

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
September 19th, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Tom Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
Angela Tucker Cooper
Delores Jones
Connie Krauss
Jim Lawrence
Nan McClenaghan
Vivian Celeste Neal
Gene Nixon
Bob Pfaff
Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Cheryl Urban
Jean Van Ness
Bernett Williams

DJFS STAFF:

Pat Divoky
Julie Seeley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

May Chen
Don Davies
Jeff Heintz
Sarah Kisner
Katerina Papas
Elaine Woloshyn

GUESTS:

Rich Marountas
Donna Skoda
Dawn (Kessler) Bolf

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF July 18th, 2007 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 18th, 2007 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen reported that the Executive Committee had met on August 13th, 2007 and that the majority of the meeting was a discussion with Tom Harnden and Delores Jones regarding the Finance Forum. The issues discussed included the need for information by the Finance Forum members, whether to add members to the Finance Forum and the need for updating the community on the status of the Summit 2010: A Quality of Life Project. Elizabeth Bartz volunteered to be the liaison between the Executive Committee and the Finance Forum and will be attending the Finance Forum meetings. Pat Divoky gave an update on the SSAB Executive Director position and the continued contract with the Center for Community Solutions. Karen reported there was no news on the appointment of new SSAB Board members. Executive Committee members were given an update on the two proposed levies for the November ballot and the Making a Difference Forum. The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with Russ Pry on September 27th.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report on Children Services & ADM Levy Campaigns

Elizabeth noted that both Children Services' and the ADM Board's levies are on the November ballot. As both agency Directors were not present, Elizabeth will contact them for a report on their levy campaigns and e-mail a report to Board members. Both agencies have had a campaign kick-off event. Election Day is November 6 for both levies.

Timeline for 2008 Annual Budget review

Elizabeth stated regardless of what happens on November 6th, all three agencies will be asked to present their 2008 annual budgets on October 29, 2007. Budgets are to be submitted to Julie Seeley by October 19th. Elizabeth stated that other County agencies provide their budgets much earlier than October. In light of this, next year SSAB will be requesting budgets from the three levy agencies by August to allow for additional time for review by the Budget & Levy Review Committee, by the SSAB Board and by Summit County Council. There was discussion by Board members regarding the roles of the Budget & Levy Review Committee, the SSAB Board, and the Government Affairs Committee of the Greater Akron Chamber in review of levy requests. Karen noted that the Chamber has indicated that it would like the SSAB to specifically include in its review the effect of levies on taxpayers and businesses.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

PRC Plan Biennial Review

Dawn (Kessler) Bolf, Social Program Manager, Department of Job & Family Services, stated that a revised PRC plan had been sent out to members on August 20th and she had received some feedback. PRC stands for Prevention, Retention & Contingency plan which provides low income families (under 200% of Federal Poverty Level) with certain services. The State requires review of the plan by a Board such as the SSAB. Dawn stated there were not significant changes to the plan. Karen Talbott, Sarah Kisner, and the County Executive will be asked to sign the revised plan, and once approved, it will be posted on the County website. There was a question regarding if other County plans were compared to Summit County's plan and Dawn stated that other plans were looked at and if innovative changes are found, then they often form the basis for changes to Summit County's plan. A motion to approve the PRC Biennial Report was made and unanimously approved.

Summit 2010 Priority Indicator Status Report

A report of the Summit 2010 Priority Indicator Status Report was distributed to members and had been sent via e-mail to Board members prior to the meeting. Rich Marountas reviewed highlights of the Report with Board members. The basis for much of the Report is the American Community Survey which is similar information gathered by the census, but is done on an annual basis with a much smaller sample size. The sample size does increase with every year as it approaches the next census date (2010). The advantage to the American Community Survey data is that it provides more current data than otherwise available. Rich reported that although overall poverty measures are up, the poverty rate among African American children has dropped, as well as African American teen pregnancy rates. The percentage of individuals with a high school diploma and school attendance has improved. First trimester prenatal care also showed improvement. There was discussion regarding the use of victim impact surveys to measure violent crime levels.

Donna Skoda stated that a concise report of this information to take to the ABJ Editorial Board is in process. Bill Alford stated that immunization information is available for children at age 3. The immunization priority indicator may be adjusted. The Status Report will be available on the Summit 2010: A Quality of Life Project website. Elizabeth reinforced the need to go back to the levy agencies that have financially supported the Summit 2010 Project and let them know the current status of the Project. Delores

Jones added that the Report could include some information about the SSAB, the website and contact information, as many still do not know the role of the SSAB.

Report on SSAB & Summit 2010 Staffing Plan

Pat Divoky reported that legislation to extend the Project contract with The Center for Community Solutions thought the end of the year is still being considered by County Council. The SSAB Executive Director position is being discussed by the County Executive, specifically whether the position should be a contract or County employee position. The SSAB Executive Committee will be meeting with the County Executive to discuss these matters.

Report on Finance Forum Meeting

Elizabeth stated there was discussion at the last meeting on the goals and strategies of the group which had been developed previously. Delores reinforced that the group has been waiting for a status report on the progress of the Summit 2010 Indicators as well as the needs that Summit 2010 has identified in order to provide decision making information for funders in the County. The funders are also asking for a further prioritization of the indicators. Delores Jones asked for a quarterly report on the Summit 2010 Committees and the priorities of the Committees. The Board was reminded that the Committee reports are posted on the County's website. Delores suggested that the Committees give a report at a future Finance Forum meeting. The next meeting of the Finance Forum will be November 15th.

Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC)

Karen reported that the Senior Independent Living Coalition , an initiative of the Older Adults Committee of the Summit 2010 Project, will be having a planning retreat on November 7th from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Job Center. Barb Green will facilitate the session. All Board members are invited to attend, if available.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Making a Difference Human Services Forum Update

Cheryl reminded members to register for the Forum and invited members to submit nominations for the Making a Difference Awards by September 21st. Sponsors are still needed for the Forum. Continuing Education credit for social workers, legal, nursing, and Akron Public Schools have or will be submitted. There is a need for several moderators for the breakout sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

Discussion on future SSAB meeting time/location

Karen stated that because of directives from the State, the Department of Job & Family Services is no longer able to provide food or beverages for the SSAB Board meeting. There was discussion regarding various alternatives for Board meeting locations. Julie will conduct a survey regarding locations and time.

Next SSAB Board Meeting: November 14, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.