

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**April 16, 2003**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

William Alford  
Tom Armstrong  
Elizabeth Bartz  
William Becker  
Kevin Breen  
Wayne Brennessel  
Jeffrey Heintz  
Cindy Johnson  
James Lawrence  
Gene Nixon  
Robert Pfaff  
Karen Talbott  
Joe White  
Bernett Williams  
Randy Zumbar

**SCDJFS MEMBERS:**

Patricia Divoky  
Julie Seeley  
  
Valorie Austin  
Shelia Gaston

**CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Social Services Advisory Board Meeting were approved as written.

**INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME**

Valorie Austin was introduced and welcomed. She will be assisting Julie with the administrative duties of the Social Services Advisory Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Karen reported that the Executive Committee had met on March 17<sup>th</sup>. A letter was received and accepted from Dr. Greg LaForme tendering his resignation from the Social Services Advisory Board as he has assumed a new position in Medina County. The committee agreed to the addition of Jody Bacon to the Quality of Life Working Group. Also, Karen discussed a call she had received from Amy Swanson, of Burgess & Burgess, who was inquiring about moving forward with a Human Services Advocacy Network (HSAN) in Summit County. Karen reported there was one meeting some time ago of the HSAN in Summit County in which someone from the Federation for

Community Planning spoke on advocacy within the state. The Executive Committee decided to table that initiative until more information was obtained about an advocacy effort in Summit County. A large portion of the Executive Committee meeting was spent in discussion of the SSAB award nominations, which other SSAB members had been invited to participate in. Walter Ritzman was selected for his work at the Barberton Free Clinic and to receive the individual award and the Haven of Rest Ministries was selected for the group award. Karen read a note from the Haven of Rest Ministries thanking SSAB for the award. Finally, the Executive Committee discussed Adult Protective Services. This report will be deferred until the Health and Human Services Committee Report.

#### BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Becker stated he had nothing to report.

Karen reported that Children Services Board has a levy coming up and the issue of the carryover balance still needs to be discussed. Karen stated that another co-chair for the committee would be needed.

#### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

##### QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

Elizabeth Bartz described that there have been ongoing monthly meetings of the Working Group and reported that the project was on schedule. Everyone who serves on the Health and Human Services Committee is automatically on the Quality of Life Working Group, but also has special topic meetings. One of those meetings will be a discussion of the neighborhood selection and will occur on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 2 p.m., at the Akron

Metropolitan Housing Authority and Elizabeth invited other SSAB members to attend. Cindy Johnson is representing the Working Group on the "Partnerships for Success" juvenile justice program and Vivian Celeste Neal is assisting the Committee with the Adult Protective Services Task Force. Elizabeth announced that the next Quality of Life meeting would be on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Red Cross and that the Quality of Life meeting in June will be June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m.

##### Adult Protective Services Update

Elizabeth reported that the Adult Protective Services Task Force has re-formed and will be meeting on a regular basis. Vivian Celeste Neal attended a meeting in January 2003. The task force asked for an update on APS and would like Adult Protective Services staffed 24 hours/7 days per week. Elizabeth stated that takes money. At the APS Task Force meeting last week, there was discussion in regards to the state budget and how much Summit County would be receiving in Title XX funds allocated to Adult Protective Services. In the bill passed by the House last Wednesday, Elizabeth reported there would be 2.7 million dollars allocated to the State to reimburse the counties for Adult Protective Services. The bill still needs to be passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Pat Divoky stated that the money received could be chosen to be used for Adult Protective Services or other services; depending on how much money Summit County receives. Pat reported that the County only receives \$ 130,000 currently and spends \$600-700,000 on Adult Protective Services at present. Elizabeth stated Debbie Sommerville, supervisor of

Adult Protective Services, is present at these meetings and discusses various cases in regards to additional ways the county can help these clients; especially to determine those with mental impairment and those who refuse services. Elizabeth stated that she was looking for this Task Force to still quantify what various agencies in Summit County are spending on Adult Protective Services, but the Task Force has not undertaken this task to date.

A question was asked how the issues that the Adult Protective Services Task Force is bringing up are tied in to the Quality of Life Project. Elizabeth confirmed that members of the Task Force have been interviewed as part of the Quality of Life Project, but some issues, such as service to clients under the age of 60, have not been addressed, as the county can only service those clients over the age of 60 at this time.

Pat Divoky stated that her department had supplied Donna Skoda, at the Summit County Health Department and a sub-contractor of the Quality of Life Project, with the zip codes of the Adult Protective Services cases in the last two years. These cases will be arranged by zip code and census cluster as part of the Quality of Life analysis.

Karen also stated that the Executive Committee would be meeting with the City of Akron to assist them with information in setting their priorities for funding based on the data that is being collected by the Quality of Life Project.

In Addition, the United Way and the Knight Foundation will be supplying data to the Quality of Life Project about findings of their needs assessments.

It was decided that Deb Sommerville be invited to the next SSAB Board meeting to give a brief overview of the Adult Protective Services area.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

None

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Wayne Brennessel stated that the Making a Difference...Human Services Award Luncheon was a first class event and noted the large attendance for being a first year event. The SSAB Board thanked Julie Seeley for her work on the luncheon and she noted that it provided an excellent forum for the SSAB to showcase its work to the Summit County community. She thanked everyone for coming and also thanked Valerie for her work on registration.

#### NEXT SSAB MEETING

The next Social Services Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at noon, at the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.