

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
April 28, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Thomas Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
Wayne Brennessel
Angela Tucker Cooper
Connie Humble
James Lawrence
Gene Nixon
Robert Pfaff
Dr. Carl Simmers
Karen Talbott
Bernett Williams
Elaine Woloshyn
Randy Zumbar

DJFS STAFF:

Valerie Austin
Patricia Divoky
Sarah Kisner
Julie Seeley

NOT PRESENT:

Kevin Breen
Jeff Heintz
Vivian Celeste Neal

GUEST:

John Begala

CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum of members was present. She acknowledged the impending retirement of Daisy L. Alford Smith, Ph.D., Director, Summit County Job & Family Services and the article that was in the Beacon Journal regarding her tenure as Director. Karen also acknowledged gratefulness for all Daisy accomplished at the Department and for her efforts in promoting the work of the Social Services Advisory Board. Karen stated plans are underway for a retirement celebration for Daisy. Karen noted the planning and success of the most recent Making a Difference Human Services Forum. There was an editorial in the Beacon after the Forum, regarding the work of the Social Services Advisory Board. She read a note of thanks from Mrs. Judy Becker, wife of the late Bill Becker, who was a former member of the Social Services Advisory Board. Mrs. Becker thanked the SSAB for the award presented to her on behalf of her husband for his membership and work on the Board. Karen welcomed Connie Humble, Interim Director of Children Services, to the Social Services Advisory Board and also acknowledged, in abstention, Joe White, who has retired from Children Services, for his valuable contribution as a member of the Social Services Advisory Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2004 meeting were approved with the added notation of several members who were absent and the wording "EXCUSED" changed to

“MEMBERS NOT PRESENT”. In keeping with the Code of Regulations, for future meetings, it was determined that members are either present or not, regardless of the reason.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen reported on the SSAB Executive Committee meeting, which was held on March 15th. Award recipients of the Making a Difference Awards were selected at the meeting and Committee members were updated on the planning of the Human Services Forum. Members confirmed an upcoming meeting with Jim McCarthy, on March 29th, regarding continuation of the Quality of Life Project. Karen stated that discussions with Mr. McCarthy would be ongoing, acknowledging that the consultants will be completing their contract on June 30, 2004. Karen also stated that members were updated on a Children Services Board levy which will be discussed under the Budget & Levy Committee report to follow.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Summit 2010: Partnerships for Progress

Bernett Williams reported that the Health and Human Services Committee met prior to the Board meeting today. Donna Skoda gave an overview of the neighborhood plans and representatives reported on the six planning teams and the progress that has been made. The deadline for completion of plans by the planning teams is June 30th. The Health and Human Services Committee will be meeting monthly and the meetings will include progress reports, not actual planning details by the various teams. Bernett invited SSAB members to consider joining one of the planning teams and/or attending the Health and Human Services Committee meetings.

Bob Pfaff stated that the report by Bill Alford and the Early Childhood Planning Team contained a request to adjust the priority indicator of “Increase the proportion of African-American children age 5 or less living above the federal poverty level from 49.0% to 75%” to an attainment of 60% vs. 75%. After discussion, the SSAB Board voted to amend the goal as recommended by the planning team.

Karen stated the presentations of the “Summit 2010: Partnerships for Progress” are ongoing and neighborhood presentations will be forthcoming. Karen presented to the WIA Board and will be presenting to the Akron Board of Education, which Karen was informed will be televised. Karen asked that any additional requests for presentations be forwarded to Julie Seeley. On June 2nd, Gene Nixon will give a presentation to the Joint Boards of Health.

Adult Protective Services

Elizabeth Bartz reported that Sue Pierson asked on behalf of the Older Adults Planning Team that the Adult Protective Services Task Force meet for the purpose of suggesting strategies on prevention of elder abuse. A meeting was held. The Adult Protective Task Force wants the SSAB to coordinate ongoing scheduled meetings and quarterly meetings

of the Adult Protective Task Force were suggested. Info-line's 211 phone number was also discussed at the Task Force meeting, especially the limitation of the system utilizing only home lines and the lack of accessibility from cell phones and businesses. Burnett suggested that ongoing recommendations of the group be established with Vivian Neal's input, as the SSAB liaison to the group, prior to scheduling ongoing meetings. In addition, there was discussion of who should assume subcommittee leadership of the Task Force. The matter was deferred to the Health and Human Services Committee for further discussion. Elizabeth also announced that an Adult Protective Services Collaborative meeting was being held today, sponsored by the Adult Protective Services Department of the Department of Job and Family Services. The Tough Stuff Committee which meets monthly, will be having a conference on elder abuse in September Elizabeth noted.

BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elaine reported that the Budget and Levy Review Committee had met last Monday to review the 2003 financial results of the Children Services Board in light of the strike. Connie Humble and Gary Binns were present at the meeting. It was reported that the 2003 revenues and expenses were both about \$5 million less than expected related to the strike. Elaine stated that the Committee asked a number of questions, and were satisfied with the information they received. The Committee felt CSB had a sound budget plan in place.

Elaine announced that Children Services Board representatives indicated it will be putting a levy on the November 2004 ballot, which would be a 2.56-millage renewal levy for three years, and at the end of that period, the carryover balance is projected to be \$10-12 million dollars. The Budget and Levy Review Committee discussed CSB's marketing campaign and developing and continuing a positive relationship between Children Services Board and the Social Services Advisory Board. As soon as the levy request proposal is prepared, the Budget and Levy Committee plans to meet in May to review the proposal. It is felt that a special SSAB Board meeting will need to be held because of the infrequency of Council and Committee meetings during the summer. Elaine thanked Connie for her advance planning to allow for the levy proposal review process by the Budget and Levy Review Committee to be done on a timely basis.

Children Services Board will provide two plans during their annual budget review this year, one if the levy is approved and one if it is not.

John Begala announced that the Center for Community Solutions has hired Joe White, part-time, to do some work for the Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Karen asked Tom Armstrong to update the Board on ODJFS funding of MR/DD services and Medicaid redesign. The key issue is whether services will be overseen at the local or state level. The original plan, Tom explained, was that local dollars would be put up to

obtain Federal dollars and the ODJFS would be the access point to those Medicaid dollars, but ODJFS now wants to control those dollars. Tom stated that the struggle over this issue has been going on since House Bill 94 passed and it is affecting access to services for some families or inflated costs for services. Many feel that since local dollars were used, that the responsibility for control belongs at the local levels.

NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth stated that the retirement party for Daisy would be held on July 16, 2004 at 6 p.m. at Greystone Manor.

OTHER

John also asked if the Social Services Advisory Board would consider holding the Human Services Forum next year several months apart from the Human Services Institute, and that the Center for Community Solutions would be willing to provide assistance to the SSAB in planning for the Forum. The Center for Community Planning has already established the date for next year's Institute to be March 18th, 2005.

John suggested that a Summit 2010 Web Site be created. Gene stated that a Quality of Life Web Site has been established which is under the Healthy Summit Web Site. Julie confirmed that a link to the Web Site is under the County's Web Site, and she has spoken to Donna Skoda about changing the name from "Quality of Life" to "Summit 2010: Partnerships for Progress". Pat Divoky will work with Sarah Kisner regarding a logo for the Social Services Advisory Board and getting an SSAB Web Site on-line. Elaine suggested the SSAB meeting schedule be posted on the Web Site. Information on the "Summit 2010: Partnerships for Progress" would also be placed on the Web Site under the auspices of the Social Services Advisory Board.

John announced that the Systems, Management and Oversight Committee meetings would be coordinated with the Finance Forum meetings to assist in alleviating the schedules of the participants. John also suggested that a matrix of all the Social Services Advisory Board and Committee meetings and attendees might streamline the number of meetings that individuals have to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Social Services Advisory Board regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th, 2004 at noon at the Department of Job & Family Services. John and his staff will present the final Health and Social Services Plan. Karen acknowledged Sarah Kisner, Assistant Director, Summit County Job & Family Services, for her presence at the meeting today and support of the SSAB Board. Karen adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.