

Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council
August 12, 2009

Minutes

Participants: Barbara Baker, Bradley Bebout, Jack Diamond, George Espy, Mary Gallagher, Joyce Garver Keller, Barbara Kraig, Monica Moran, Prof. Stephanie Moulton, David Spialter, Jennifer Williams and by phone, Elaine Woloshyn. Others present: Erika Lehman, BBB Cincinnati, Attorney General Richard Cordray and AG staff members: Monica Moloney, Pete Thomas, Ted Hart, Leesa Brown, Todd Dieffenderfer, Taylor Randall and Beth Short.

1. Meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves.
2. Attorney General Cordray expressed appreciation to the Council members for their willingness to serve. He expressed interest in learning from Council members their suggestions on training needs that would address the varying levels of sophistication and complexity among charities. He wondered if developing models and best practices on policies might also be helpful. He encouraged the members to think about how the Charitable Law Section could most effectively help people affiliated with charities do things in the proper way.
3. Ms. Short informed members that documents and communications shared about the Advisory Council are treated as public records and that members of the public are often interested and ask about the schedules and minutes. The minutes of the meetings are routinely posted on the internet following the Council's approval at the subsequent meeting and the meetings are treated as open, public meetings. She invited Council members to contact her with any questions or suggestions.
4. Ms. Moloney gave an overview of the work of the Charitable Law Section. She reviewed the common law and statutory provisions that govern the work. She reviewed the requirements for charities to register with the office, discussed professional solicitation requirements, bingo regulation, probate cases, healthcare transactions and other types of activities addressed within the Section. She also outlined several types of litigation handled by the staff and the various approaches to protecting the rights of beneficiaries of trusts.
5. Ms. Baker, who chaired the Council last year, reviewed the activities of the Council during 2008. She noted that the environment for nonprofits has changed and that groups are recognizing the need to look at business issues more closely than ever before. When the Council first convened, there were varying levels of expertise and perspectives among the members. So the Council invited multiple experts to share information with the group. She shared a blank copy of a survey of themes that had been developed. The survey listed a number of themes that

emerged during the discussions during 2008. When the Council members were asked to rank the issues in order of priority, development of additional web resources and hosting a conference ranked highest. Those themes were included in a transition memo that was sent to Attorney General Cordray after his election, Ms. Baker reported.

Attorney General Cordray encouraged the Council to look at the listing of themes previously examined and to pass along to Ms. Short thoughts about priorities for the Council's attention. Ms. Keller pointed out that the origins of the rule creating the Council stemmed from the introduction of rule proposals under a previous Administration and she hoped that Attorney General would use the Advisory Council to review any such proposals that might be developed. He said he would.

6. On motion of Ms. Baker, seconded by Ms. Keller, Mr. Espy was elected chair and Ms. Woloshyn was elected vice chair of the Council.
7. The group decided that the next meeting would be held in conjunction with the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization's annual conference Oct. 13 and 14. The Attorney General's Office is a co-sponsor in response to the Council's feedback last year. Members were instructed to inform Ms. Short which date would be most convenient and to determine topics or themes for discussion.
8. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Short