

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 28, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Anna Arvay – Chair, GinaKaye Maddox – Secretary, Beth Kuckuck, Keith Malick, Katie Stoyhoff

Board Members Absent: Anne Connell-Freund – Vice Chair, Omar Banks, Rev. Dr. Luther Cooper, Diane Miller-Dawson, Nancy Holland, Joseph Morris

Staff Present: Julie Barnes, Amy Davidson, Darin Kearns, Valarie Nash, Katerina Papas, Darlene Baad, Leann Benitez, Dawn Boudrie, Robert King, Audrey Kohrs, Sushila Moore, Michelle Tersigni, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Others Present: Tom Lavery

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was no vote on the minutes of the February 28, 2017 Board meeting.

Public Comment

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

Committee Reports

Citizen's Advisory Committee

There was no report.

Planning and Programs

Ms. Maddox, Committee Vice-Chair, reported that the committee met today and received a memo which provided a mid-plan review of the 2015-2019 Summit County Children Services Strategic Plan. Mrs. Nash highlighted some of the progress made thus far which included tablets for all caseworkers to use in the field; the construction of a new agency Information Technology (IT) lab; the formation of an agency Diversity Recruitment Committee; increased document imaging which has resulted in the destruction of hundreds of boxes of documents; several partnerships with the faith-based community for the recruitment of foster and adoptive homes; a revised Procurement Plan; an updated Compensation Plan for non-bargaining unit and management employees; and expansion of STARS services among others. However, when the Strategic Plan was created in October 2014, the carry forward balance at the end of the 2019 Levy cycle was projected to be just under \$12.5 million. As of December 31, 2016, the projection is just over \$1 million. One of the biggest factors for this is the increase in placement costs and higher custody numbers due to the increase in cases involving substance abuse, particularly with opioids.

Mrs. Nash also announced that she will lead a new agency Diversity Committee which will include all aspects of the agency's diversity initiatives such as Study Circles, Diversity in the Media, Disproportionality, and Diversity Recruitment. The committee is charged to engage in initiatives that move practice and will concentrate on the following five initiatives of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW): 1) Immigration; 2) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT); 3) Woman's issues; 4) Poverty; and 5) Ethnicity and Race.

Resources Committee

The Resources Committee 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.

Due to the lack of a quorum, Resolutions 03-2017-28/C, D, E were tabled until the next meeting.

Executive Director's Report


Ms. Barnes reported the following:

- Custody numbers have slowly declined. This week, there are fewer children in custody than one-year ago; although, some children are in higher levels of care.
- There are multiple vacancies in the agency, particularly in the Intake area. There is an immediate plan to assign intakes to other case-carrying staff, and the agency is looking at alternatives to hiring staff.
- The two external candidates that were hired for Intake supervisor positions have started. Both candidates come to the agency with a wealth of child welfare and managerial experience.
- Dawn Boudrie was introduced as the agency's new Assistant Intake Director reporting to Intake Director Sushila Moore. She has a great knowledge of the functions of the Intake Department and will help better manage the work of this critical and large department.
- Caseloads in the Protective Department are averaging 9 to 10 families, per worker.
- Caseloads in the Placement and Permanency Planning Department have increased to 18 to 21 children, per worker. This is due to the substantial increase of children entering permanent custody.
- The Federal Round 3 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Audit starts March 29 with an Entrance Conference. A team of reviewers will be at the agency April 3 through April 28 and will review 34 cases; the largest number of cases pulled in the state.
- Representatives from Children and Family Futures (CFF), the agency providing technical assistance to regional partnership grant sites, conducted a two-day site visit recently. The purpose was to explore areas working well within STARS, in conjunction with the Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC), and areas in need of improvement. The agency is in the process of applying for an extension to the current grant to use any unused dollars in a sixth year, and is also looking at the potential of applying for an additional grant to expand the population of clients served.
- The agency has invited state legislators to come to the agency for individual meetings in an effort to raise awareness about the opioid epidemic, its impact on the child protection system, and the need for state funding. At this time, we have met with three legislators.
- April is Child and Family Awareness Month. Many activities are planned including the Annual Community Appreciation Breakfast scheduled for Friday, April 28 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at St. George Family Center. Invitations to the Board will be mailed in the near future.
- The agency is pleased to announce that a new collaboration has formed with Elevate Akron and Akron Racers to help raise awareness about the challenges the agency faces with the opioid epidemic, fundraising, or to offer positive life experiences for children in foster care.
- The agency received donations of over 2,000 Easter baskets for all children served by the agency.
- The Board received newspaper articles of two separate reports regarding children, ages 2 and 6, who accidentally ingested and overdosed on drugs left around their homes.

Adjournment

Ms. Arvay requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Maddox moved; seconded by Ms. Kuckuck. 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