

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 17th, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Alford  
Tom Armstrong  
Elizabeth Bartz  
Michael Ho-Yong Byun  
Angela Tucker Cooper  
Rick Kavenagh  
Sarah Kisner  
Connie Krauss  
Bob Kulinski  
Jim Lawrence  
Nancy McClenaghan  
Gene Nixon  
Linda Omobien  
Bob Pfaff  
John Saros  
Brad Schroeder  
John Sniezek  
Karen Talbott  
Bernett Williams  
Barbara Vassel  
Elaine Woloshyn

**DJFS STAFF:**

Julie Seeley  
Patricia Divoky  
Mary Dougherty

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Jeff Heintz  
Sandra Selby

**GUESTS:**

Tom Leffler  
Jerry Craig  
Linda Phelps

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. with a quorum present. Karen thanked Bernett Williams for allowing the Board to meet at her beautiful facility.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 21ST SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 21st, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Memos detailing the highlights of each of the three levy agencies' 2009 proposed annual budgets were distributed to Board members.

**1. Summit County Children Services**

Elizabeth Bartz reported that the Budget & Levy Review Committee had met with John Saros, Gary Binns and Deb Forkas to review Children Services' 2009 Annual Budget on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth noted some of the highlights in the memo regarding Children Services' budget included the out-of-County residential placements of children which had been reduced from a high of 110 children several years ago to approximately 50 children

currently. Elizabeth also noted a cost for the Fall/2007 election of \$196,000 that Children Services was notified of after the election. Children Services is seeking a legal opinion on whether they have to pay this fee. The budget addressed how the agency was targeting Summit 2010 priority indicators and allows for shared funding of the Summit 2010 Project until 2010, but not projected for the entire levy period. John Saros discussed the issue of the out-of-County placements, including the possibility of a Summit County step-down facility for some of the children in placement. A motion to recommend approval of the Children Services annual budget was unanimously approved with three abstentions, John Saros, Barb Vassel and Tom Armstrong.

**2. Summit County Board of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (MRDD)**

Elizabeth stated that the Budget & Levy Review Committee had met with Lisa Kamlowky and Tom Whitfield to review the MR/DD 2009 annual budget on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and also had met Tom Armstrong and MR/DD Board member, Bill Ginter prior to today's Board meeting to obtain answers to some additional questions. The Committee was recommending approval of the 2009 MR/DD budget. MR/DD has monies for the Summit 2010 Project allocated throughout the levy period. Elizabeth noted that MR/DD is utilizing advertising to reach what is projected to be a total of about 5,000 individuals in Summit County who could utilize services. Currently, the agency is serving 3,600 clients. Elizabeth also noted that there had been an article in the Beacon Journal regarding Tom Armstrong's reimbursed vehicle expenses. After discussion with Tom Armstrong and Bill Ginter, the Committee felt there was no basis for concern regarding the appropriateness of the reimbursement. There was a motion to recommend approval of the MRDD 2009 annual budget. The motion passed with 4 abstentions; John Saros, Tom Armstrong, Bill Alford and Nan McClenaghan.

**3. County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board (ADM)**

Karen Talbott announced that Tom Leffler had advised her that at last night's meeting, the ADM Board had voted to not renew Don Davies contract.

Elizabeth stated that the Budget & Levy Review Committee had met with Don Davies, Tom Leffler and Jerry Craig on September 11<sup>th</sup>, to review ADM's 2009 annual budget. There was a discussion and update by Tom Leffler on the progress of the promises of salary adjustments for ADM contracted agency staff. A motion to recommend approval of the ADM 2009 annual budget was made and passed with 9 abstentions; Nan McClenaghan, Jim Lawrence, Bill Alford, Angela Tucker Cooper, Rick Kavenagh, Michael Byun, Tom Amstrong, Linda Omobien, and Barb Vassel.

Elizabeth thanked the Committee and the agencies for expediting the review of the annual budgets to an earlier date this year. Elizabeth suggested that inviting the Chair of the Summit County Council Finance Committee to the Budget & Levy Review Committee meeting may also facilitate discussions of the budgets next year.

**B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Karen announced that the Executive Committee has had 5 meetings since the last Board meeting; the first being June 18<sup>th</sup> with Russ Pry and John Saros to discuss Children Services financial support of Summit 2010 which was approved. An inter-governmental agreement was also signed. The Executive Committee met July 3<sup>rd</sup> and reconstitution of the Finance Forum was discussed. A meeting with Jean Van Ness is being arranged to gain input to assist in this reconstitution. Donna Skoda spoke about a matrix of the public and quasi-public organizations that was being developed that would impact the 20 Summit 2010 priority indicators and be utilized by the Summit 2010 Committees. There was also a discussion of filling a Board vacancy and after an Executive Committee meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>, Julie Rittenhouse, of the GAR Foundation was recommended to Russ Pry for that vacancy. Executive Pry and Summit County Council agreed with the recommendation and Julie has just been appointed to the Board.

An Executive Committee meeting was also held on July 9<sup>th</sup> with Russ Pry and the levy agency Directors in which Summit 2010 funding was discussed as well as programmatic achievements and communication enhancements. In addition, the position of an Executive Director of SSAB was discussed. On August 8<sup>th</sup> the Executive Committee had met with Julie Rittenhouse and was also advised that Greg Brown had left the Center for Community Solutions and John Begala is now the Executive Director on an interim basis. On August 25<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Committee met with John Begala, who said he would be in the Executive Director role for 6-9 months while the Center is in a process of re-organization. The Committee discussed Summit 2010 outcomes and John expressed surprise that the Center was still involved with the Project. He, Donna Skoda and Rich Marountas will be meeting to discuss alternatives for transitioning of the Center and strategies to accomplish the tasks of the Project. John will then meet with Russ Pry and the Executive Committee again around the beginning of November.

### **C. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Bernett Williams reported that the Health & Human Services Committee had met on June 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed the evolution and future role of the Finance Forum. After discussion, it was decided that Summit 2010 information may be shared with the local coalition of foundations, but that Committee members would not ask to be a part of that coalition. It was also decided that the Health & Human Services Committee would meet quarterly and receive reports on the Summit 2010 Project and then provide this information to the Board. There was discussion on the material to present to Summit County Council at a presentation scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Donna Skoda shared that a risk health behavior grant had been secured and this would provide data where a gap of information had been identified.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Making a Difference Human Services Forum update**

Angela Tucker Cooper reported that the Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and both mail and e-mail invitational packets had been sent. Nominations are needed for the individual and group Making a Difference awards and also several moderators are needed for several breakout sessions. A number of sponsorships have been received. Legal Continuing Education credit has been granted and social work, nursing, counselor and marriage & family therapists' applications have been made.

#### **b. Neighborhood Leadership Institute**

Bob Kulinski announced that United Way and the University of Akron are collaborating on a program designed to train neighborhood leaders.

#### **c. Mental Health of America Luncheon**

Angela announced that the Mental Health of America luncheon will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **d. Grant Award for Leggett School**

Bill Alford announced that the Kellogg Foundation has awarded Leggett School a \$10,000 grant this year and \$5,000 next year to transition children from pre-school to kindergarten.

### **OTHER**

#### **a. Next Board meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Location TBD.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

