

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 25, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

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

Staff Present: Laura Gentiluomo, Jon Hart, Bob King, Sushila Moore, Mary Serapiglia, Deanna Shriver, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Connell-Freund called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021. Mr. Banks moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Bolas. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment

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

Committee Reports

Citizen's Advisory Committee

A report was not provided due to the absence of Committee Chair Ms. Gracey.

Executive Director Search Committee

Ms. Arvay, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today and discussed the candidates. Since the last committee meeting, the Search Firm met separately with Ms. Connell-Freund and Ms. Barnes to discuss requirements for the Executive Director role. The Search Firm also met with the Search Committee to discuss characteristics and qualifications for the new Executive Director. Qualified candidate interviews are scheduled for February 23. The search for a new Executive Director is on schedule.

Resources Committee

Mr. Malick, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today, and he introduced the following resolutions:

Resolution 01-2022-25/B

Authorization to enter into a first amendment to the agreement with the Summit County Prosecutor for the reimbursement for legal services of the Child Protection Unit at a total increased cost that may be less than, but shall not exceed \$500,000 for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 01-2022-25/C

Authorization to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) or Invitations to Bid (ITBs) over \$50,000 from the 2022 Operating Budget and in accordance with the SCCS Procurement Plan for the following projects: 1) Security badge access system upgrade at an approximate cost of \$90,000 expected to be issued in February 2022; 2) Carpet/flooring replacement at an approximate cost of \$70,000 expected to be issued in March 2022; 3) Asphalt repair at an approximate cost of \$350,000 expected to be issued in May 2022; and 4) Snowplowing at an approximate cost of \$55,000 expected to be issued in July 2022. Resolutions will be returned to the SCCS Board of Trustees for vendor approval. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

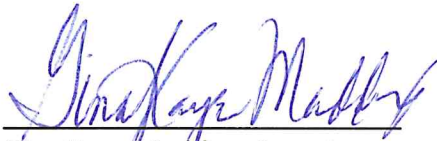
The Board received a Director's Report in their packet and Ms. Barnes highlighted the following:

- SCCS experienced the impact of the COVID-19 surge that occurred over the holiday season with many employees being ill or exposed to COVID-19. Staff who have mobile equipment have been encouraged to increase their remote work through the end of January. The SCCS COVID-19 Response Plan was updated to include the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.
- Currently, there are 828 children in custody. Of those, 190 are in permanent custody (PC). In a brief analysis of that data, it appears SCCS has filed for PC of children earlier in the life of a case. This will be assessed further over time, but we believe we have encountered a high number of absent or unengaged parents as well as parent deaths on cases that have resulted in earlier PC filings.
- Starting in January 2022, the agency is giving a \$100 stipend, per child, for the initial six months to help relatives/kin with the transition of assuming custody.
- In 2021, SCCS licensed 55 new homes for either foster care and/or adoption but closed 56 homes. Unfortunately, many homes close because they adopt and no longer have an interest in fostering. This trend is decreasing the number of available homes for placement.
- In 2021, SCCS finalized a total of 82 adoptions.
- The State officially completed the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) that began in 2017. SCCS has been engaged in this round of CFSR since then, including the intensive review of 66 cases. The CFSR is made up of 18 items and improvement benchmarks were set for 10 of those items. SCCS exceeded the benchmarks set for nine of the 10 items. SCCS will return back to the State's regular audit, which is the Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) audit.
- The following facilities projects are in process: a pre-bid meeting for new boilers took place and attracted eight vendors; bids are being obtained for plumbing of a new bathroom with a shower in the Just 4 Kids room; the agency will complete the bid process for a pavilion to be built on the back campus; touchless flush valve actuators will be installed on toilets in agency restrooms; and the agency is in the process of leasing the commercial kitchen space to a vendor who will provide staff with lunch options as well as catering services for meetings.
- Information Technology (IT) staff are working on a new badge identification system that will replace the failing security system and a new overhead paging system which will allow paging to the Professional Development building and Family Interaction Center (FIC).

- A child welfare caseworker in Illinois was tragically stabbed to death during a recent home visit. SCCS has taken this opportunity to review our own safety protocols and is participating in a demonstration with AlertMedia which utilizes a phone application with a panic button. Unrelated to this case, the agency recently updated the policy that addresses field safety.
- The board packet includes the 2021 accomplishments of the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Ms. Barnes encouraged the Board to review the information.
- The community was very generous this holiday season with their support of the agency's Adopt a Family program and the Gift Card for Teens program.
- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the Community Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, April 29 at St. George Hall in Fairlawn from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Stoyhoff moved; seconded by Ms. Bolas. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director