

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Anna M. Arvay – Chair, Anne M. Connell-Freund – Vice Chair, GinaKaye Maddox – Secretary, Omar S. Banks, Diane L. Miller-Dawson, Nancy L. Holland, Beth Kuckuck, Keith G. Malick, Katie Stoyhoff

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Luther C. Cooper, Joseph R. Morris

Staff Present: Julie Barnes, Darin Kearns, Valarie Nash, Katerina Papas, Robert King, Sushila Moore, Ann Ream, Michelle Tersigni, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Others Present: Tom Lavery

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Arvay called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2016. Ms. Maddox moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Malick. The motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Women's Auxiliary Board

Ms. Thames, Women's Auxiliary Board (WAB) President, 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 Intake process from agency staff. The committee also started to plan the 8th Annual Child and Family Awareness Month Community Appreciation Breakfast scheduled for Friday, April 28. This year's theme is 'A Family is the Sunshine in my Day'.

Ms. Kuckuck introduced **Resolution 01-2017-24/G** requesting authorization to reappoint the following individuals to the Citizen's Advisory Committee of SCCS for a three-year term, beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019: Mary Bishop of Akron Summit Community Action Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start, Tonya Block of Summit County Public Health, Lt. Rick Edwards of the Akron Police Department, and Michelle Mizda of Akron Children's Hospital. Ms. Kuckuck made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Planning and Programs Committee

Ms. Holland, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of November 22, 2016. Ms. Barnes gave a comprehensive year-end report of the 2016 agency goals and presented the 2017 agency goals. All goals are linked to the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

Resources Committee

Ms. Connell-Freund, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today, approved the minutes of November 22, 2016, and heard a financial statement report from Mr. Kearns. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided to the full Board a summary of the financial statement report.

Resolution 01-2017-24/C

Resolution was tabled.

Resolution 01-2017-24/D

Authorization to issue Requests for Proposal or Invitations to Bid for the cost of services and items over \$25,000 anticipated to be purchased in 2017. All items are listed on Exhibit A and are in accordance with the 2017 Operating Budget and the SCCS Procurement Plan. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve as amended (Snow Plowing and Snow Removal were removed from Exhibit A); seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 01-2017-24/E

Authorization to enter into an agreement with The Bair Foundation for the provision of intensive in-home services to families served by SCCS, for a one-year term of March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, with an option to extend for two additional one-year terms thereafter, in an amount not to exceed \$27,500 annually. Authorization also to allow the SCCS Executive Director to execute any subsequent extensions or amendments to this intensive in-home services agreement with The Bair Foundation. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Maddox. Ms. Kuckuck abstained. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 01-2017-24/F

Authorization to enter into an agreement with Family and Community Services, Inc. for the provision of in-home family stability services to families served by SCCS, for a one-year term of March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, with the option to extend for two additional one-year terms thereafter, in an amount not to exceed \$31,050 annually. Authorization also to allow the SCCS Executive Director to execute any subsequent extensions or amendments to this in-home family stability services agreement with Family and Community Services, Inc. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. Ms. Kuckuck abstained. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Other Business

Ms. Arvay welcomed Diane Miller-Dawson to her first board meeting. Ms. Miller-Dawson is the Finance Director for the City of Akron, and was appointed to a four-year term on the SCCS Board of Trustees by Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

Executive Director's Report

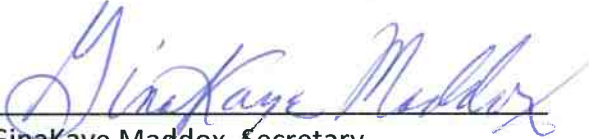
Ms. Barnes reported the following:

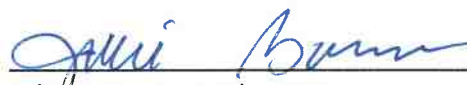
- Custody numbers have declined slightly. Currently, we have approximately 675 children in agency custody, down from a high of 705 in April 2016. The number of children in residential placements remains at 51.
- There have been several staffing changes in Social Services. Some of these changes include the promotion of two caseworkers to supervisory positions, four Intake caseworkers starting at the agency on January 9, and the posting of an additional six caseworker positions in Intake.

- Mixed caseloads in Intake, Alternative Response (AR) and Traditional Response (TR) methods, was implemented on January 17. This change in practice should provide for more balanced caseloads and an increased number of cases being assigned to the AR model.
- Hotline staff and evening shift staff have been cross-trained to provide coverage for one another. The schedule for the Hotline screeners is now 3 to 11 p.m. The Sheriff's Department has begun answering calls at 10 p.m. which will allow screeners time to complete their work before their shift ends.
- Protective caseloads are at an average of 10 families per worker. There are currently 578 open cases in Protective Services.
- The Protective Department Directors completed case reviews on all cases involving children on first and second six-month extensions. This did not result in significant changes; however, there were a few cases where Legal Custody to a father or relative occurred, as well as Permanent Custody filings approved, and at least one reunification.
- The Statewide System Reform Plan (SSRP) is working with SCCS, The County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM), and Summit County Juvenile Court which will allow for alcohol, and other drug (AOD) screenings for all families at the time of Intake. The first training for the project occurred in November and the team went to Columbus in December to share what they learned and give some guidance to the state.
- We are in the implementation phase of the Visitation Coaching pilot and have had only one agency custody filing in our target zip codes which has led to a slow start for our pilot.
- A new hire class began in January which includes four new caseworkers. A calendar for new hire classes has been established for 2017 to accommodate graduates throughout the year.
- Annual performance evaluations for all non-probationary employees are due March 3. The goal is 100% compliance to ensure that all staff receive feedback from their supervisors.
- SCCS is currently hosting eight social work students who are completing their field placement this spring semester. Three of these are internal staff who are completing their Master's degree.
- SCCS was selected to participate in the Round 3 Child and Family Services Federal Review. All of the cases selected for the Review will be prepared by the Quality Improvement (QI) staff. The Federal Review is scheduled from April 3 to April 28 with an Entrance Conference scheduled for March 29.
- The phone replacement project is scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter of 2017.
- The replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the Education Center, which was placed on hold last year, is awaiting County approval.
- A story about the opiate epidemic and how it is taking a toll on the agency was published on Cleveland.com on January 10 and included interviews with both Ms. Barnes and Ms. Davidson.
- Ms. Barnes was also interviewed recently by a reporter from the Associated Press for an upcoming story on how the opiate crisis is affecting children services agencies across the State of Ohio.

Adjournment

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Maddox moved; seconded by Mr. Banks. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.


 GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
 Board of Trustees


 Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
 Executive Director