

***SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES***

***Thursday, January 21, 2009  
United Way of Summit County  
90 North Prospect Street  
Akron OH 44309***

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Bartz  
Michael Byun  
Rick Kavenagh  
Greg Kavinsky  
Sarah Kisner  
Connie Krauss  
Nan McClenaghan  
Linda Omobien  
Bob Pfaff  
Julie Rittenhouse  
John Saros  
John Sniezek  
Karen Talbott  
Barbara Vassel  
Bernett Williams  
Elaine Woloshyn

**DJFS STAFF:**

Pat Divoky  
Barbara Alexander

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

William Alford  
Tom Armstrong  
Angela Tucker Cooper  
Jeff Heintz  
Bob Kulinski  
Jim Lawrence  
Gene Nixon  
Brad Schroeder  
Sandra Selby

**GUESTS:**

Donna Skoda

Chair Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. There was a quorum present. She asked for approval of the November 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting minutes. Bernett Williams moved to accept the minutes. Sarah Kisner seconded, and the motion was approved with no corrections or abstentions.

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### Committee Reports

#### Executive Committee

Karen reported that the Executive Committee met November 21, December 4, and December 18<sup>th</sup>. Rather than being "official" Executive Committee Meetings, these were more discussions with County Executive Russ Pry regarding the transition from the Center for Community Solutions to the new plan of working with Donna Skoda and the Summit County Health District.

Pat Divoky summarized the meetings, stating that the consultant will most likely be the Health Department. The Center for Community Solutions' (CCS) contract expired last month, and they feel they do not want to take a role in the programmatic-type things that are currently being addressed. The deliverables have been sent to the County Executive for his review. There are no problems anticipated, so there should be a contract finalized with the Health Department within the next couple of weeks.

Pat continued, stating that in addition to the project director activities, data monitoring and tracking, and administrative support, we've always had a programmatic piece. This info, for some reason, was never sufficiently communicated to County Council, and they never seemed to be clear on exactly what the Summit 2010 project is about. So this year we will concentrate more on the programmatic piece. There is a list of the programmatic activities in the deliverables and, once they are approved by the Executive, Pat will distribute the list. There will be a quarterly report that SSAB will receive. Donna Skoda will be the Project Director, and the report will emphasize the programmatic aspects. The project will cost about \$40,000 less a year than anticipated, resulting in a cost of approximately \$65,000 for each levy-funded agency and SCDJFS. The total cost will be approximately \$260,000.

Linda Omobien asked who will be approving the contract. Pat answered the County Executive's office (Jason Dodson) will present the contract to County Council. There was discussion regarding the approval process. Pat stated that she would get the deliverables out to board members for their comments, including the template for the position description for the new Assistant position.

John Saros brought up the question of conflict of interest with levy agencies funding the project and also being reviewed by SSAB. Elizabeth Bartz said that this matter was discussed with Russ Pry and he did not see any problem. Sarah stated that she and Pat would be glad to bring this before Russ again.

There was also discussion regarding the number of volunteer hours put in by the various agencies participating in the 2010 project. It was also suggested that the work of the board be better publicized.

The issue of out-of-county residential placements was discussed. Karen stated that the Executive Committee met with several invited guests at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with Russ Pry attending. There are 55 children currently placed out-of-county. There is a

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need for a business plan to be drawn up for an in-county residential facility which includes possible funding sources. It was noted that an RFP is being sent out by ADM. The HHS Committee (Bernett) will take the lead to organize another meeting to include the courts and educational systems. The goal would provide information to assist the ADM in the RFP. John Saros discussed the many issues involved in this situation, the business side vs. the programmatic side. Also, different kids need different programs and agencies. There was a suggestion of utilization of the Juvenile Court wing – this would need to be certified for 4E.

There are two major issues with the existing setup: 1) the problem of out-of-the-county distance travel; 2) schools have to pay the children's tuition cost at the residential treatment center. Sarah stated that there is another issue: out-of-county placements where medical tests have been done, then are re-done at an additional cost to the county.

Linda Omobien stated that Summit is a large county not to have its own residential treatment facility. Summit County's children should not be placed out-of-county. Things are in place – we need to get it done.

John stated that there are more decisions that have to be made, such as what type of child may be put in this type of facility. The largest group is sexual offenders.

Bernett stated that from the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting it was determined there were a number of unanswered questions. The RFP needs to be very clear. We are much closer to the goal but need to have full representation from the courts, Akron Public Schools, etc.

John stated that trying to categorize the kids is very difficult. The caseworkers work on what the kids' needs are. Where a kid ends up for treatment is something done on a case by case basis.

Linda stated that it sounds like Summit County is currently not an option for a new residential facility because nothing is available. We should develop something in-county because we should be providing services to our own children. John said that the entire state is under-served – not just Summit County. He asked the group to keep in mind that we have 55 kids in residential treatment but 900 more that need services as well.

Karen stated that this issue should be front and center for this group. The County Executive is very interested in it as well.

### **Budget and Levy Review Committee**

Elizabeth Bartz stated that she will be convening a meeting before the next SSAB meeting to review what lies ahead in 2009, as well as asking about 2010 budgets. To date we are not facing any levy requests for 2009. Elizabeth wants to make sure everyone on the committee is up to speed.

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### Health and Human Services Committee

Bennett stated that this committee has not met since the October meeting. They are planning to meet on a quarterly schedule.

### Old Business

Pat Divoky stated that the forum meeting had to be rescheduled.

Karen stated that disclosure forms need to be turned in from new board members by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### New Business

Karen announced that the next board meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Donna stated that CCS has done an extensive state budget review and have projections for 2009, 2010 and 2011 budget cuts. They can schedule a presentation for the March board meeting or for another venue. Karen said that we will be responsible for getting invitations out. Karen stated that Russ suggested having it at the library.

Karen continued that they have had contact with a few foundations in town. They talked about having SSAB members attend a quarterly foundation forum meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Bennett and Donna will be going to the meeting to let them know the kinds of data we collect for the 2010 project and to share it in the future if the foundations are interested.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

*Prepared by:*

*Barbara Alexander  
Executive Assistant  
Summit County Department of Job & Family Services*