

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 23, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Anna Arvay – Chair, Anne Connell-Freund – Vice Chair, GinaKaye Maddox – Secretary, Omar Banks, Nancy Holland, Montrella Jackson, Beth Kuckuck, Keith Malick, Katie Stoyhoff

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Luther Cooper, Diane Miller-Dawson

Staff Present: Julie Barnes, Amy Davidson, Darin Kearns, Valarie Nash, Katerina Papas, Leann Benitez, Dawn Boudrie, Traci Foley, Robert King, Liz Mangon, Sushila Moore, Ann Ream, Rachel Stevenson, Michelle Tersigni, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Others Present: Robin Schenault

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Arvay called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and requested a moment of silence for the victims of the Manchester, England terrorist attack.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2017. Ms. Holland moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Malick. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Lavery submitted a written request to speak to the board regarding agency policies and procedures, but was not present at the meeting.

Committee Reports

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Ms. Kuckuck, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met last week and received a comprehensive overview of the foster care and adoption process from the Placement and Permanency Planning staff. The committee recapped the Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast held on April 28 which concluded the 30th Annual Child and Family Awareness Month observance. The event was well-attended and successful. The committee also acknowledged agency staff who are taking Intake assignments in addition to their regular duties to assist Intake staff due to the number of Intake vacancies and the higher call volume.

Resources Committee

Ms. Connell-Freund, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today, approved the minutes of April 25, 2017, and heard a financial statement report from Mr. Kearns. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the financial statement report to the full Board.

Resolution 05-2017-23/C

Authorization to approve a new policy and procedure entitled 'Leave of Absence without Pay' for all agency staff which outlines the course of action in approving a leave of absence without pay where the employee has exhausted all benefit time. The prior version of this policy and procedure entitled 'Unpaid Leave of Absence' will be deleted. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 05-2017-23/D

Authorization to execute an agreement with the Summit County Sheriff's Office to provide telephone answering services beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, with the option to extend the agreement for up to two additional one-year terms in a total contract amount not to exceed \$26,500 annually. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Other Business

Intake caseloads have increased as a result of multiple vacancies. Caseworkers from other departments are taking Intake assignments in addition to their regular duties. The SCCS Board of Trustees thanked staff for working together to ensure the children of Summit County are safe.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Barnes reported the following:

- Custody numbers have not changed much since last month. We expect a decrease in the number of children in custody due to the many anticipated emancipations over the next several months.
- A plan was developed to align coverage in the Hotline to meet call volume needs. This includes increasing the number of contracted hours of coverage from the Summit County Sheriff's Office during low call volume times. Hotline screeners will also be cross-trained to assist with casework tasks as needed.
- The Intake Overflow Plan to assign Intakes to caseworkers in other departments, will continue over the next five weeks. Ms. Barnes thanked the Board for acknowledging staff who are taking Intake assignments in addition to their regular duties. Staff realize that this is an agency issue and are rallying to support the Intake Department.
- Protective caseloads are still at an average of 9 to 10 families per worker.
- The number of children in permanent custody (PC) has risen to 175. Our 2015 monthly average was 110 children. We have almost doubled the amount of children coming into PC monthly. Many of the children have permanency plans and staff will work to identify plans for the children who do not.
- The agency has begun to apply for a one-year, no-cost extension of the STARS grant to utilize unused funds from the previous years. There is also the potential to apply for an additional grant.
- Congressman Renacci's legislative assistant visited the agency on April 12 and met with our Executive Team members and directors from surrounding agencies to discuss the impact of the opioid epidemic on the child protection system, as well as to hear about the STARS grant program and other initiatives to address substance abuse issues.
- The Dually Involved Youth Initiative, formerly known as the Crossover Youth Program, serves youth who are simultaneously involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Staff from the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice provided two days of technical assistance on April 26 and 27 to SCCS, Summit County Juvenile Court, mental health, and the legal community to improve outcomes for that population.
- The agency is excited to welcome 23 new hires on May 30.
- The server room rebuild project has resumed and security cameras and access gates attached to the Astrup and Buchtel buildings have been rerouted in preparation of the demolition of those structures.
- Nealya Carter, Client Rights Officer and Director of Quality Improvement, will retire at the end of May and Liz Mangon was introduced as her replacement. Ms. Mangon began her career at the agency in 1996 as a caseworker. After achieving her law degree, she moved into the Legal Department until last year when she was promoted to Supervisor of the Records Department. Ms. Mangon will oversee audits and serve as the agency's primary liaison with state and federal teams among other duties.

- The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) has concluded. The state anticipates having a preliminary report by October that will require a corrective action plan for Ohio.
- The Biennium Budget went through the House and includes an additional \$15 million for public children service agencies (PCSAs) and \$10 million per year in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block grant to support the Kinship Caregiver Child Care program. Another important provision in the Budget will give the authority to a PCSA to conduct SACWIS background checks for prospective employees and volunteers prior to hiring. Ms. Barnes thanked Katerina Papas and her staff for taking the lead in the state to advocate for this.
- Several positive articles were published in area newspapers recently and included announcements of our two new board members; our Social Worker of the Year award; the agency's Community Appreciation Breakfast, which included a public service award to State Representative Emilia Sykes; and articles regarding the agency's services to children who are victims of the opioid epidemic and editorials supporting additional state funding for PCSAs to combat the opioid epidemic.
- The 2016 Annual Report is included in the board packet and was distributed at the Community Appreciation Breakfast. The report highlights the challenge of protecting children during the opioid epidemic and provides to the community important data about the services we offer and our response to the epidemic.

Adjournment

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Holland moved; seconded by Mr. Banks. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director