

News Article
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Looking at the Future

SDC Holds Annual Meeting

The future will hold many challenges and opportunities... that was the message at the Annual Meeting of the Social Development Commission (SDC).

The anti-poverty agency held its yearly meeting at ManpowerGroup Headquarters. Pamela Brown of Manpower noted in her welcome that SDC and her firm have partnered during the last year on a number of projects including the Black Knowledge Bowl, providing volunteer readers at Head Start sites and participating in a Celebrity Chef dinner. The meeting attracted many community residents and leaders who included County Executive Chris Abele.

SDC CEO Deborah Blanks recognized a pair of special guests to the meeting, former Board representatives and community activists Frank Gonzales and Rosemary Holley.

During the meeting, Ms. Blanks presented her annual State of the Agency



County Exec Chris Abele talks with Jake Gorges about Education and Training programs at Annual Meeting.



Kay Vang explains Energy Assistance to guests at Annual Meeting.

and stated SDC needs to commit to work more efficiently to continue to achieve solid outcomes and real impacts on the low-income community in the challenging days that lie ahead.

Dr. Howard Garber of the Milwaukee Center for Independence gave the keynote

address for the meeting. He presented a sobering look at the state of children in the Milwaukee area that included statistics like two-thirds of City of Milwaukee children up to the age of six living in poverty. He maintained that early identification of problem children and a focused gathering of resources are needed to address the worsening situation for area children. He argued that the community cannot afford to fail dealing with the problem and that it will be far more expensive to all if we do not act soon.

During the Annual Meeting, the agency's Board of Commissioners elected new officers for the coming year. Roy Williams was elected Board Chair, Kristin McHenry Vice Chair, Michelle Nate Treasurer, Annie Wacker



New SDC Board Chair Roy Williams address Annual Meeting guests.

Secretary, and Bruce Bultman Member at Large. A report by External Auditor Baker Tilley was also presented to the Board that

applauded the agency's controls and management practices. An art exhibit was also presented that showed off the efforts of young people taking part in an Art Therapy Program at SDC through the efforts of volunteer art therapist Rosemary Pearson.



Art Therapist Rosemary Pearson explains art projects created by SDC youth at Annual Meeting.

The Social Development Commission offers more than 20 programs designed to

provide the tools that low-income families need to work their way out of poverty. For more information on SDC, its programs and activities, go to the agency website at www.cr-sdc.org or call 414-906-2700.

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