

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
March 19th, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Alford  
Michael Ho-Yong Byun  
Elizabeth Bartz  
Angela Tucker Cooper  
Don Davies  
Rick Kavenagh  
Sarah Kisner  
Connie Krauss  
Bob Kulinski  
Nan McClenaghan  
Linda Omobien  
Bob Pfaff  
John Saros  
Brad Schroeder  
Karen Talbott  
Bernett Williams  
Barbara Vassel

**DJFS STAFF:**

Patricia Divoky  
Julie Seeley

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Tom Armstrong  
Jeff Heintz  
Jim Lawrence  
Gene Nixon  
Sandra Selby  
Elaine Woloshyn

**GUESTS:**

Donna Skoda  
Rich Marountas

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. A quorum of members was present. Karen welcomed the newly appointed SSAB member and introductions were made.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16TH SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 16th, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Karen stated that there had not been an Executive Committee meeting since the last Board meeting, but reported that the Executive Committee members and Russ Pry, County Executive, met with the Akron Beacon Journal editorial board on January 28<sup>th</sup> regarding an update on Summit 2010. Karen commended Donna Skoda for help in preparing materials for that meeting. Karen also noted that in addition to the earlier resignation of Delores Jones, she had received letters of resignation from Cheryl Urban and Vivian Celeste Neal. Karen read the letters and will forward them to Russ Pry, with the Board's recommendation to have an SSAB member representing one

of the foundations to be appointed to the Board. A motion was made and the vote was unanimous to accept, with regret, the resignations of Cheryl and Vivian.

## **B. BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Bartz announced that the Budget & Levy Review Committee has not met since the last Board meeting, but is scheduled to meet with the Executive Directors and Finance Directors of the levy funded agencies on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the 2009 annual budget process. Items for discussion will include checking that the annual budget information submitted by the agencies will include the same across all three agencies. Information obtained from the agencies will also represent data from a shorter period--from January through July or August--so that the Budget & Levy Review Committee can meet in September and present their recommendations to the full Board at its' meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. This will also allow Summit County Council more time to review the budgets.

Elizabeth stated that there are no levy requests scheduled for review in 2008. The Board congratulated Bob Pfaff on the passage of the Metro levy.

## **C. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Bob Pfaff announced the following two Health & Human Services Committee items:

**1.) Summit 2010 Update**-Board members were given a copy of the Summit 2010 Project Report for January-March 2008 highlighting current progress. Funding (\$56,000) was obtained to complete the behavioral health risk survey analysis. This type of data has not been collected before in Summit County and will help to address the Summit 2010 indicator of "years of productive life lost". A grant through the Area Agency of Aging will provide \$30,000 for outreach activities of the Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC). In addition, the Department of Job & Family Services may be providing monies for neighborhood after school activities, social case management and possibly training models to address poverty issues.

The consultants are analyzing the annual reports of the public funded agencies and using this information to determine where there are crossovers with the Summit 2010 Committee work so as to enhance collaboration and efficiencies with these agencies.

A neighborhood expansion into Twinsburg Township is planned.

The Income, Education and Workforce Group have developed a resource guide for job seekers which was distributed to Board members. Nan McClenaghan stated the Committee is engaging employers in determining their needs. The employers state their need is for employees who have soft skills, for example, that workers show up to work on time. The Committee is engaging employers through collaboration with the Greater Akron Chamber and the Society of Human Resource Managers (SHRM). Members of the Income, Education and Workforce Group will talk with SHRM at its May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

It was requested that reports re: Summit 2010 Progress be sent to the Health & Human Services Committee Chairs prior to Board meetings.

There was a question regarding where the issue of out-of-County placement of children fits within the Summit 2010 Project. Donna Skoda stated that this issue is being addressed through Bonnie Pitzer and the Early Childhood Committee.

There was also a question regarding an update on the allocation of funds for the Summit 2010 Project. Pat Divoky stated that the allocation for last year is resolved. For 2008, all agencies have approved funding except Children Services. A meeting with the Children

Services Board is planned. John Saros stated that the Board wants to clarify and ensure there is a return on its investment of \$75,000. Pat will contact the Executive Committee when a meeting date is set so that a representative from the Committee may attend.

There was a discussion regarding the lack of residential treatment facilities for children in Summit County. There is currently some residential treatment at Edwin Shaw Hospital. An increase in funding for in-county providers is in progress, to encourage more in-county providers. Sarah Kisner stated she is working with Judge Teodosio and a committee regarding a proposal for funding from the McArthur Foundation.

There was also a question regarding ex-offender recidivism and establishment of a data base to determine how Summit County is doing. Devoe Johnson at United Way is heading up a re-entry committee to address issues.

Elizabeth Bartz noted that levy agency Board members asked a number of questions when she and others attended Board meetings to request funding for Summit 2010. She suggested a letter be sent to levy agency Board Chairs and Summit County Council updating them on the Summit 2010 Project. It was decided that Summit 2010 updates be sent to levy agency Board Chairs, including a reminder to check the information contained on the Summit 2010 and SSAB web sites, and that timely presentations be made to County Council.

Karen also suggested that the issue of out-of-County placements be discussed and monitored at future Budget & Levy Review Committee meetings.

## **2.) Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC) Meeting Report**

Karen noted that Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC) is under the Older Adults Committee and consists of a large number of constituents from the community that are interested in advocacy for older adults. Board members have been sent a copy of the strategic plan. The SILC group approved the plan. SILC is developing the infrastructure of the group and is encouraging seniors to take leadership. SILC issue chairs have been established.

## **OLD BUSINESS--None**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2008 Making a Difference Human Services Forum—October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

Angela Tucker Cooper reminded Board members that the Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Jacqueline Marcell, an elder care advocate, is the keynote speaker. Julie Seeley will be sending an e-mail to SSAB members regarding breakout sessions selection, but the Forum planning committee decided there should definitely be a session on senior issues and one on home foreclosures/predatory lending. Angela also asked members to consider sponsorship of the event.

John Saros noted that there was an article in the Akron Beacon Journal regarding a possible revocation of the license of an agency entitled “A Child Waiting”, a large adoption agency in Summit County. John stated they are in the process of finding out how many children are in custody and if the State has a plan for them if the agency’s license is revoked or if Children Services would have some role in placement of the children.

Michael Byun informed the Board that the Akron Health Department is one of the recipients from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health to establish a Local Office of Minority Health, which will act as repository of data and also a resource hub for community agencies. If the Board is interested, Michael could arrange for LOMH staff to come and do a brief presentation for the

board. Michael also mentioned that Asia Inc. received a multi-year W.K. Kellogg grant to strengthen community-based approaches to addressing Asian American health disparities.

Connie Krauss announced the Secretary of State will be in Akron for a Forum that will be held on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> on the social health index. Connie will forward information to the Board.

Linda Omobien announced that on April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Continuum of Care is sponsoring a service fair for the homeless entitled "Project Homeless Connect". It will be held at The Salvation Army, on Maple Street. Linda stated funding is needed for t-shirts for volunteers. Linda also stated volunteers for the day are needed. Sarah Kisner offered that DJFS could provide volunteers from the agency's Ambassador team.

Julie Seeley announced a committee would be starting the revision of the Akron Street Card and asked Board members for changes or revisions. She also asked that the agencies represented consider donating funds for printing of the Street Card.

A request was made for the 2008 SSAB Board meeting dates to again be sent to members. Julie will send the list of meeting dates.

#### **OTHER**

- A. Next SSAB Board Meeting: May 21st, 2008 at Noon.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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