

**SPECIAL SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 18th, 2003**

ATTENDEES:

William Alford
Elizabeth Bartz
William Brennessel
Angela Tucker-Cooper
Jeffrey T. Heinz
Cindy Johnson
Gene Nixon

Robert Pfaff
Karen Talbott
Elaine Woloshyn
Joe White
Randy Zumbar

SCDJFS STAFF MEMBERS:

Daisy Alford-Smith, Ph.D.
Patricia Divoky
Julie Seeley

GUESTS:

Bernard Zaucha – Internal Audit
Department
Gary Binns – CSB

CALL TO ORDER

Karen called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and thanked members for attending this special meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 16th Social Services Advisory Board were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Karen stated that the special Board meeting had been called today, as the Children Services Board desires to place a levy on the November ballot and the Social Services Advisory Board is charged with making a recommendation of a levy proposal to the County Executive and County Council. Karen noted that the Budget and Levy Committee has met several times and that Bill Becker and Elaine Woloshyn would be reporting on the Committee's activities.

A Memorandum detailing the Committee's activities was distributed to all members. Bill Becker reviewed the memorandum with the Board. The Committee had reviewed several levy proposals, with the current CSB levy request being a six-year renewal levy to begin in 2004, with the collection period being 2005 through 2010. The levy would have an effective millage of 2.14, which is a reduction from the current millage of 2.56. The

Board members were given a projected budget for Children Services Board from 2004-2010, which diminishes the carryover balance. CSB's high carryover balance had been an issue under study by SSAB.

Mr. Becker stated that the Committee affirms this proposal and moved that the "County of Summit Social Services Advisory Board recommends the County Council place upon the ballot for the November 4, 2003, general election, the issue of the renewal of part of an existing 2.56 mill levy, with a reduction of 0.42 mills, for an effective rate of 2.14 mills, for the benefit of the County of Summit Children Services Board and for the purpose of the protection and placement of abused and neglected children, to run for a period of six (6) years, beginning with the 2004 tax list and duplicate, for collection in the years 2005 through 2010 inclusive."

Representatives from Children Services Board were present to answer questions. Mr. White stated that at the mid-point of this levy, CSB might need to ask for some additional funding.

Elizabeth Bartz stated that the levy agencies are on a cycle so that there are not two of the levy-funded agencies on the ballot at one time.

Elaine explained that one of the reasons the Committee was recommending the six-year renewal rather than a three-year renewal was to attempt to avoid the conflict of two agencies being on the ballot at the same time. She noted that CSB's budget would be reviewed annually, to determine if there was a need for an additional levy request. Linda Sowa stated that CSB could still be placed alone on the ballot in 2006 or 2008 if needed and if recommended. Based on CSB's budget projections, there would still be a carryover reserve of \$10,741,000 in 2008.

The motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously with 3 abstentions, which were Mr. Bill Alford, Ms. Cindy Johnson, and Mr. Joe White. Karen thanked the Committee and CSB for their work.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Bob Pfaff stated that the Quality of Life Working Committee had met today and reviewed the United Way and Knight Foundation Needs Assessments and the QOL Environmental Scan. Bob stated the Committee would now be breaking up into four groups to begin setting goals. Environmental Scan documents were distributed to members of the Board who wanted them and who do not serve on the QOL Working Group.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Media training for Board members will be provided at the Department of Job and Family Services on June 11th, for a half day. Karen explained that the reason for the training was to prepare Board members for the opportunity to speak to the media and others regarding the Quality of Life project or levy recommendations when called upon to do so.

Julie also requested bio information back from those SSAB members who had not returned the forms to her as yet.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

OTHER

Dr. Daisy L. Alford-Smith spoke about the changes in state funding for human services, which she stated, were still uncertain. The Head Start Plus changes will be pushed back until next year. The last numbers indicated that Summit County would receive a 1.2 million dollar cut in the consolidated allocation, although it is still being considered in conference, and that she may know something more in the next few days. In regards to childcare, the State had proposed that childcare be cut to 150% of the poverty level for new families applying for childcare and that those who are currently receiving childcare, eligibility will be adjusted to 165% of the poverty level. In Summit County, that will affect approximately 800 children and the Department is looking for some local dollars to assist those families.

Mr. Alford stated Head Start is opposed to the Head Start Plus program and in Summit County, Head Start is expected to experience a 20-36% cut in funding which equates to \$800,000 to \$1.3 million dollars, affecting 182 to 210 children.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Social Services Advisory Board is set for July 16th, at noon, at the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services, Room 428.