

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
April 19th, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Tom Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
May Chen
Angela Tucker Cooper
Connie Hesske
Connie Humble
Delores Jones
Sarah Kisner
Connie Krauss
Bob Kulinski
Jim Lawrence
Vivian Celeste Neal
Gene Nixon
Robert Pfaff
Reverend Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Bernett Williams
Michael Wise
Randy Zumbar

DJFS STAFF:

Patricia Divoky
Julie Seeley

GUESTS:

James McCarthy, County Executive
Donna Skoda, Summit County
Health Department
John Woodard, Summit County
Health Department
Greg Brown, Center for Community
Solutions
Rich Marountas, Center for
Demo Solaru, Consultant

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeffrey Heintz
Dr. Carl Simmers
Cheryl Urban
Jean Van Ness
Elaine Woloshyn

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. with a quorum of members present. Karen welcomed James B. McCarthy to the Board meeting.

REMARKS BY MR. MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy reinforced his interest in the priority of the data sharing discussion to be held at today's meeting. Mr. McCarthy stated he feels there is community-wide support for Summit 2010 and thanked the Board for their commitment to volunteer for this major undertaking.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18TH, 2006 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were unanimously approved by Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen stated there were two Executive Committee meetings since the last Board meeting; one on January 27th in which the Executive Committee was to meet with Nancy Jacobson, the facilitator for the SSAB Board retreat. Nancy was ultimately not able to attend the meeting, so the Committee discussed two other issues; the implications of the sales tax proposal which was to be on the November ballot and the “Wake-Up” meeting regarding the growing scarcity of resources among non-profits, hosted by the United Way, the Center for Non-Profit Excellence and The Akron Community Foundation. Bob Kulinski stated that there will be a follow-up meeting and also reported that he met with Mayor Plusquellic and Superintendent Small regarding the Akron Public School’s community learning centers and non-profit organizations partnering to provide programs at the centers. Urban League, the YMCA and Big Brothers/Big Sisters have already started in this direction and United Way will be serving as a facilitator for these partnerships.

Karen stated that the items discussed at the April 6th Executive Committee meeting are on today’s Board agenda. Karen announced that the Social Service Advisory Board’s minutes are now posted on the SSAB Web site and Julie is working on a process of notification to Council and others regarding the Board meetings and other SSAB-related meetings.

B. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Summit 2010 Update

Bernett reported that the Health & Human Services Committee had met last week and commended the work of Donna Skoda and Rich Marountas. Bernett deferred to Greg and his team to provide an update of the Project. Donna pointed out a listing of the 2005/2006 Summit 2010 Accomplishments to the Board. The plans for each of the Committees and Affiliate Committees developed in the initial phase of the Project had to be revisited and now implementations of action steps are moving forward. Infrastructure has been created to allow for enhanced communication within the Project. The first issue of a newsletter, Summit 2010 “News & Notes” was developed, and the second issue will be distributed soon to about 600 individuals. The SSAB Web site is operational and the Summit 2010 Web pages have been updated. There is also a Community Calendar with the dates and locations of all

Summit 2010 meetings and an archive of Summit 2010 meeting minutes on the Web site.

A Web based report of the Project will allow for all to view the status of the Project and for authorized persons to update their area's progress. The program will allow a one-page summary of progress on action steps in a particular area to be printed. John Woodard walked the Board members through sample status report Web pages. A training session for authorized users will be held soon. The status report allows for multiple persons to communicate on the report at the same time. The report will be broken into sections so that specific sections can be assessed. A discussion area for capturing ideas will also be included. A separate document will show overlap of issues that are being addressed. This will assist committees to work together and avoid duplication.

Mr. McCarthy mentioned that the prescription cards through Caremark will be available to County residents in three weeks. Feedback will be sought from the community as to how the cards are meeting the needs of individuals.

a. Data Sharing Updates

Demo Solaru reviewed a handout detailing a 6 month referral/data sharing pilot between the Department of Job & Family Services, Juvenile Court and Children Services Board. The pilot will utilize Provider Gateway, a system which has been utilized for seven years by DJFS to refer clients to its contract providers. At some point the system could be utilized by the public to check for services, make a request for services, or ask a question; but, it would not allow them to have access to data. Connie Humble expressed that she hoped that the Summit County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADM) organizations be brought into the data sharing asap, as the Court and CSB frequently utilize ADM's services. Elizabeth Bartz asked if Healthy Start eligibility will be checked when clients are entering the system. Sarah Kisner responded that when clients enter DJFS, certain guidelines must be followed which include determination of Medicaid eligibility. Mr. McCarthy emphasized the vision is for the data sharing to capture data on the client and that first agency to make referrals to other agencies--whether contracted agencies, non-profits or other types of organizations. This will allow the County to know if it is addressing the health & human service needs of residents. Bernett asked for a motion by the Board to move forward with the demonstration project. The Board moved unanimously to approve the pilot data sharing project.

Rich Marountas discussed the document detailing activities for a Year 2 renewal of the Center for Community Solutions' contract which would include further work with the Committees, the Finance Forum, and an epidemiologist who will be working with the data tracking component. In addition, the Center would execute

a transition plan to prepare for when its contract ends. The consultants left the room to allow for a discussion of a contract renewal.

Discussion and vote regarding Center for Community Solutions' contract renewal

Bernett Williams said that Summit 2010 would not be where it is without the Center's assistance. Delores Jones concurred that the Center for Community Solutions has been invaluable to the work of the Finance Forum

Mr. McCarthy shared his long range vision for the Social Services Advisory Board. He envisions that the SSAB would generally coordinate and oversee the direction of other Boards and agencies providing health and human services. He feels the SSAB needs a certifiable revenue stream which has not been addressed to date. The Board has evolved from a levy review Board to examining the overarching goal of integrating the various missions of health and human service agencies. He asked the Board to consider hiring a Director who could manage the Board's activities and continue to help drive the Summit 2010 project forward. Mr. McCarthy noted that the issues of coordinating resources and services of agencies should be an ongoing focus of the Board. He emphasized that an economic development connection needs to also be made with the Board. Jill Weingart is a member of the Income, Education and Workforce Committee, a Summit 2010 Committee, and Greg Cramer, from the County's Economic Development Department did attend the last meeting, but Karen agreed that more work needs to be done in this area.

A motion was made to recommend renewal of the Center for Community Solutions' contract. The vote was unanimous with Gene Nixon abstaining. The consultants were advised that the SSAB Board had recommended renewal of their contract.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

SCCS Levy Update

Elizabeth reported that the Committee will be working with Summit County Children Services as it would like to have a levy on the ballot in November. The Committee will need to meet, and then a special Board meeting will need to be held in May, so that the recommendation can be brought to Summit County Council before its summer recess.

The Committee will be meeting with MR/DD regarding its health insurance provider matter. An update will be available at the July Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Retreat Task Force Updates

The SSAB retreat task force updates were provided to the Board. Karen asked if there were any questions for the task force Chairs. There were no comments or questions from the Board.

Bi-Monthly Board meetings

The Executive Committee felt that with the increase in activities, a bi-monthly Board meeting schedule may be advantageous. After discussion, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a bi-monthly meeting schedule.

The schedule will be:

May 17th, 2006

July 19th, 2006

September 20th, 2006

November 1st, 2006

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Brown reported that he and Sarah Kisner presented the Summit 2010 Project at the National Forum of Black Public Administrators in April in San Antonio, Texas. He noted that the attendees responded positively and there have been several requests for additional information on Summit 2010.

OTHER

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17th at noon at the Department of Job & Family Services. Karen thanked Mr. McCarthy for his attendance at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

