

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AUGUST 22, 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; Diane Miller-Dawson; Katie Stoyhoff

**Board Members Absent:** Pastor Luther Cooper

**Staff Present:** Julie Barnes, Amy Davidson, Darin Kearns, Valarie Nash, Katerina Papas, Leann Benitez, Robert King, Tracy Mayfield, Sushila Moore, Mary Serapiglia, Michelle Tersigni, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

**Others Present:** Tom Lavery, Robin Schenault

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Arvay called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lavery addressed the Board regarding agency policies and procedures.

**Committee Reports**

**Rules Committee**

Mr. Malick, Committee Chair, reported that the Rules Committee met on July 25 and reviewed the current Board of Trustees Code of Regulations with the assistance of Ms. Barnes and Ms. Papas. Most of the recommended changes included grammatical or clarity changes, however, one significant change was the formation of an Executive Committee. This committee, which consists of the Officers of the Board, will be responsible for conducting an annual performance review and negotiating the contract and salary of the SCCS Executive Director. The committee will also approve Resolutions placed on the Board's monthly meeting agenda when there is a lack of quorum at that meeting and the Resolution(s) needs to be approved on that date due to an emergency or time limitations. The Board received a draft copy of the revised Code of Regulations in their packet and were encouraged to review the changes and to send comments or questions to Mr. Malick or Ms. Barnes prior to the vote which will take place at the September 26 Board meeting.

**Resources Committee**

Ms. Connell-Freund, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today, approved the minutes of July 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 08-2017-22/C**

Authorization to approve the 2018 Operating Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$52,133,399 and authorization to submit the Budget to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) and Summit County Council for their approval. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Miller-Dawson. The motion carried. Resolution approved. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, Ms. Connell-Freund thanked the agency staff for their hard work preparing the budget.

### **Resolution 08-2017-22/D**

Authorization to approve the purchase of one 2017 Transit Connect XLT 6 Passenger Wagon at a state-term contract cost not to exceed \$27,038.17. The Board approved the purchase of one 2017 Transit Connect XLT 6 Passenger Wagon and one 2017 Transit-150 XL Low Roof 8 Passenger Wagon at last month's board meeting (Resolution 07-2017-25D), however, the vendor was unable to locate an 8 passenger van. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Maddox. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

### **Resolution 08-2017-22/E**

Authorization to secure Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, including Employment Practices Liability coverage, through the carrier National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA (National Union) for a one-year policy period of September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018, in an amount not to exceed \$32,512. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

### **Resolution 08-2017-22/F**

Authorization to enter into amended agreements with multiple recovery coach providers to redistribute available 2016-2017 STARS grant funds not to exceed \$100,000 annually as allocated through such amended agreements due to the inconsistent supply of recovery coaches by the respective providers. Authorization also to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure recovery coach services beyond September 30, 2017, and to enter into multiple agreements (some individual agreements may exceed \$25,000) with recovery coach providers for the provision of recovery coach services for STARS clients, for a one-year term to commence in 2017 and expire in 2018, with the option to extend for four additional one-year terms thereafter, in a cumulative amount not to exceed \$100,000. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Banks. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Arvay announced that the Summit for Kids breakfast was held on August 18 and Julie Barnes spoke on the opioid epidemic impact to children and did an absolutely wonderful job and thanked her for representing the agency so well. Ms. Barnes appreciated the opportunity to educate the community on how children, as well as the child welfare system, are being impacted by the epidemic. A twelve-year-old received the Summit for Kids Russ Pry Youth Award at the event for his work supporting children and families with diabetes.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Barnes reported the following:

- Custody numbers remained similar to the prior month.
- The number of children in residential placements has decreased by two.
- A total of 51 Intake staff currently have Intake case assignments.

- The Protective Department is currently servicing 497 open cases with the average caseload size of nine cases, per worker.
- The agency submitted a proposal for a new STARS grant as well as the one-year, no-cost extension to continue services that began as part of the current STARS grant.
- Longtime agency employee Joe Morrison passed away unexpectedly. Peer Mentor Supports and an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counselor were made available to staff. The agency will have a brief ceremony on August 24 to unveil a memorial bench in his honor.
- Per the Record Retention schedule, the agency continues to make progress purging paper documents and storing documents electronically.
- All requests for information and confidential records are processed and tracked through the Records Management Department which is supervised by Liz Mangon. A total of 327 requests were processed the first half of this year. Those requests included summaries of SCCS history of involvement, general information requests, subpoenas/court orders, post-adoption inquiries, and former ward summaries. They are received from a variety of sources, including local community providers, courts, relatives/parents, and other child protective service agencies.
- The agency's largest new hire class of 23 started on May 30. The staggered transitions for these new staff were part of the newly revised orientation/training plan developed jointly by the Professional Development and Training and Social Services staff. This larger class size has provided many opportunities for learning among the new staff providing for a team approach to their learning.
- The Diversity Committee is focusing this month on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) families and youth. LGBT youth are over represented in the foster care system and are at a higher risk of abuse and neglect. The agency held a lunch-and-learn event which included a LGBT family who shared their experiences working with SCCS.
- The agency's Reward and Recognition (R & R) Committee partnered with the agency's Health and Wellness Committee and participated in the County's Corporate Challenge events and secured the Cup's Spirit Award for 2017!
- The R & R Committee is planning an Employee Appreciation Picnic which will include storyboards highlighting department achievements over the past year.
- The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement project at the Education Center is nearing completion.
- Sidewalk replacement concrete work is scheduled to begin in September.
- The agency is working on a grant application for the Summit County Land Bank to defray the costs of the demolition of the Astrup and Buchtel buildings.
- The retention pond at the front of the property is going to be cleaned out and seeded so it can be mowed on the same schedule as all other areas around the building.
- A New York documentary producer is working on a film about the opioid epidemic in Akron. He visited the agency and interviewed staff. We hope that this film will offer positive exposure of our services to our community and nationally.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit for Kids events were held on August 18 and 19. The breakfast included a speech from Ms. Barnes on the impact that the opioid epidemic has had on children and families served by the agency and a presentation of the Russ Pry Youth Award. Ms. Barnes was also a member of the panel presentation at the symposium talking about the STARS program.
- The agency's annual School Supplies program was a success. Backpacks were packed by community volunteers and distributed to caseworkers for their families.

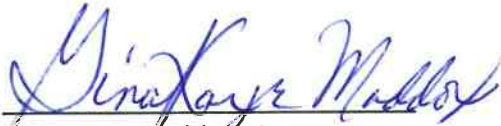
- Ms. Barnes and Mr. Kearns will hold one hour voluntary All Staff Budget Discussions to educate the staff about the agency's budget, operating forecast and upcoming levy. Approximately 140 staff members are registered to attend.
- Intake staff are planning to assist our community partner, the Battered Women's Shelter, by providing a meal for the shelter's 50+ residents while the shelter's new kitchen is under construction. Ms. Arvay led a round of applause for their efforts.

**Congratulations**

Diane Miller-Dawson received a round of applause for being one of four women chosen for the Akron Urban League's inaugural class of Academy of Leaders. The women were honored for their exceptional leadership in the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math (STEAM). The Gala and Academy of Leaders Induction featured musical entertainment by The Temptations.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Holland moved; seconded by Ms. Miller-Dawson. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary  
Board of Trustees



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Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW  
Executive Director