

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present:** Dawn Boudrie, Traci Foley, Jon Hart, Bob King, Sushila Moore, Erica Sabados, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Connell-Freund called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2021. Ms. Holland moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There were no requests for public comment.

**Committee Reports**

**Resources Committee**

Mr. Malick reported that the committee met virtually today and approved the minutes of March 23, 2021. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the Financial Statement Report ending March 31, 2021 to the full Board.

**Resolution 04-2021-27/B**

Authorization to enter into an agreement with Legacy Maintenance Services, LLC to provide cleaning and maintenance of the flooring in the SCCS buildings at a cost which may be less than but shall not exceed \$30,000 annually with the option to extend the agreement for three additional one-year terms. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Barnes provided the following Agency update:

- The number of children in Agency custody has been hovering around 750 children which is 100 less children in placement than this time last year. The decline in custody is very comparable to the overall state decline of children in custody with a 9% decline over the past year. A total of 6.6% of children in Agency custody are placed in congregate care (residential and group homes) compared to 13% of all children in the state. SCCS is demonstrating good practice towards less restrictive placement options.

- During the month of March, all remaining school districts resumed an in-person learning option for children. A correlation can likely be made with the increase in calls generated to the SCCS hotline. As the school year ends, it is anticipated the call volume will continue to increase so the hotline caseworkers will return to the building on May 3.
- The Agency received additional funds through the Pandemic Act to assist emancipated youth through the expanded age of 26. Most requests from former foster youth have been for rent and utility assistance.
- With capacity limitations still in place for the Family Interaction Center (FIC), face-to-face visitation resumed as much as possible in the month of March. The Agency will rent a large tent for the back campus that can be used for outdoor family visitation during the summer months. Some virtual visits continue to be offered to supplement missed face-to-face visits.
- The project to update the FIC playground has been completed and includes a soft rubberized surface, new equipment, among other upgrades to ensure compliance with safety regulations.
- SCCS received a check in the amount of \$24,500 from the Women's Auxiliary Board (WAB) from grant money they were awarded. The money will be used for the Beds for Kids program to purchase beds and cribs for families to ensure safe sleep.
- Summit County has one of Ohio's highest rates of infant mortality. To help combat this problem, the Safe Kids Coalition along with Akron Children's Hospital launched web-based training programs at [www.safesleepforbabies.org](http://www.safesleepforbabies.org). Agencies are permitted and encouraged to share this link on their websites and education pages.
- Agency staff will return to the building for office-based work on June 1. Field staff will be permitted to operate under the Hybrid Work policy that allows a flexible schedule of office and remote work. A total of 80% of Agency staff have been or intend to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Face coverings will still be required in the buildings. Additional picnic tables and a rented tent will be added to allow staff the opportunity to have lunch outside and socialize.
- Taste Buds has gone out of business and will not be returning to the building. The Agency is considering future rental of the kitchen space to provide lunch options for the staff.
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee has created an Action Plan and will present it to the Board at the May 25 Planning and Programs Committee meeting. One of the first major initiatives of the Plan is mandatory training for all staff. Supervisory and senior management staff are expected to attend 'Lessons in Microaggressions for Leaders' as well as join their staff in attending 'Lessons in Microaggressions'. These trainings will help guide staff to be more intentional in words and thoughts they have about and with each other, community members and clients. The trainer will also present a one-hour virtual training to the SCCS Board of Trustees on August 23 at noon.
- The SCCS Executive Team is participating in a Race, Equity and Inclusion Learning Series coordinated by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) and the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The series is designed to increase knowledge of inequities in child and family serving systems and to support leadership strategies to reduce disparities.
- The Citizen's Committee for Children Services has launched a levy fundraiser which is an online apparel sale. Plans are also underway for a virtual levy auction fundraiser in the fall.
- The Reward & Recognition (R & R) Committee continues to sponsor \$5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> each month utilizing fundraising dollars. Five-dollar gift cards are randomly drawn on the fifth day of each month and awarded to staff.

**Board Meeting Schedule/Location**

Discussion took place regarding the 2021 board meeting schedule and when in-person board meetings could resume. The Board agreed that the earliest they would return to an in-person meeting would be on July 27 unless House Bill 404 is extended past July 1. Further discussion will take place at the June 22 board meeting.

**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 4:37 p.m.

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GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

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*Julie Barnes*  
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Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW  
Executive Director