

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
November 14th, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Elizabeth Bartz
Don Davies
Delores Jones
Sarah Kisner
Connie Krauss
Nan McClenaghan
Gene Nixon
Katerina Papas
Bob Pfaff
Sandra Selby
Karen Talbott
Cheryl Urban
Bernett Williams
Elaine Woloshyn

DJFS STAFF:

Julie Seeley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Tom Armstrong
Angela Tucker Cooper
Jeff Heintz
Jim Lawrence
Vivian Celeste Neal

GUESTS:

Lisa Kamlowsky
Tom Whitfield
Gary Binns
Tom Leffler
John Saros

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. at Goodwill Industries. A quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF September 19th, 2007 SSAB BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the September 19th, 2007 Board meeting were unanimously approved as previously distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Karen reported that the Executive Committee met with County Executive Russ Pry on October 16th. The Executive Committee discussed the SSAB Executive Director position and because of the uncertainty of the levies being passed, Mr. Pry recommended the work be covered by consulting services for now.

The Executive Committee plans to present a Summit 2010 Project update to County Council and also to the Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board. The dates of the presentations are in the process of being scheduled. Mr. Pry plans to attend the session with the Editorial Board.

The Shared Database Project will move forward between DJFS, Juvenile Court and MR/DD.

Children Services (CSB) will also consider becoming part of the project at a later date after the new state database (SACWIS) has been implemented successfully at CSB.

Appointments to the SSAB were delayed, but will be introduced at an upcoming Council meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed with Mr. Pry the role of the Board in its review of the levy funded agencies. He believes the Board has wide latitude in making recommendations and comments and can footnote positions. However, as each of the levy agencies has independent Boards, the SSAB cannot force the levy agencies to do something. This is consistent with the legal opinion obtained from Karen Doty when Mr. McCarthy was County Executive.

Mr. Pry indicated his interest in attending future Board meetings and is expressed his support of the SSAB.

BUDGET & LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

2008 Annual Budget Reviews

Elizabeth Bartz reported that the Budget & Levy Review Committee met on October 29th with Children Services, ADM and MR/DD. At the meeting, Elizabeth stated that after discussion with Linda Phelps, it was announced that the levy agencies' 2009 Annual Budgets would be due to the Budget & Levy Review Committee shortly after Labor Day and reviewed by the SSAB at its September 2008 meeting. This would allow additional time for the review process by the SSAB and County Council.

Children Services Board (CSB)

A memo detailing the highlights of CSB's 2008 Annual Budget was distributed to Board members. Children Services current levy expires on December 31, 2007 and a 6 year 2.25 Mill replacement with reduction levy were on the ballot November 6th. The levy passed. Elizabeth noted that Jean Van Ness, who has resigned from the SSAB, is working with Children Services and ADM on reducing out of County placements. Children Services' carry-forward balance is projected to be \$ 9.2 Million in 2013 and the Budget & Levy Committee is evaluating what fund balance is appropriate; probably between 3-6 months of expenses. Children Services is working on a strategic plan and one of their goals continues to be to keep caseload size down. Children Services has been reaccredited for two years by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Families. John Saros stated that the budget is very tight and the \$9.2 Million carry-forward balance in 2013 is below the cash flow needs in that year, so he felt additional carry forward dollars are needed. The Budget & Levy Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Children Services proposed 2008 Annual Budget. The Board approved the 2008 Annual Budget, with one abstention, for recommendation to the County Executive and Council.

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

Elizabeth reported that ADM's levy also passed on November 6th. The Budget & Levy Review Committee met with Don Davies, Tom Leffler and Jerry Craig to discuss their 2008 Annual Budget. A memo detailing ADM's 2008 Annual Budget highlights was distributed to Board members. The Committee recommended that ADM work with Linda Phelps' office in determining an appropriate carry-forward balance amount to recommend. ADM is also working with Children Services in reducing out of county placements. The Committee discussed streamlining the budget information that is received from the contracted agencies and knowing what the contract agencies' cash reserves are. Linda Phelps and Elizabeth received additional information from ADM regarding the number of clients receiving addiction vs. mental health services and the budget for each. ADM is working to adjust wages and add health benefits for the lower income workers at the contract agencies. The Budget & Levy Committee recommended approval for the 2008 Annual Budget. The SSAB Board approved the Budget, with one abstention, for recommendation to the County Executive and Council.

Summit County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD)

Elizabeth announced that MRDD eliminated its adult waiting list. A memo detailing MR/DD's 2008 Annual Budget highlights was distributed to Board members. The Budget & Levy Review Committee met with Tom Armstrong, Lisa Kamiowsky, the new Assistant Superintendent, and Tom Whitfield, the MR/DD Financial Officer. Tom Armstrong reported at the Committee meeting that 97 people took advantage of the early retirement buy-out, so staff reorganization of their adult services is still in process. MR/DD moved to the County's health care program from a self-insured plan, saving \$1.8 million in 2007. A local employer may purchase the MR/DD Bath service center and if the sale of this facility moves forward, MR/DD would open two smaller centers to accommodate their clients and, in turn, reduce transportation costs. The Budget & Levy Review Committee recommended approval of the 2008 Annual Budget. The SSAB voted to recommend approval of the Budget to the County Executive and Council. The vote was unanimous with 2 abstentions.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SSAB & Summit 2010 Staffing Plan

Bob Pfaff noted that a report on this topic had been discussed as part of the Executive Committee report.

Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC) Planning Retreat

Bob invited Karen to report on this topic. Karen noted that the Senior Independent Living Coalition (SILC) is part of the Summit 2010 Older Adults Committee. One of the tactics of the Committee was to promote advocacy for older adults in our community. SILC was created to help achieve this goal and a strategic planning retreat for the group was held on November 7th with Barb Greene as the facilitator. The results are being completed. For now, SILC will be a sub-committee of the Older Adults Committee. One of the consensus items was that SILC should not be a group consisting of just service providers, but also many older adults as well.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Making a Difference Human Services Forum

Cheryl Urban reported that the Forum was very successful and the Committee now has about \$10,000 in reserves. The Board felt the Keynote Speaker was excellent and evaluation scores for breakout speakers were also excellent. An e-mail survey will be sent to all participants to obtain additional feedback. Cheryl thanked all Board members for their participation. She also invited any interested Board members to join the 2008 Forum planning committee.

Update on Appointment of New SSAB Members

Karen announced that on October 29th, legislation for new SSAB Board members and re-appointment of applicable existing Board members was introduced, but was pulled and will be re-introduced. . The Power Point presentation used in the orientation for new members is being updated and an orientation meeting will be scheduled once the appointments have been finalized.

Finance Forum Update

Delores Jones announced that the Finance Forum members felt that until there are specific issues or initiatives to discuss, the Finance Forum does not need to meet. Delores and Tom Harnden will be compiling a list of recommendations for the Finance Forum. Input from members of the Finance Forum is that the Finance Forum needs Summit 2010 to identify and prioritize the needs in the community for the Forum to consider and facilitate as applicable. Nan McClenaghan shared that the Income, Education & Workforce Development Committee, that Nan chairs, is considering the printing of a training map or other projects to bring before the Finance Forum.

NEW BUSINESS

Sarah Kisner said that several Board members met with Mrs. Strickland as part of a Family & Children First Council meeting. Mrs. Strickland is very interested in eliminating obstacles to providing care for children. Sarah suggested that the SSAB consider having her as a guest when she is in the area and share with her information on the Summit 2010 Project.

Delores stated that Donna Skoda shared information regarding the Summit 2010 Project at a meeting of Leadership Ohio. Delores commended Donna on her presentation. Donna is also completing presentations on Summit 2010 which will be used for discussions with Summit County Council and the Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board.

Don Davies suggested that a presentation of the Summit 2010 information be made to the Boards of the levy agencies, and Elizabeth concurred.

OTHER

Karen Talbott acknowledged the untimely death of Maria Girard who assisted with Board meeting preparations and worked at the Department of Job & Family Services. The Board expressed sympathies.

Discussion on 2008 SSAB meeting time/location (s)

Sarah Kisner reported that the State directive to eliminate food and beverage expenditures has been lifted by the Governor. The SSAB Board decided to return to the DJFS for meetings and a light lunch will be provided at the meetings. A list of 2008 Board meeting dates was distributed to Board members.

Disclosure Statements

Board members were given a disclosure statement which must be completed and returned to Julie Seeley by January 31st, 2008 per the SSAB Code of Regulations.

Next SSAB Board Meeting: January 16th, 2008

Karen thanked Nan for hosting the Board meeting today at Goodwill.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.