

Charitable Advisory Council
Nov. 12, 2008
Minutes

Participants: Chairperson Barbara Baker; Vice Chair John Matesich, Jennifer Campbell Williams, George Espy, Mary Gallagher, Barbara Kraig, Elaine Woloshyn, Attorney General Nancy Rogers, Jeanne Johns, Monica Moloney, Marilyn Bergman, Erika Lehman, Jessica Hart, and Beth Short.

1. Meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves.
2. **Minutes.** On motion of Mr. Matesich, seconded by Mr. Espy, minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. **Update from the Attorney General.** Attorney General Rogers thanked the Council members for their efforts. She reported that the Attorney General's office is in a transitional period awaiting the Attorney General-elect, Mr. Cordray, to be sworn into office. She explained under the rule creating the Council, the new Attorney General may elect to appoint all new members of the Council and she did not know what Mr. Cordray will choose to do. She said she views the Advisory Council as a useful group that can help the office serve a positive role in strengthening the nonprofit sector. She suggested the group's discussion during the meeting should include recommendations that would be passed along to Mr. Cordray in order to help in the transition process.
4. **Survey Discussion.** Following the August Council meeting, members received a survey, which included 22 concepts discussed at various meetings during the year. Members had been asked to rate the different concepts based on whether the concept should be a high or low priority for future efforts of the Council, or whether the concepts should be abandoned. The survey results distributed identified the areas of strong agreement among members, and issues that could be noted for the incoming Attorney General, Ms. Baker said.

Council members engaged in a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion about concepts dealing with training, capacity building, standards development, consumer protection and other approaches that could strengthen the nonprofit community.

Ms. Gallagher noted the survey results suggested a consensus view that the Attorney General's office should sponsor a conference. After additional discussion, it was suggested that the Attorney General's office should consider co-sponsoring a day or half-day conference preceding the annual Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations conference next fall that would bring together capacity building organizations to discuss their observations of statewide nonprofit issues and to participate in training specific to their mission and activities. It was also suggested that the Attorney General should invite other

governmental representatives who regularly interact with the sector to participate, as well.

Ms. Williams, the OANO director, said she had already been engaged in discussions about involving the Attorney General's office in the fall conference and she expressed willingness and enthusiasm toward working on this approach in partnership with the Attorney General.

Other needs within the nonprofit sector were discussed and there was a consensus that the Attorney General should continue to develop its web site to provide resources and directions for individuals trying to address sound administration and governance approaches in nonprofit settings. The group also expressed a desire to ensure that the office refrain from re-inventing the wheel since there are already many organizations that provide sound resources.

Mr. Espy expressed concerns about a national move to increase regulation during the recent economic turbulence. He said he fears that nonprofits will get caught up in a rush to regulate and many organizations may find it difficult to continue operations. He noted that the recent IRS changes will be a challenge to nonprofits, particularly smaller ones. He said a problem often results when regulatory efforts fail to differentiate between large and small organizations. He said the loss of nonprofit organizations could adversely impact the quality of life in Ohio communities.

5. Next steps. It was determined that Ms. Short would work with Ms. Baker in drafting a memo that can be sent to the Attorney General-elect outlining the Council's recommendations. It was agreed that there would be no more meetings of the group as currently constituted.

Ms. Baker thanked the members for their participation and also thanked Ms. Moloney and Ms. Short for their assistance.

Ms. Moloney noted that since it is uncertain whether the members will meet together again, she wanted to express her personal appreciation for their time and effort in working through the various topics that had been discussed in the past year. She said the discussions were helpful and the office has benefitted from their public service.

6. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Short

Please note: These minutes were approved by consensus of the current members following circulation by email.