

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 16th, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Tom Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
Rick Kavenagh
Sarah Kisner
Connie Krauss
Nan McClenaghan
Gene Nixon
Linda Omobien
Bob Pfaff
John Saros
Brad Schroeder
Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Cheryl Urban
Bernett Williams
Elaine Woloshyn

DJFS STAFF:

Patricia Divoky
Julie Seeley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Michael Ho-Yong Byun
Angela Tucker Cooper
Don Davies
Jeff Heintz
Bob Kulinski
Jim Lawrence
Vivian Celeste Neal

GUESTS:

Greg Brown
Donna Skoda
Elaine Sutton
Rich Marountas

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum of members was present. Karen welcomed the newly appointed SSAB members and introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14TH SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November 14th, 2007 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Consultant Update and 2008 plans

Bob Pfaff introduced Greg Brown, Executive Director, The Center for Community Solutions, who highlighted the consultants' contract in 2008 including staffing changes, Summit 2010 communication plans and an expansion of the data sharing project. Talking points of these initiatives were distributed to Board members.

As part of the communication plan, progress on the Summit 2010 project would be shared with the Boards of the levy funded agencies that are funding the project, as well as County Council and the County Executive. Elizabeth Bartz, as well as Tom Armstrong, affirmed that this scheduled communication regarding the progress of the Project would be key for continued support by these agencies. SSAB Board members may be asked to assist with some presentations.

There was a discussion regarding measuring the impact that the Summit 2010 Project has had on eradicating poverty. Greg Brown stated that some factors that influence the poverty rate are within the County's control and some are not. Greg made the point that without the Summit 2010 Project, would efforts County-wide be coordinated and facilitated? In addition, via the Project, resources have been leveraged which provide greater impact. Greg noted that although the Project cannot eliminate poverty, it provides a defined road map, with a guide for what can and cannot be done. The Summit 2010 Project has provided Summit County residents better information and a framework for action to deal with poverty and other social indicators.

The Center for Community Solutions consultants and staff excused themselves from the remainder of the meeting.

Older Adults Committee Report

The Older Adults Committee Report was included under the Executive Committee report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen Talbott reported that the Executive Committee has met once since the last Board meeting, and that was immediately prior to today's Board meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting was in regards to the Finance Forum. Karen reported that Delores Jones, Co-Chair of the Finance Forum, has resigned from the Board and her role as Forum Co-Chair, but will continue as a member of the Finance Forum. Delores will send out information regarding this to the Finance Forum members. Tom Harnden, also Co-Chair of the Finance Forum, is retiring from the Barberton Community Foundation, but as yet, has not discussed his ongoing role with the Finance Forum. Delores and Tom had compiled a list of recommendations for the Finance Forum which will be distributed to members. The Executive Committee discussed the importance of having someone from the philanthropic community on the SSAB, and the GAR Foundation has continued to show interest in the SSAB and the Summit 2010 Project. Karen will be forwarding Delores's letter of resignation to the County Executive, with a recommendation that someone from GAR be appointed in her place.

Older Adults Committee Report

Karen reported that the Senior Independent Living Council (SILC), as part of the Older Adults Committee, has been a very popular group with large community representation. The SILC group concurred that they could pull together other older adult initiatives and be a voice for older adults in the community. The Older Adults Committee was charged with addressing three Indicators. The first, financial literacy, will be handled by a specific committee that is addressing this issue for all ages; the second, self-sufficiency, will be retained by the Older Adults Committee; and, the third, reduction of elder abuse, will be addressed by SILC. At this time, SILC will continue to be housed under the Older Adults Committee. The SILC group met with facilitator, Barb Greene, to develop a strategic plan which is now complete and is being disseminated to the SILC group and then to SSAB Board members. The SILC group is scheduled to meet soon to move forward on the strategic plan.

Funding of the Summit 2010 Project

Karen called on Pat Divoky to report regarding the Summit 2010 funding. Pat reported that Summit County Council had passed legislation for funding of the Summit 2010 Project consultants for 2008. The three levy funded agencies and The Summit County Department of Job & Family Services are each funding 25% of

the project. It will be a one year contract, with two one year renewals, each of which would have to be approved by Council. The specific contract is now under review in the County Executive's office. In addition to the contract, there needs to be a Memorandum of Understanding signed by each of the funding agencies.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Bartz stated there will be no planned levy requests this year. The Budget & Levy Review Committee will be meeting with the levy agencies in April to discuss some issues that were brought up during the 2008 annual budget review. The annual review of the 2009 budgets will be completed by the Budget & Levy Review Committee in early September this year. This action is being taken to align with other county budget reviews and to help ensure budgets are approved by County Council by the end of the year. The full SSAB Board will review the budgets at the September 17th, 2008 meeting.

Bob Pfaff noted that Metro will have a levy, Issue #8, on the ballot in March. Bob stated that Metro has just completed 16 public meetings. He stated that because of continued funding cuts and increased costs, there may be a need to eliminate weekend bus service and other cuts in service which could mean individuals could lose their jobs due to lack of public transportation. Bob stated every resource has been tapped before making a decision to go back to the voters. In the last five years, reduced routes, increased fares and other cost cutting measures have been implemented and now Metro has no other option but to go to the ballot. Bob stated that the last time Metro was on the ballot was 17 years ago. He added that polling results appear encouraging. There was a question if the SSAB could formally support the issue. Pat Divoky stated she would check with the County's legal office regarding this and provide a response to the Board. A motion and second to support the levy pending a response from the County's legal department as to allowability was made and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Committees

A list of 2008 SSAB Committee appointments was distributed to members. Karen asked if any Board members would like to change which committees they were assigned to. There were no changes. There was a motion for approval of the committee assignments which passed unanimously.

OTHER

Disclosure Statements

Board members were reminded to complete and return disclosure statements. They must be sent in by January 31st, 2008 per the SSAB Code of Regulations. Julie Seeley will ensure completed forms are sent to the County's legal department.

Next SSAB Board Meeting: March 19th, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.