

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**January 4, 2012
Akron Community Foundation
345 W. Cedar Street
Akron OH 44307**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Alford; Thomas Armstrong; Elizabeth Bartz; Michael Byun; Jerry Craig; Pat Divoky; Kathleen Downing; Rick Kavenagh; Connie Krauss; Robert Kulinski; James Lawrence; Nan McClenaghan; Gene Nixon; Linda Omobien; Robert Pfaff; Julie Rittenhouse; Brad Schroeder; Sandy Selby; Karen Talbott; Angela Tucker Cooper

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roberta Aber; David James; Lois Margaret Nora, M.D.; John Saros; Barbara Vassel

GUESTS:

Gary Binns; Rose DeBord; Rich Marountas; Donna Skoda

STAFF:

Barbara Alexander

Chair Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Minutes from the October 5, 2011 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports

Forum Planning Committee

Nan McClenaghan reported for the Forum Planning Committee. She stated that the Committee was looking at:

- Continue to hold event in the Fall
- Change format to breakfast meeting
- Follow breakfast meeting with breakout sessions

During a telephone conference phone call held January 4, 2012, the Committee was informed of an opportunity to partner with the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) and its Human Services Institute to be held Friday, May 18, 2012, at the Knight Center. Although historically this event has been held in the Cleveland area, CCS is now moving toward a regional focus and both Portage and Lorain Counties have cited the work of the Summit County SSAB.

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The Committee feels that the SSAB could partner with CCS in May and continue to have the Forum in the fall with a breakfast meeting, annual meeting, and recognition of significant individuals/organizations.

Pat Divoky stated that she believes this will be a one-time only effort, highlighting what we have done here in Summit County. We were initially notified of the collaboration opportunity by the County Executive, and he is very supportive of it.

There was discussion of the format:

Morning:

- Regionalism and Best Practices
- Lunchtime speaker

Afternoon:

- Human Services in the Region
- Mental Health, Children and Families, and Older Adults, Workforce

Donna Skoda stated that CSS's priorities would be very similar to ours. This would be a "best practices sharing" day. Pat stated they were attempting to bring in all 16 counties of NEOREO (Northeast Ohio Regional Economic Opportunity).

After discussion the Board agreed that collaborating with the Center for Community Solutions at their Human Services Institute would be a good idea. Pat stated that she would contact John Begala of CCS to get plans underway.

Nan continued discussion of the Forum. A breakfast meeting format was decided upon in order to bring in a wider segment of the population. No date has been set.

Executive Committee

Karen reported that the Executive Committee met November 14. Items discussed were:

- Data collection for initiatives
- Forum Committee
- Older Adult Services

Budget and Levy Review Committee

Elizabeth Bartz stated the Committee will be meeting at the end of the quarter to see how 2011 fared for the levy funded agencies. They also will be meeting to talk about planning for the September budget meeting, with a separate meeting planned with CSB to discuss their levy request. These meetings will probably take place in March.

Health and Human Services Committee

Sandy Selby and Bob Pfaff reported for the Health and Human Services Committee. Sandy stated that the level of activity within the various initiative groups is high, but people are not aware. The Committee is looking at putting out a one-page calendar

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showing the various initiatives' meeting schedules. This will keep everyone informed of regular meetings, as well as special events. The three initiative groups are:

- Income, Education, and Workforce Development – meets regularly
- Older Adults – Met in December and decided to meet monthly (meetings are open)
- First Things First for Early Childhood – meets regularly also

Health and Health Disparities Initiative

Donna Skoda and Rich Marountas discussed the Health and Health Disparities Initiative. They have done an update on the indicator report to better indicate where the problems are most severe in housing, jobs, and education levels. Donna stated that what was missing in previous reports was the environmental health piece. It is possible to do this largely because of the merging of the health districts.

Donna and Rich then discussed the Community Health Plan and Community Health Assessment. These reports will be posted on the web for comments. The initiatives are:

- First Things First
- Older Adults
- Income, Education, and Workforce Development
- Economic Stability
- Governmental Efficiency and Effectiveness

There was discussion of the various data-gathering methods and how the information could be more clearly reported. There was also some discussion of additions to the report(s).

Meeting Schedules

Future meeting schedules were reviewed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Alexander
Executive Assistant, Summit County DJFS