the ballot at the first opportunity as their fund balance is low. Jim Lawrence stated that because ADM's fund balance is low, ADM may be asking for collection in 2008 rather than in 2009. Elizabeth noted that there will be more elections or opportunities for a levy to be on the ballot in 2008 than in 2007.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bob Pfaff reported that the Health and Human Services Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. Bob called on Delores Jones to share the progress on the Finance Forum. Delores stated the first order of business for the Finance Forum was to benchmark all financing regarding health and human services as it related to Summit 2010. Delores stated the consultants did an excellent job with documenting government funding. She said there was still funding information to be gathered from businesses, business and community foundations, as well as the faith-based community. The consultants were able to pull some information regarding non-profit giving from 990 tax forms. A survey was developed which did not solicit as much business and local community giving information as was hoped. Tom Harnden and Delores met with the Executive Committee on January 10th and will be bringing together key stakeholders in business, government, non-profit, faith-based and foundations to share the information collected thus far, to build on the information that has been gathered, and to use the information to make informed decisions regarding the support of health and human service issues in Summit County. Delores stated if there are any excess Summit 2010 funds, she would like to use them to gather additional information from the business community utilizing a different method. She stated she felt that the Finance Forum has the potential of positioning the SSAB as a platform for discussing vital health and human service concerns. Karen noted that Jean Van Ness, who has had many years with the GAR Foundation, was also at the Executive Committee meeting. Jean had expressed then that she felt comfortable going forward with the information that was gathered thus far and convening the group of stakeholders.

OLD BUSINESS
STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES/TASK FORCES' REPORTS

Karen noted that the full reports on the SSAB Retreat Task Force groups had been e-mailed to all Board members prior to today's meeting and called on the groups' leaders for any additional comments.

LINKAGE BETWEEN SSAB & COUNTY COUNCIL

In regard to the task force charged with developing linkage between the SSAB and County Council, Karen reported that there was a meeting held with Mr. McCarthy regarding collaboration with the County's finance department. As a result, Linda Phelps or her office staff has been attending the Budget & Levy Review Committee meetings. The SSAB Web site has information about SSAB meetings and SSAB members are attending Council meetings, as needed, as well as letting Council know that the SSAB is available to answer questions. The Executive Committee is also planning on meeting with the new leadership of County Council. Gene Nixon asked if there is a mechanism in place to introduce new Council members to SSAB, and Karen suggested and the Board members agreed to invite Council members to an SSAB orientation. The task force has completed its work.

LEVY REVIEW CAPACITY TASK FORCE

Gene Nixon stated that the task force conducted research on levy consolidation and that when the levy funded Directors were polled, they were not supportive of a levy consolidation. Gene stated the task force also looked at additional social service levies, and the idea of a senior services levy was discussed, particularly in light of changing Summit County demographics. Karen noted that as part of the Older Adults Committee for Summit 2010, a broad community group entitled the Senior Independent Living Council (SILC) will be convened as an advocacy group for seniors in Summit County. Their first meeting will be held soon. This group, as well as others, may be looking at the support for a senior levy in Summit County. Gene stated that the task force has completed its work.

HUMAN SERVICES OUTCOMES TASK FORCE

Bob Pfaff stated that when the Health & Human Services Committee meets, they will discuss how to further the actions of this task force.

COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE

Delores Jones stated that the Communications Task Force has not met and due to time constraints in working with the Finance Forum, asked if Cheryl Urban might be willing to move this task force forward. In addition, Karen stated that the consultants will be looking at the communications area as part of recommendations of the Summit 2010 Transition Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY TASK FORCE

Bob stated the task force has placed the majority of the work of the task force in the hands of the consultant who is developing a Transition Plan, including recommendations for the role of an Executive Director for the SSAB.

NEW BUSINESS

SSAB BOARD COMMITTEES AND ORIENTATION

Karen asked if any members would like to serve on a different SSAB committee in 2007. Hearing no changes, Karen suggested the Committees will remain as they are for 2007. The Board agreed. Julie will assist in scheduling an orientation of new SSAB members which include Nancy

McClenaghan, of Goodwill, Don Davies, of ADM, and Katerina Papas of Children Services who were recently appointed to SSAB by Summit County Council. Jeff Heintz, Elizabeth Bartz, and Bob Pfaff were re-appointed by County Council to the SSAB. Vivian inquired about a representative from Akron Public Schools being named to the SSAB. SSAB members are appointees of Mr. McCarthy, with County Council's approval. There is currently one open Board seat.

SUMMIT 2010 TRANSITION PLAN

Karen noted that the contract with the Center for Community Solutions is complete on June 30th, 2007, and that she felt they had done an excellent job. The consultants are in the process of development of a Summit 2010 Transition Plan. In the interest of time, Karen asked the Board for the Executive Committee to have the authority to move forward with approval of the Center for Community Solutions' Transition Plan. Bob Pfaff expressed concern regarding the timing of recruitment of an Executive Director prior to the Center's contract expiring, and asked if an extension could be made on the Center's contract. Sarah Kisner said an extension of the contract could be done, if funding is available. There was a discussion regarding the role of the Executive Director for the Social Services Advisory Board. A motion was presented, and unanimously affirmed for the Executive Committee to be empowered to move forward with approval of the Transition Plan, including definition of the role of the Executive Director.

OTHER NEXT SSAB BOARD MEETING

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for March 21st.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Karen stated that Julie had said all 2007 Disclosure Statements had been submitted.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Bob Pfaff explained that Metro is in the process of conducting a transportation study and those members of the Social Services Advisory Board should have been contacted for input. There was a new transportation law put in place last year which created a new pocket of money, entitled "freedom dollars" for transportation of those with disabilities. These monies, as well as monies for special transportation services, are now part of the Urbanized Area Capital Allocation. This allocation can now be used for more than capital expenditures. In order to access the funds, there needs to be a health and human services plan in place. The transportation study is looking at the transportation needs of the community as it relates to job access, enhanced services for those with disabilities, and transportation access to suburban areas. Bob asked if members are not contacted by the consultant by March 1st, to let him know.

MIKE WISE RESIGNATION

Mike Wise stated that he will be moving to Georgia and this will be his last Board meeting. He stated he has enjoyed serving on the Board and the Board thanked him for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.