

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2015
Akron Community Foundation

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nan McClenaghan, Julie Barnes, Elaine Harlin, Dottie Achmoody, John Trunk, John Saros, Karen Talbott, Elizabeth Bartz, Ken Douglas, Rick Kavenagh, Kady Downing, Brad Schroeder, Roberta Aber, Sandy Selby, Pete Crossland, Malcolm Costa, Linda Omobien

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Garofalo, Connie Krauss, James Lawrence, Brian Nelson, Donna Skoda, Pat Divoky, Richard Enty, Jerry Craig,

GUESTS: Laura Hoff, Rich Marountas, Bambi Miller, Heather Yannayon, Tom Leffler, Rose Debord,

Karen Talbott called the meeting to order at 11:57am.

The minutes from the July 29, 2015 were accepted as presented. Motion by Elizabeth Bartz, Second by Sandy Selby.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on September 22nd, 2015 to discuss the Board meeting agenda. Karen Talbott reminded everyone about the APS public signing at SCPH on October 27th at 10:30am. The main concern for discussion was reactivating the making a difference form regarding the refugees. Pat Divoky contacted Russ Pry, who is in support of this effort. There will be 1 new board member, Jim Mullen who will need oriented. Attendance records will now be kept of members who are attending board and committee meetings.

Health and Human Services Committee

The Health and Human Services Committee met on September 17th, 2015. The initiative update document was distributed to all present. The focus was drawn to the issue regarding resettlement of refugee's in the community. Elaine spoke about her concern with needs regarding language barriers. The group agreed to have this be an ongoing agenda item added to the list. Sandy and Elaine will contact Margo Erme at SCPH to find out what is already being done so gaps can be identified.

Budget and Levy Review Committee

The Budget and Levy Committee met on September 8, 2015. Elizabeth Bartz informed the group of the following:

- **Summit County ADM Board** – Mr. Craig, Mr. Leffler and Ms. Wade were present. Mr. Craig announced they have a better funding balance for this year with a 5 year forecast. They have served 37,000 residents and have created community partnerships with university's (2 placements for grad students), partnered with 1st Things First and Maternal Depression (43 women have been referred.)

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ADM created the opiate taskforce, which now has close to 200 members. Opiate abuse remains on the increase. Federal and state legislators are becoming common at the meetings. ADM continues to work with those out of jail along with Project Dawn. ADM relocated in 2014 with SCPH.

ADM continues to strengthen within family programming, family support/addiction, family treatment for youth services, recovery services and transportation. They also want to expand transitional housing. ADM is nearing a lot of retirements and plans to have recommendations at end of month.

Medicaid expansion remains a challenge as also a concern that people won't come to behavior health until there's a crisis because of payment. Changes in billing have also occurred, with new software called GOSH replacing the old MACSIS system.

Mr. Leffler reviewed the budget information provided in the packet. Total revenues were down \$214,000, while expenditures were up by \$209,000. The budget was impacted by the state's elimination of the 507 budget line item, the extra (27th) pay period, and a projected 8% increase in health insurance costs. Additional budget impacts include the impending retirements of 4 staff members, investments in computer server technology to run the state's GOSH computer system.

- **Summit County Developmental Disabilities** - Mr. Trunk and Ms. Pozna were present. Mr. Trunk noted that the biggest issue facing the agency is the federal re-alignment of developmental disability services. By 2017, Medicaid funds will no longer support direct service provision by DD boards; such services will now be provided by private and non-profit agencies within the community. Direct services will be phased out during 2016 and 2017. Transportation services also must be phased out by 2024, but will likely happen before then. Currently, the DD board provides about 1,900 clients with transportation services, which will no longer be a directly-billable Medicaid service.

Mr. Trunk also noted that DD supports 740 children in its Early Intervention program; children who are almost entirely paid for with local dollars. One hundred children who were once cared for in DD child care settings are now integrated with outside child care centers.

Mr. Trunk went over the budget information provided in the packet. He noted that DD's three main sources of revenue include Federal funding (17% of total dollars) State funding (16% of total dollars) and property tax revenue (76% of total dollars). Other budgetary impacts include the agency's early retirement program (resulting in a net reduction of 40 people), the impact of a 27th pay period, the state's phase-out of tangible personal property taxes (resulting in a loss to DD of \$533,000 annually), and revised federal budgetary rules that travel time and paperwork are no longer billable expenses (making these items an unfunded mandate). Mr. Trunk also noted that the agency expects to save \$1.5 million in health care expenditures (a 12.4% drop), due to retirements and more wellness programs for staff.

DD's 2016 budget proposes to spend \$2.5 million less than originally forecast, while its projected fund balance at the end of FY 2018 will be approximately \$18 million.

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- **Summit County Children Services** - Ms. Barnes and Mr. Binns were present. Ms. Barnes noted that significant budget impacts include the long-term decline in revenues over the last several years, an increased emphasis on keeping children in their own homes whenever possible (a statewide and local priority), and unanticipated capital expenses such as emergency roof and HVAC repairs for the agency's main building. She also noted that there are about 600 children in custody, which is down relative to previous years, and 320 staff members, which is about 50 fewer than in 2008.

Ms. Barnes also explained that the agency plans to continue to use accumulated carry-over funds and anticipated a tighter budget this year. She also noted that long-term capital needs, such as permanent roof repairs and the needed demolition of two buildings on the agency's main campus will impact the budget. The agency's long-term goal is to reduce the budget deficit and create a more stable budget that won't have to rely on carry-over balances. SCCS is also creating a 5-year capital and information technology plan. She also noted that the agency received a \$250,000 state grant that allowed them to purchase tablet computers for field staff.

Mr. Binns then went over budget information provided in the packet. He noted that property values have risen slightly, and that the agency spent less than originally forecast. He also noted that the budget was impacted by the 27th pay period, a 13% increase in health care costs (due to some large health care claims filed), and \$350,000 in computer network upgrades. Mr. Binns noted that the agency is looking at an ongoing budget deficit of about \$3-4 million per year (to be drawn from carryover funds) through 2019. He projected that the agency's fund balance in 2019 would be approximately \$12 million.

All three agency budgets were recommended for approval by those present. Jim Lawrence abstained from the vote for all three agencies.

New Business/Announcements

PRC Plan- Pat Divoky sent out to everyone for review. No significant changes were made and all approved the motion.

The group talked about the idea of holding a Making A Difference Forum focused on refugees. It was agreed that the group will hold more detailed discussions after the Health and Human Services Committee identifies the barriers and gaps. Nan McClenaghan noted the issue of refugees was an emerging priority, as evidenced by the fact that the focus of this year's Summit for Kids Symposium was on the impact of early childhood programs on refugee families.

Karen Talbott announced that *Project Grad* is recognizing Elizabeth Bartz with an award.

With no further business noted, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted on October 29, 2015 by Laura Hoff, Summit County Public Health