

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

December 15, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford
Tom Armstrong
Elizabeth Bartz
Wayne Brennessel
James Lawrence
Gene Nixon
Dr. Simmers
Karen Talbott
Bernett Williams
Elaine Woloshyn
Randy Zumbar

DJFS STAFF:

Daisy L. Alford-Smith, Ph.D.
Valerie Austin
Patricia Divoky
Sarah Kisner
Judy Hendrick
Julie Seeley
Steve Zimmerman

GUESTS:

Gary Binns
James B. McCarthy
John Begala

EXCUSED:

Robert Pfaff

CALL TO ORDER:

Karen called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and introductions were made. A quorum of members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 15 and October 30th meetings were unanimously approved.

ANNUAL DISCLOSURE FORMS

Karen announced that Disclosure Forms were available today to complete and turn in. They also have been mailed out to all members. Deadline for returning the disclosure forms is January 31st. If they are not returned by that date, the Code of Regulations sets forth the assumption that the member has resigned from the Board. Karen asked if there were any questions about the form, and there were none.

2004 SSAB BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Karen stated that the next SSAB meeting would be held on January 21, 2004 at noon. Copies of the 2004 SSAB Board meeting schedule were made available to members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT

INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECT BY MR. MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy thanked all the members for their participation and the time that has been spent thus far on the Quality of Life Project. Mr. McCarthy stated that the project started as a dream to develop a plan of how we can improve our community. He emphasized how important the project is to our future and that much work still needs to be accomplished. He asked the members for the commitment to change what needs to be changed to make things better and the continued dedication in implementation of the goals. He emphasized again how much he appreciated what has been done and how hopeful he was for making the plan a reality. Mr. McCarthy stated that there are resources available and will provide the support that is needed.

QUALITY OF LIFE PRESENTATION

John Begala provided a background and overview of the Quality of Life Project along with a PowerPoint presentation. The Summit County Executive, James B. McCarthy, initiated this project, and a working group was established that has been working on the project under the auspices of the Social Services Advisory Board. There are four inter-related planning processes that make up the project; a Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity Plan, Partnerships for Success Plan to reduce juvenile crime, three asset-based neighborhood plans, and a comprehensive health and social services strategic plan.

An Environmental Scan has been compiled which assesses health and social services in Summit County consisting of key informant interviews, health and social indicators in areas and neighborhoods in Summit County with maps of the data, and corresponding resources available in the 20 census clusters. The indicators, maps and tables point to the areas where problems need to be addressed. An analysis of spending for health and social services in Summit County was completed for 1999, 2000, 2001 for social service and philanthropic spending. Forty-five percent (45%) of total health and social services spending was from local sources, primarily tax levies. The amount of Federal and State funding of social service agencies varies widely between the agencies.

From the Environmental Scan information, a number of working groups set recommendations for goals and major initiatives for Summit County.

Under the plan of Workforce Development, Mr. McCarthy added that the Workforce Development Board would be hiring an Executive Director who will expand the workforce development efforts beyond the One-Stop concept. The Director will be on board by January 1st.

The SSAB Working group will be asking others to participate in a total of six planning teams, which will be making more specific plans for implementation of the goals. The planning details are to be completed by June 30th, 2004.

In response to a question on the issue of poverty, and available funding, John suggested that advocacy efforts may need to be directed to the state, to re-direct funding in accomplishing some of the goals. Dr. Simmers noted that from his experience, that re-directing of funds needs to be done cautiously and thoughtfully. Mr. McCarthy emphasized that the current spending in the community needs to be evaluated to ensure local dollars are being spent in the most impactful way. Mr. McCarthy asked that a better system of delivery might be developed as the planning for implementation of the goals is accomplished. He emphasized the role of the Social Services Advisory Board in implementation and oversight of the plans of the Quality of Life Project.

Karen asked for a motion from the Board to adopt the goals and major initiatives of the Quality of Life Project. The motion passed unanimously. Karen asserted that this planning tool was a wonderful asset for our community. A schedule of the various Quality of Life presentations was made available to all SSAB members. Karen asked for the Board members to let Julie know if there were other groups that they felt needed to hear about the project.

BUDGET AND LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Gary Binns of Children Services Board reported for Mr. White, who was not present. The final regularly scheduled Council meeting of the year will be this evening. He stated that the resolutions regarding placing the levy on the March ballot has been buried in committee since November. A finance committee meeting will be held prior to the Council meeting tonight, and it is hoped that the resolution will then be forwarded to Council. If the levy does not get on the March ballot, the last opportunity would be in November of 2004. CSB has agreed to enter into binding arbitration in regard to the strike situation. The Blue Ribbon panel has recommended that the CSB levy be put on the March ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Karen thanked the members for their participation today, and adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.