

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Alford  
Tom Armstrong  
Elizabeth Bartz  
May Chen  
Don Davies  
Delores Jones  
Jeff Heintz  
Sarah Kisner  
Jim Lawrence  
Nan McClenaghan  
Vivian Celeste Neal  
Gene Nixon  
Katerina Papas  
Bob Pfaff  
Sandra Selby  
Karen Talbott  
Cheryl Urban  
Jean Van Ness  
Elaine Woloshyn

**DJFS STAFF:**

Pat Divoky  
Julie Seeley

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Angela Tucker Cooper  
Connie Krauss  
Bernett Williams

**GUESTS:**

Rich Marountas  
Donna Skoda

**CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. A quorum of members was present.

The SSAB Board acknowledged that Elizabeth Bartz had been awarded the honor of 2007 Woman Philanthropist of the Year by the United Way and congratulated her.

**APPROVAL OF May 10th, 2007 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 10th, 2007 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Karen reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the last Board meeting.

**BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Out-of-County Placements update**

Jean Van Ness noted that the impetus for looking at the issue of children being placed in out-of-County residential facilities came from a letter from Randy Zumbar to Mr. McCarthy regarding the impact on the

ADM budget of a large number of these placements. Mr. McCarthy asked the SSAB to organize a task force to address this matter and come up with a County-wide policy for agencies considering out-of-County placements as well as bring agencies together to work on this issue to ensure these placements are justified. Jean stated she agreed to Chair this task force, and found subsequently that there were already committees in place through the Family & Children First Council/Cluster that were working on various aspects of this issue. She stated that she also found that Katerina Papas was chairing an out-of County placement committee. Jean has joined that placement committee which meets the fourth Monday of the month. Jean reported this committee has gathered data over the last few months and that there is general consensus, including consensus by Children Services, to run decisions regarding out-of-county placements through the Cluster.

The cost of out-of-County placements still remains an issue. Jean stated that part of the problem is that out-of-County placements do not have clear goals attached to the placement nor effective monitoring of those goals, so children may linger in placement longer than necessary. It is hoped that a pilot program monitoring 6 children in out-of-County placements will be used to set protocols in managing future out-of-County placements and bring children home more quickly.

Another problem is that there are a certain number of children where permanent residential placement is necessary; and this number is not insignificant. Currently, these children's needs cannot be met in Summit County because there are no programs available. The long term plan is to make these residential services available in Summit County, as well as provide wrap-around services that would allow a child to be cared for at home, versus needing residential services. The placement committee met with Beth Day, who is the Director of the Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care. This program has proved effective in Cuyahoga County, having the lowest residential placement rate in the State of Ohio, although the total cost of the care has remained constant. Jean said at the committee meeting on Monday, the short-term and long-term goals of the group will be determined. In the short-term, the Cluster will determine the criteria for residential placement, as well as a determination of more specific goals to be achieved by residential treatment.

Don Davies and the Board acknowledged Jean for her efforts thus far and stated that at this time it is uncertain how many ADM dollars can be saved by addressing this issue. However, he stated that the school systems are spending \$1 million per year following these residential children out of the County, and ADM's goal is to bring these dollars back to the school systems. To bring these dollars back, expanded wrap-around services need to be available as well as in-County residential services. If the levy passes, the ADM Board has made a commitment to spend \$10 million for residential services for co-occurring disorders.

Katerina Papas noted that Children Services has reduced placements by 50, and hopes to reduce placements by 30 more by the end of the month. Katerina stated that Children Service's is utilizing wraparound services from Beechbrook and an agency from Portage County. Katerina stated Children Services recognizes that their residential placement rate is higher than other Counties and they are continuing to work to lower their rate. Katerina stated in re-negotiating contracts with outside residential placement facilities, Children Services has saved \$1.3 Million. Jean added that the Cluster may be working regionally to negotiate residential placement rates with Providers.

Karen Talbott asked if the Cluster had considered a statement of the problem and action plan to be disseminated to others. Jean stated that this would be discussed at Monday's meeting.

### **Levy updates**

Elizabeth Bartz stated that she had attended the Summit County Council meeting regarding approval of the Children Services levy proposal for the November ballot. Elizabeth found Council members to be receptive and supportive, including asking what they could do to assist in helping the levy pass. County Council also approved the ADM levy to be on the November 6 ballot. Currently, Children Services has had a golf fund raiser. There is a campaign kick-off planned for staff in August and a campaign kick-off for the community in September. CSB's levy is a 2.25 Mill replacement with reduction. ADM's levy is a 2.95 Mill replacement with reduction.

Elizabeth stated that ADM's campaign message is "What does ADM mean to you?", which she felt would help the public ask questions regarding the function of the ADM Board.

### **Annual Levy Agency Budget Review**

Elizabeth announced that the Budget & Levy Review Committee would be holding annual budget reviews at a meeting to be scheduled in the latter part of October, prior to the November 14<sup>th</sup> SSAB Board meeting.

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **Report on SSAB Staffing Plan and Timeline**

Bob Pfaff called on Pat Divoky to give an update on the SSAB Executive Director position and Summit 2010 Transition staffing process. Pat reminded the Board that at the last Board meeting, pending Council approval, the Board agreed to extend the contract with the Center for Community Solutions that would be transitioned out as a new SSAB Executive Director was added. Over the last several months, Pat, Donna Skoda and some Executive Committee members met with the Boards of the levy funded agencies to obtain funding for the transition staffing plan through the end of 2008. The Summit County Department of Job & Family Services will also participate in the funding of that transition period. Each agency agreed to \$40,000 each in funding through the end of 2007 and \$75,000 in funding through the end of 2008 (if levies are passed for the ADM and CSB agencies). Pat attended the Board of Control meeting today and the measure to fund the Center for Community Solutions contract through the end of December passed. The measure will now go to Summit County Council for passage. The SSAB Executive Director position is being discussed with the new Summit County Executive and an update on the position should be available within the next several weeks.

Elizabeth expressed that she felt there was a need for the Boards of the levy funded agencies to have more frequent updates regarding the Social Services Advisory Board and it is hoped that the new SSAB Executive Director might fill this role.

### **Report on Summit 2010 Progress Report**

Two documents were distributed to Board members, a report on Summit 2010 Accomplishments and an initial status report on two priority indicators. Bob Pfaff called on Donna Skoda and Rich Marountas to review the documents with the Board. Rich stated that the complete Summit 2010 Status report, listing the progress of all 20 indicators, will be available by July 31<sup>st</sup>. The comparison data in the status report is based on the American Community Survey. This status report will provide direction to the Summit 2010 Committees as they plan their activity for the next year.

Rich also shared with the Board that the Center for Community Solutions was part of a conference hosted by the National Association of Planning Councils. The Center for Community Solutions and Donna Skoda presented on Summit 2010 at the conference and Rich said there were many individuals who expressed interest in the depth and breadth of the project, as well as replication of the project in their cities.

The newest issue of the Summit 2010 newsletter was just released to the community, and Vivian Celeste Neal asked for widespread distribution of the newsletter to schools and the community.

### **Report on Finance Forum Meeting**

Delores Jones stated that Tom Harnden and she are planning on meeting with the Executive Committee regarding next steps for the Finance Forum. At previous meetings, Delores stated that members expressed interested in sharing of information so that it could be utilized in decisions regarding funding. The next Finance Forum meeting is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **2007 Making a Difference Human Services Forum Update**

Cheryl Urban reminded Board members that the Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the University of Akron Student Center. Breakout sessions will include the topics of transportation, organizational cultural competency, working with mentally ill offenders, leadership succession, older adults, Medicaid, and youth and illiteracy. Nomination forms for the Making a Difference awards are available and sponsorships of the event were encouraged.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Addition of SSAB Board members**

Karen stated that there are three open positions on the Board and the Executive Committee is working with the County Executive's office in selection of new members. A number of individuals have been identified and expressed interest in serving on the Board.

A new SSAB Board member listing was given to members.

## **OTHER**

An Akron Resource Directory compiled by Project R.I.S.E. was distributed to Board members.

**NEXT SSAB BOARD MEETING: September 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2007**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.