

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
October 19, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Thomas Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
May Chen
Angela Tucker Cooper
Connie Hesske
Connie Humble
Sarah Kisner
Delores Jones
James Lawrence
Gene Nixon
Reverend Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Jean Van Ness
Cheryl Urban
Bernett Williams
Michael Wise
Elaine Woloshyn
Randy Zumbar

DJFS STAFF:

Patricia Divoky
Julie Seeley

GUESTS:

Darlene Mims
Rich Marountas
Donna Skoda
Linda Phelps
Gary Schaeufele

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeffrey Heintz
Connie Krauss
Bob Kulinski
Vivian Celeste Neal
Bob Pfaff
Dr. Carl Simmers

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. as a quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2005 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the July 20th, 2005 minutes were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen reported that the Executive Committee had met twice since the last Board meeting, once on August 9th and on October 7th. On August 9th, there were two items on the agenda: to hear information regarding Voices & Choices and to choose the Making a Difference Award winners. On October 7th, the Executive Committee met to plan the SSAB Board retreat but because the retreat date needed to be rescheduled, the meeting consisted of an update on the Health & Human Services Summit 2010 Project and an update on the Budget & Levy Review Committee. Karen deferred further discussion on the Executive Committee report as this information would be shared later at today's Board meeting in other Committee reports.

Voices & Choices

Karen introduced Megann Eberhart, Community Organizer of Voices & Choices. Megann stated that Voices & Choices is an initiative of the Fund for Economic Future, a collaborative of 70 foundations and philanthropic organizations covering 15 counties in Northeast Ohio. The collaborative's purpose is to improve the economic climate of the region and \$ 30 million has been earmarked to be spent over the next 3 years toward this end. The money is being utilized in three ways. First, there are targeted grants to the community: Team Neo (business attention & retention through the Chambers of Commerce), Bioenterprise (bioscience), Jumpstart (for entrepreneurs), and Nortech (regional technology coalition). Second, a dashboard of indicators has been developed to measure grant and community engagement. Upjohn and local universities are providing assistance with this process. The third piece is to obtain citizen engagement. Through Voices & Choices, input from leaders and citizens is being obtained to identify assets, challenges of the region, and how to address these challenges. There will be a Townhouse meeting to obtain citizen input on Saturday, November 12th at the University of Akron. Megann asked SSAB members for help in recruitment of participants including young professionals, minorities, low income and the under-employed as well as for help to identify candidates for citizen interviews. The end product will be an agenda of priorities for the region.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Summit 2010 Update

Bernett requested that Board members submit the names of any group or organization that would like to see a presentation of the Summit 2010 Project to Julie or a member of the Executive Committee. Bernett introduced Donna Skoda and Rich Marountas, who are working with the Center for Community Solutions on consulting assistance for implementation of Summit 2010. Donna and Rich presented updates to the Board on several areas: the updated Summit 2010

presentation, the organizational map of the Project, the newsletter for the Project, a web-based calendar, use of a virtual alert program to access status reports of the Project, and use of a designated SSAB Web site.

Donna stated that in reviewing all of the information of the Project, that it appeared that some pieces of information had been misclassified. A draft of a revised Major Initiatives plan was presented to the Health & Human Services Committee and the recommendation to the full Board was that this revised Major Initiatives plan be adopted. The Board unanimously voted that the revised Major Initiatives plan be adopted.

Bernett asked that all Board members review the newsletter, the organizational map, and the revised Summit 2010 presentation and advise of any suggested changes to the information. Karen commended Donna and Rich for their organization of the Project.

A document that details the data sources to measure progress of each of the priority indicators was also distributed to the Board. Karen noted the importance of this document in tracking progress on the indicators and avoiding duplication of source documents.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CSB, MR/DD, & ADM

A report detailing highlights of each of the budgets of the levy agencies was distributed to the Board members. The Budget & Levy Review Committee coordinated with the County finance office so as to only need one set of documents from the levy agencies for the County, County Council and the Social Services Advisory Board to review.

Children Services

The Board unanimously approved CSB's 2006 annual budget for recommendation, with four abstentions.

The Budget & Levy Review Committee discussed CSB's timing for their next levy request as it may affect ADM's levy request process. Originally, the levy schedule allowed for a two year gap between levy requests. With the current levy schedule, there will be a levy request each year, and then a three year gap. The Committee would like to determine a method of returning to a schedule that allows for the two year gap between levy requests.

ADM

The Board reviewed and recommended ADM's 2006 annual budget with three abstentions.

MR/DD

Elizabeth stated that the Budget & Levy Review Committee met just prior to the Board meeting to further discuss transportation and health insurance issues regarding MR/DD and the Committee approved recommendation of the 2006 MR/DD budget with the understanding that by March 1st, MR/DD would provide a comparative analysis between MR/DD's health care plan and the County's health care plan.

The Board reviewed and recommended MR/DD's 2006 annual budget with three abstentions.

Gene Nixon and Elizabeth commended the levy agencies on the information provided, the inclusion of linkage to Summit 2010 goals, and responsiveness to questions by the Committee. Karen thanked Elizabeth and Linda Phelps for their leadership on the levy review process.

NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth noted that The Budget & Levy Review Committee also solicited input regarding the concept of a consolidated social service levy from each of the levy agencies at the Committee meetings and further research will be completed on this idea.

Elizabeth stated that Jean Van Ness has expressed an interest in joining Elizabeth as Co-Chair of the Budget & Levy Review Committee.

Karen stated that several members of the Board are up for re-appointment and the new appointment of Sarah Kisner to the Board will be coming before County Council in the next week. If approved, this would complete the full Board complement of 25 members.

OTHER

Forum Follow-up Report

Angela stated the Human Services Forum was very successful with over 250 for the Forum and 450 attendees for the luncheon. The keynote speaker was well-received. The budget for the Forum was in the black, with special acknowledgement to Cheryl Urban who assisted in monetary savings. Angela and Connie Humble thanked Julie and everyone at the Department of Job & Family Services. Angela noted that the purpose of the Forum is to heighten the awareness of the Social Services Advisory Board's work. Connie asked the Board if the

Forum should be continued and the Board response was unanimously positive. Connie and Angela asked that the Board provide suggestions for a keynote speaker for next year's Forum.

SSAB Retreat Date

Julie is working on rescheduling the Board retreat for sometime in February, at the Jewish Community Center.

Disclosure Forms

Disclosure Forms were distributed for completion by January 31st, 2006. New appointees must complete the form within the first 30 days of Board service.

2006 SSAB Board Meeting Dates

Dates for the 2006 SSAB Board meetings were distributed.

NEXT SSAB BOARD MEETING

The next SSAB Board meeting will be January 18, 2006. The Board was reminded about the MR/DD levy on the ballot and yard signs may be obtained for those interested by contacting Tom Armstrong.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.