

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 27, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Anna Arvey – 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, Jaya Adkins, Dawn Boudrie, Traci Foley, Robert King, Beth Kinney, Sushila Moore, Ann Ream, Mary Serapiglia, Michelle Tersigni, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Others Present: Tom Lavery, Robin Schenault

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Arvey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Arvey requested a motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2017. Ms. Holland moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Maddox. The motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Committee Reports

Resources Committee

Ms. Connell-Freund, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today, approved the minutes of May 23, 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 06-2017-27/C

Authorization to enter into a contract with Perrin Asphalt Co., Inc. to replace portions of sidewalks and curbs on the campus that are damaged, in an amount not to exceed \$48,990. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Kuckuck. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 06-2017-27/D

Authorization to enter into a sub-grant agreement with the State of Ohio to accept grant funds in an amount which may be less than, but shall not exceed \$583,278. The grant will fund activities organized and provided by the Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center (NEORTC) for the training and certification of foster caregivers during the term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 06-2017-27/E

Authorization to execute an agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to accept grant funds in an amount which may be less than, but shall not exceed \$781,920. The grant will fund activities organized and provided by the NEORTC for statewide training of county child protection staff during the term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 06-2017-27/F

Authorization to enter into an agreement with the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption through the Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) program to accept a one-year grant awarded to SCCS in the total amount of \$280,000. Authorization also to extend the agreement with Caring for Kids, Inc. through June 30, 2018, to coordinate delivery of services between SCCS and the contracted private child placement adoption services agencies to provide child-focused recruitment services with the goal of finding permanent, adoptive homes for children in the permanent custody (PC) or planned permanent living arrangement (PPLA) of the agency. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Maddox. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 06-2017-27/G

Authorization to submit a regional partnership grant application to the Administration on Children and Families seeking funding to continue the Summit County Collaborative, Alcohol and Other Drug and Resiliency-building Services for Children and Families (STARS) program for an additional five years and authorization for SCCS Administration to expend funds payable to the STARS program to match such grant funds in a total amount that may be less than, but shall not exceed \$711,764.70. The goal of the STARS program is to increase the well-being and safety of foster children, as well as at-risk-youth, by identifying and referring families for services to address parental substance abuse. Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Miller-Dawson. Ms. Kuckuck abstained. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Resolution 06-2017-27/H

Authorization to approve the following revised agency policies and procedures:

- Executive Director Coverage – SCCS will ensure continuous coverage exists related to the agency's Executive Director's duties, authority, and responsibilities.
- Leave Donation - NBU & MGMT – To allow agency employees classified as non-bargaining unit (NBU) or management (MGMT) to voluntarily provide assistance/donated leave to their coworkers who are in critical need of leave due to an extraordinary or severe illness or injury.

Ms. Connell-Freund made a motion to approve the Executive Director Coverage policy and procedure as written and the Leave Donation – NBU & MGMT policy and procedure as amended (delete the paragraph which includes examples of extraordinary or severe conditions); seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. The motion carried. Resolution approved.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Barnes reported the following:

- Custody numbers have decreased as a result of emancipations, as well as youth moving to the adult developmental disabilities (DD) system. The number of children in custody has declined compared to last year; however, this has not affected the budget due to children placed in higher levels of care.
- Our new hire class of 17 caseworkers began on May 30. A total of 16 caseworkers will be assigned to Intake and one caseworker to Protective.
- The Intake Overflow Plan concluded last week. A total of 90 traditional intakes were assigned to staff in the Protective and Placement and Permanency Planning (PPP) Departments. This allowed for a majority of Intake staff to bring their caseloads to a manageable level before the anticipated busy season in the fall.
- We will implement a new job description for all Hotline screeners that will allow the Administration to utilize the screeners in the field, on an as-needed basis. The agency will also decrease the number of weekend screeners by one. The Red Team schedule has been adjusted to meet once daily instead of twice daily. This will be a better utilization of staff time, while still meeting the needs of group screening decisions.


- There are currently 10 active cases in the Visit Coaching Pilot program. Two of those cases have visits taking place in a relative home, but the coaches are still using the coaching strategies with the families. A total of 538 visits occurred at the Family Interaction Center (FIC) last month, with an average length of two hours per visit.
- During the month of May, the agency STARS team submitted a semi-annual report to the Federal government. In addition, they have been preparing an extension for the unused STARS grant funds and preparing to apply for a new five-year grant.
- During the month of May, the Statewide System Reform Plan (SSRP) initiative continued to work on training all staff on the administration of a screening tool for substance abuse called UNCOPE. This tool will help staff identify families who are experiencing substance abuse issues early on in the case. Currently, 60% to 70% of the families SCCS serves have substance abuse issues.
- A Social Service In-Service Day is planned for July 18. Social Service staff can attend a variety of one-hour workshops, including a presentation on Grey Death, and enjoy a light breakfast and a cookout style lunch with their coworkers.
- A representative from the Ohio Ethics Commission will train supervisory and management staff on Ohio Ethics Law on July 10. This training will be mandatory for supervisory staff.
- The agency is in the process of assessing the fleet vehicles and will plan for the purchase of one new vehicle and possibly two.
- The Legal staff presented a Lunch and Learn in May to support Social Service staff which included mock testimony and cross-examination, along with helpful tips to assist caseworkers in their preparation and testimony in Court.
- The Host Family Legislation is being proposed as an alternative to foster care; a way to keep children out of the child welfare system. The legislation will allow faith-based non-profits to create "host families" where a parent can sign a host family affidavit placing a child in the care and control of a host family – similar to a private foster care system. The Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), Juvenile Judges, and the Judicial Conference oppose this legislation because of concerns of the lack of oversight.
- Recent cases of area child overdoses have resulted in news coverage educating the public on how children are the innocent victims of the opioid epidemic. The Summit Forum, a group of Chief Executive Officers of agencies within Summit County that provide services, care and protection to children and their families, plan to work with the Summit County Opiate Task Force to educate families on how to protect their children from these tragedies.
- The Women's Auxiliary Board (WAB) will celebrate their 70th Anniversary in 2018. The WAB attended and provided the food for the Father Factor graduation on May 17.
- The 2018-2019 State budget is currently in the Conference Committee and the agency is hopeful that the \$15 million per year for the State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) for county children services agencies and the \$10 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds for child care expenses for kinship families will remain in the budget.

Adjournment

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Stoyhoff moved; seconded by Mr. Banks. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director