

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 20, 2004**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

William Alford  
Thomas Armstrong  
Wayne Brennessel  
Angela Tucker Cooper  
James Lawrence  
Vivian Celeste Neal  
Gene Nixon  
Karen Talbott  
Constance Hesseske  
Connie Humble  
Elaine Woloshyn  
Randy Zumbar

**DJFS STAFF:**

Valorie Austin  
Patricia Divoky  
Sarah Kisner

**DJFS STAFF NOT PRESENT:**

Julie Seeley

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Bartz  
Jeff Heintz  
Dr. Carl Simmers  
Robert Kulinski  
Robert Pfaff  
Bernett Williams

**GUESTS:**

Gary Binns

**CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. A quorum of members was present. Karen introduced Constance Heeske, Attorney at Law, as a new SSAB Board member.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 28, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Karen reported that the Executive Committee had met for informational and procedural purposes with Karen Doty on July 30, 2004, which she noted, and then met with County Executive James McCarthy on October 14, 2004 again regarding a consultant to roll out the Summit 2010 Project. Mr. McCarthy does want to proceed with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The Executive Committee is to look at the Scope of Services, which will be part of the RFQ, to determine if there is anything more that needs to be added and that expectations are clear. The Executive Committee will hold a conference call on October 29, 2004 to discuss any additions to the Scope of Services. Mr. McCarthy would like the consultant to effectively "report to SSAB" as permitted. Mr. McCarthy would like the SSAB to transition into a broader role with greater authority so that

eventually the SSAB would have more direct responsibility for the areas detailed in the enabling legislation as well as other items. The funding to do these things may come from the levy funded agencies, but additional discussions will take place on this topic in the future.

It was suggested that the Board might have to have a strategic planning meeting to discuss the expanded role of the SSAB.

Sarah stated that County Council might have to be asked to amend the County ordinance to change the authority and expand the power of the Board.

#### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REPORT

No report at this time.

#### BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elaine reported that the Budget & Levy Review Committee met with the three levy-funded agencies on October 12, 2004 to review their annual budgets. Copies of the three Budget Reviews were distributed to members. Elaine thanked the levy-funded agencies for their cooperation and the quality of materials submitted for the review process.

Elaine stated the Budget and Levy Review Committee is recommending approval of CSB's 2005 Budget. Elaine stated the Committee is trying to be uniform in what information it requests from the levy agencies. Elaine reviewed the following highlights of CSB's budget proposal with the SSAB.

#### CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* CSB's budget proposal is for the first year of a proposed three-year levy that is on the ballot for passage on November 2, 2004. The levy is a 2.56 mil "Replacement with Reduction" levy generating a projected average of \$26.416M annually and a projected levy total of \$79.247M.
- \* CSB's projected carry forward balance at the end of 2005 is \$26.589 M and the projected end-of-levy carryover is \$10.913 at the end of 2007. There has been a concern for a number of years about the size of the carryover balance of CSB. With the passage of the levy we will see a significant decrease in the carryover balance.
- \* CSB's levy vs. non-levy revenue as seen on page 19 of the packet represents an average of approximately 57% dependency on levy revenues actually experienced since 1996 and projected through 2005.
- \* Under direction by James B. McCarthy, County Executive, a Blue Ribbon Panel and the County's Internal Audit Department reviewed CSB. Of the 41 recommendations made by the Panel, CSB will have implemented 36 by the end of 2004 and some work on all of them.

- \* CSB reached a labor/management contract after five months of negotiations. Improvement of labor relations is still a top priority.
- \* In 2004, CSB senior management and the Board of Trustees completed a Client Oriented Planning document detailing goals and objectives to better serve CSB's mandated population.
- \* CSB responded to more than 11,000 calls in 2003 and serves roughly one out of every 14 individuals in the county.
- \* CSB was able to renew General and Professional Liability insurance as of April 2004.
- \* The budget reflects a 1% decrease in operating expenditures.

CSB is not planning to add any new programs, but will review and expand a number of programs. The Receiving Unit was closed in July 2003 and the Mentoring Mothers and the Living Center programs were suspended. If the levy passes, CSB will continue plans for construction of a visitation/respite center at a cost of \$2.6M.

At the Budget & Levy Committee meeting there was a discussion on the process CSB would go through if the levy does not pass. CSB did not present an alternative budget, but stated they have a contingent budget plan in the event the levy fails.

Connie stated telephone polling suggests there are a number of undecided voters on the CSB levy and telephone solicitation for funding is in process in order to run an educational piece in the Beacon Journal and do a second mailing. CSB will run the same ad in the Suburbanite, West Side Leader and Reporter as is in the Beacon Journal. CSB has received endorsements from all the newspapers. Sarah Kisner stated a certain number of billboards are usually donated to the community for community issues. Connie replied that because of the elections, there were no pro bono billboards left for advertisement, but CSB is running 10-educational radio spots.

The Social Services Advisory Board unanimously recommended approval of CSB's 2005 Budget with two members abstaining (William Alford and Connie Humble).

#### MR/DD BUDGET AND LEVY HIGHLIGHTS

The Budget & Levy Committee met with Dorothy Schrum and Rex Gifford MR/DD staff on October 12, 2004. Elaine reviewed the following with the Board:

- \* MR/DD's budget proposal is the fifth year of a six-year levy expiring in 2006. MR/DD plans to go on the ballot in November 2005.

- \* The 3.61 mill levy projects an annual average of \$40.84M and a projected levy total of \$245M.
- \* MR/DD's projected carryover at the end of 2005 is \$1.750M and a projected end of levy carryover is \$1.734M. However, shortfalls in local funding and reduction of State subsidies have resulted in a reduction of \$8.8M to the Agency fund balance over the levy period.
- \* MR/DD's levy vs. non-levy revenue represents a declining average of 59% dependency on levy revenues actually experienced since 1993 through 2004. Since 1996, with the inclusion of home and community-based waiver allocation, this dependency has averaged 55%.
- \* State budget cuts of \$4.7M and reduction in local funding of \$9M have resulted in a revenue shortfall of \$13.7M.
- \* CAFS/TCM reimbursement withheld by the State has impacted the budget by \$3.3M.
- \* MR/DD has exceeded by 112% the total projected growth of the levy plan in the number of individuals served.
- \* MR/DD's waiting list for adult and residential services continues to increase at an alarming rate. Approximately 839 individuals are waiting for residential services. 194 are on a waiting list for adult services and 38 families are waiting for early intervention services. Projections show an additional 400 individuals will need services in the next two years, which has caused stress on the system.
- \* Two of the 3 bargaining unit contracts have been settled with one still in negotiations.
- \* An additional adult facility opened in Coventry in Sept. 2004. There are an expanding number of individuals in the northern section of Summit County who need services.
- \* Fleet, property and liability insurance increased 5.2% (\$242,290).
- \* Health care costs for group medical have exceeded the original budget by \$1.2M. The Agency is pursuing strategies to reduce these costs.
- \* Expenditures are anticipated to increase by 5.77%, with revenues only increasing \$2.42%.

The Committee is recommending the SSAB's approval of MR/DD's 2005 budget with recommended carryover of \$8.3M.

A Board member commented on the ads that MR/DD has been running. Tom stated that the ads have generated new business, but not new money. Efforts are targeted at the 0-2-age population. Tom also stated that setting up satellite locations although successful and more accessible to families has caused some budgetary concerns. Tom stated MR/DD is serving more people with less money. Tom said he would check with their advertising department to see if a line advertising and endorsing the CSB levy could be added on their billboards.

The question was raised regarding MR/DD expecting a large payment (approximately \$7 million) from the State. Tom stated he does have issues with the State concerning funding and reimbursement. Desk audits will be finished in 2007. Tom plans on budgeting on ½ of the \$7 M in a future budget, but is not included in the current budget. Sarah Kisner cautioned Mr. Armstrong to make sure he maintains records in writing, not e-mail, for accountability from the State, as next year is an election year for the State and this will ensure if elected officials change, that there will be adequate documentation.

Angela Tucker Cooper noted that one packet of information is given for the SSAB to review and one to the County's financial department. Mr. Armstrong states the process is very confusing and looks inconsistent to County Council when it is presented in different ways. Elaine says the annual budgetary process is continuing to evolve but will look at streamlining the request for information provided. Karen emphasized that everything we do is public information, so for the benefit of the public, a consistent, efficient system would be preferable.

The Social Service Advisory Board recommended approval of MR/DD's 2005 Budget with Agency Recommended Carryover of \$8.3M with one member abstaining (Thomas Armstrong).

#### ADM's BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

Elaine reviewed with the Board the following:

- \* ADM's budget proposal is for the third year of a six-year levy expiring in 2008. This 3.05 mil renewal levy will generate a projected annual average of \$22.045M and projected levy total of \$132.270M.
- \* ADM's projected carryover at the end of 2005 is \$4,835 M and the projected end-of-levy carryover in 2008 is \$911,393. Elaine noted this amount and concern that the amount agencies need to carryover needs to be addressed in Columbus.
- \* ADM levy vs. non-levy revenue as seen on Pg. 18 of their packet represents an average of 37.1% dependency on levy revenues actually experienced since 1994 through 2003.
- \* ADM's state hospital utilization remains one of the lowest per capita rates of the ten largest urban County Boards in Ohio.

- \* ADM Board though it's contract Agencies, continues to serve over 47,000 older adults, children and families annually in Summit County.
- \* ADM continues as the Coordinating Center of Excellence in Mental Health and Criminal Justice Jail Diversion Alternatives to "decriminalize" persons with mental illness.
- \* The ADM Board's potential to maintain or receive additional funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) remain uncertain.
- \* Medicaid agreements require mandatory participation in an approximate 40% match on all eligible Medicaid services billed by contracted providers continues to pose a challenge as this is not under ADM's control. ADM has 7 contracts, which require \$1.4M in matching funds. One new contract in 2004 required \$124,000 in matching funds, which was not originally in the budget.
- \* The Budget and Levy Review Committee recommended the approval of ADM's 2005 budget of approximately \$59M which reflects a revenue increase of 2.4%, and an increase in expenses of 3%, with \$2.08M dollars coming from the fund balance in order to balance the budget. Projected carry forward balance shows fund depletion to a low \$911,393 in 2008. Carry forward in 2005 is \$14.405M.

Karen noted that there is an effort at the State to get private insurance help for mental health services. Karen inquired if this was going to impact ADM in the short run. Randy stated that is questionable in that insurance coverage for mental health is usually minimal and the monies, if available, would come to ADM's contract providers.

Karen commended Randy and the other levy agencies for their inclusion of the Summit 2010 goals in the formulation of their budgets. Tom asked for some guidelines in speaking to their respective Boards.

The Social Service Advisory Board recommended approval of ADM's 2005 annual budget proposal, with three abstentions, Randy Zumbar, Angela Tucker Cooper and Jim Lawrence.

Karen thanked the three levy agencies for their cooperation and time spent and Elizabeth and Elaine for chairing the Budget & Levy Review Committee.

William Alford suggested that in light of SSAB's future expanded role that having a Council member on SSAB and a SSAB member serving on Council may aid in the line of communication between County Council and the SSAB.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.