

**SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**July 25, 2012
Akron Community Foundation
345 W. Cedar Street
Akron OH 44307**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Roberta Aber; Tom Armstrong; Elizabeth Bartz; Jerry Craig; Pat Divoky; Kathleen Downing; David James; Rick Kavenagh; Connie Krauss; Linda Omobien; Brad Schroeder; Sandy Selby; Karen Talbott; Angela Tucker Cooper; Barbara Vassel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

William Alford; Michael Byun; Robert Kulinski; James Lawrence; Nan McClenaghan; Gene Nixon; Lois Margaret Nora, M.D.; John Saros; Angela Tucker Cooper

GUESTS:

Gary Binns; Ali Capoun; Rose DeBord; P. Jonn; Joanna Kamvouris; Emily Kesler; Zachary Koons; Alexa Livadas; Darlene Mims; Joe Simmons, Donna Skoda; Maria Varow

Chairperson Talbott called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. A moment of silence was observed for Bob Pfaff.

The minutes from the May 2nd meeting were reviewed. Mr. Kavenagh made a motion to approve the May 2nd minutes; Ms. Omobien seconded the motion; all approved by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Forum Planning Committee

Ms. Divoky reported for the Forum Planning Committee. A 'save the date' announcement for the 'Annual Making a Difference' had been produced and was passed around the table. Dr. Douglas from ABIA will be the main speaker for the event. Ms. Divoky, Ms. McClenaghan, and Ms. Jill Skapin were close to firming up the details for tables and sponsorship. The event will be October 26th at the John S. Knight Center and includes breakfast at a cost of \$20.00. The theme for this year's event is, "We Are making a Difference". The 'save the date' announcement was printed for distribution and an electronic version was in distribution via email. Members were asked to forward 'save the date' announcements for the event as they received them.

Executive Committee

Chairperson Talbott reported that the Executive Committee meeting scheduled for July 11th had been cancelled.

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Divoky reported that she and a small group, including Chairperson Talbott, had reviewed the SSAB Code of Regulations to update the document. The revised document had been sent to the Summit County Law Director, Ms. Deb Matz, who approved the revisions. Once the document was received back from Ms. Matz's office, Ms. Divoky will bring it to the SSAB members.

Budget and Levy Review Committee

Ms. Bartz reported that the committee had met on May 8th and July 24th. She said the committee met after the first quarter to receive information on budget estimates. The July meeting provided the opportunity for the levy-funded agencies to relay information to the committee on the process of preparing the 2013 budgets and laid the groundwork for the 2013 budget presentations in September.

She noted that the ADM Board expressed concerns about the future, unknown effects of the Affordable Care Act. Currently, there was not much discussion at the state level on this topic to report or add clarity. Summit County Children Services is sending a renewal of 2.25 mils to the November ballot and are underway in their fundraising efforts. For Summit County Developmental Disabilities, there is some concern with the carryover and where the fund balance will be at the end of this year.

Ms. Bartz also added that the committee discussed attending the board meetings of the levy-funded agencies to observe their budget process discussions and approval.

Ms. Aber asked that the board dates be sent to the Budget & Levy committee members and that a mechanism should be identified to report on meeting attendance.

Health and Human Services Committee

Rev. Selby reported that the committee met on June 27th. She added comments to recognize the former co-chair of the committee, Bob Pfaff.

She proceeded to review the 2nd quarter, 2012 report of the five Summit 2020 initiatives.

- **Early Childhood**- The Summit County Maternal Depression Network has formalized a care path for women identified by the Edinburgh Screening tool as having an immediate need for services. 5 agencies have agreed to accept and respond to fax requests for services in a timely manner.
- **Older Adults** – Ms. Skoda gave an update on the Adult Protective Services (APS) pilot project. Summit County Public Health and SC Dept. of Jobs and Family Services entered into a partnership in May to pilot a new model for APS. A full-time, plain clothes Sheriff's deputy and a part time sanitarian have been added to the pilot. They group is exploring the mental health aspect of the pilot as there are issues with dementia, different stages of Alzheimer's disease, and undiagnosed mental and behavioral disorders. Last week, they did their first grand rounds with the ADM Board. She observed that they often receive calls for people who do not qualify for APS services, but still have numerous social services needs. They are meeting with an outside entity to begin an evaluation of the pilot project.

Ms. Divoky said that they were excited about the progress of the grand rounds. She said that the APS supervisor, Ms. Stacie Lockett, was now reporting to Ms. Mims.

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Omobien observed that the APS pilot was one of the more exciting and “tangible” processes of the initiative work. She was a chair at the grand rounds and wants to get her agency involved.

Ms. Skoda said that APS has been seeing about 30-40 people a month and will take anonymous calls. Most calls revolve around the safety of the person of concern. Once they can get into the home, they are having greater successes approaching the issues with a team of professionals.

Chairperson Talbott commended the work of the model and praised the collaboration.

Ms. Aber asked what the average age of the people they are seeing?

Ms. Skoda said the average age is 71 years old and they are primarily female.

Rev. Selby said that although SILC had developed a strategic plan, most of the conversations centered on abuse issues. She said now was a good time to re-invigorate the group to begin focusing on the rest of the strategic plan which includes the topics of self-sufficiency, education, and advocacy.

Ms. Skoda said that First Things First was initiated by Executive Pry to begin with a Steering Committee that oversaw the work of individual subcommittees that furthered the work of the identified objectives. As the Health & Health Disparities initiative is developed, there is some thought to provide a structure to the committees and the identification of a lead agency to “house” the initiative.

Ms. Capoun discussed the SILC transition model page that was distributed with the agenda. The SILC group will meet as an overarching steering committee with the development of 4 subcommittees that will further the goals of the strategic plan.

- **Income, Education, and Workforce Development** – Rev. Selby reported that Executive Pry asked Ms. McClenaghan and Ms. Maureen VanDuser to identify “soft skills” that employers valued in employees and potential hires. The two have sent out surveys and have talked to numerous groups, including Bridges Out of Poverty, to get feedback and consensus on the topic. The results of this work will be presented to the chamber.
Ms. Krauss said her office is inundated with communications from employers regarding the lack of ‘soft skills’ in the entry level workforce. She noted that it would be beneficial to try and get this training, education, etc. to people before they graduate from high school. She pointed to the ROTC leadership program at Garfield High School which provides teens the skills to transition successfully to the workforce.
- **Health & Health Disparities**
Ms. Skoda said that an event is being planned to begin the initiative work and develop a committee structure.
- **Government Efficiency and Effectiveness**
The Budget & Levy committee met on July 24th.

Ms. Capoun said that they Healthy Summit and SSAB websites are in the process of being updated.

Old Business

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

None

New Business/Announcements

Chairperson Talbott said that new members to the SSAB will be added as Dr. Nora has moved, Ms. Julie Rittenhouse resigned, and Mr. Pfaff recently passed away.

Mr. Armstrong said that he is working with Mr. Craig and Mr. Lawrence to explore alternatives to incarceration for people with developmental disabilities and/ or mental health disorders. He is hoping to have a contract with Oriana House by September for a facility that can house up to 8 males in a safe environment where they can receive the treatment and care they need.

Mr. James said that the Board had voted and that Akron Public Schools will be seeking a levy this November for 7.9 mils. This equates to approximately \$19/month or about \$15/month for a \$74,000 home.

Chairperson Talbott commended the Akron School Board for the progress and cost-cutting measures they have taken. She also commended Summit County Children Services for the cuts they have made as well as the use of out-sourcing to reduce costs. She thanked the State & Federal Communications interns for attending the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:48p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at the Akron Community Foundation.

*Respectfully submitted on September 19th, 2012
By Ali Capoun, Summit County Public Health*