

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 26, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Executive Team</u>
✓ Anne Connell-Freund, Chair	✓ Nancy Holland	✓ Julie Barnes
✓ Keith Malick, Vice-Chair	✓ Montrella Jackson	_____ Amy Davidson
✓ GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary	_____ Beth Kuckuck	✓ Darin Kearns
✓ Anna Arvay	✓ Andrew Schuellerman	✓ Valarie Nash
✓ Omar Banks	✓ Katie Stoyhoff	✓ Katerina Papas
✓ Wendy Bolas		

**Staff Present:** Jon Hart, Bob King, Tracy Mayfield, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Connell-Freund called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 4:16 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Ms. Connell-Freund welcomed Andrew Schuellerman to the Summit County Children Services (SCCS) Board of Trustees as a new member. Mr. Schuellerman introduced himself and gave a brief biography. He will serve a four-year term through December 2024.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020. Ms. Arvay moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Holland. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lavery submitted a request to speak but was not present at the meeting.

**Committee Reports**

**Citizens Advisory Committee**

On behalf of Committee Chair, Beth Kuckuck, Ms. Barnes reported that the Committee met virtually on January 20, 2021, and received an Agency update and information on the Agency’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives. Additionally, the Committee was presented with information on the protocol changes with family interaction and visitation in an effort to move to the least restrictive visitation alternative whenever safely possible. The Committee also participated in a nine question survey to provide feedback to assist in the development of the SCCS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Barnes introduced **Resolution 01-2021-26/B** recommending the reappointment of Terri Burns, Director of Summit County Department of Job and Family Services (SCDJFS), to the SCCS Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) for the three-year term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Ms. Maddox made a motion to approve the appointment; seconded by Mr. Banks. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Resources Committee**

Mr. Malick reported that the committee met virtually today and approved the minutes of November 24, 2020. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the financial statement report ending December 31, 2020 to the full Board.

### **Resolution 01-2021-26/C**

Authorization to approve a revised classification series of SCCS Non-Bargaining Unit and Management employees. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Resolution 01-2021-26/D**

Authorization to increase the payment from \$50 to \$100 per month to SCCS Non-Bargaining Unit and Management employees that waive health insurance coverage. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Jackson. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Resolution 01-2021-26/E**

Authorization to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or Invitations to Bid (ITBs) over \$50,000 from the 2021 Operating Budget and in accordance with the SCCS Procurement Plan for the following projects: 1) Boiler replacement at an approximate cost of \$90,000 expected to be issued in March 2021; 2) Concrete replacement at an approximate cost of \$50,000 expected to be issued in March 2021; and 3) Security Services at an approximate cost of \$270,000 expected to be issued in August 2021. Resolutions will be returned to the SCCS Board of Trustees for vendor approval. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Bolas. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Resolution 01-2021-26/F**

Authorization to accept the increased Ohio Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program grant funding of \$81,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$421,000 for the period of September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021. The Ohio START program emphasizes a wraparound approach for at-risk parents that includes frequent home visits and mentorship from people who have experience with recovery and the child protection system, which is accomplished through family peer mentors and child welfare caseworkers partnering to provide intensive case management services. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyloff. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Executive Director Report**


Ms. Barnes provided the following Agency update:


- SCCS is in discussion and planning for the return to agency-based work shifting to the Hybrid Work Policy that will allow flexibility for remote work for some staff. A date has not been identified but staff will be given plenty of advance notice.
- The Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center (NEORTC) resumed in person training on January 19 for staff and foster parents.
- Throughout the pandemic, virtual family interactions have been used to replace some face-to-face family interactions; however, SCCS plans to return to all face-to-face family interaction on March 1.
- Custody numbers have remained fairly consistent for the last six months. Currently, there are 763 children in placement.

- Currently, there are 175 children in permanent custody. Internal volume and court delays have resulted in delayed permanency for children.
- 2020 volume of reporting to the hotline is down almost 16% from 2019 and likely attributed to the pandemic and limited access to mandated reporters. However, it appears the Agency is accepting reports for assessment/investigation that previously may have been screened-out. This may be attributed to increased risk to children as a result of the stress families are facing with virtual learning and reduced access to in person supports.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) conducted an audit of the foster care program. Overall, the audit was very good but resulted in four minor findings that required a Corrective Action Plan (CAP). All findings have been corrected with additional structure and training in place to ensure future compliance.
- The next on-site case review for the state's cycle of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) is scheduled for early February 2021. Two additional months of case reviews are scheduled in July and August 2021.
- Walmart is no longer accepting kinship vouchers from a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA). SCCS is in the process of transitioning to a cash/debit card system.
- A recent lawsuit filed in Ohio has resulted in a mandated Kinship Support Program (KSP) that gives relative and kinship caregivers a right to foster care maintenance payments for six months from ODJFS. During that time, the caregiver will need to obtain foster home certification to continue receiving the foster home board rate. Upon licensure, the PCSA will be responsible to pay the board rate to the caregiver. The intent of the law is positive but there are many questions regarding implementation. It is also unclear how many caregivers will take advantage of this program since licensure has always been an option. However, this program may result in more children entering Agency custody. Currently, there are 304 children in Agency custody that would be eligible for this program.
- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA or Family First) was signed into law in 2018 and States have until October 2021 to implement. The objectives of FFPSA are to maintain children safely with their families and help ensure they are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their needs when foster care is needed. This approach is already the practice at SCCS. Additionally, there will be significant changes to the FFPSA requirements for residential treatment for youth. This is expected to limit the number of residential treatment centers available to SCCS for placement of youth with high-needs.
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee and consultant have drafted a long-term plan which will be tied to the Agency's Strategic Plan.
- The Diversity Committee began a Media Group Series focused on the YouTube series: *Conversations with a Black Man with Emmanuel Acho*. Attendees have enjoyed the thought-provoking conversations and the overall response has been positive.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Banks moved; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

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GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

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Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW  
Executive Director