

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 23, 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, Leslie Sprouse, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Connell-Freund called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Committee Reports

Citizens Advisory Committee

On behalf of Committee Chair, Beth Gracey, Ms. Barnes reported that the Committee met virtually on March 17, 2021, and heard a presentation on the approved SCCS 2021-2025 Strategic Plan as well as a presentation on the status of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR).

Resources Committee

Mr. Malick reported that the committee met virtually today and approved the minutes of February 23, 2021. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the Financial Statement Report ending February 28, 2021 to the full Board.

Resolution 03-2021-23/B

Authorization to allow Summit County Children Services (SCCS) to endorse the Akron-Summit County Public Library's Levy Renewal on the May 4, 2021 ballot and to authorize the use of the name SCCS and to place signs and literature on the SCCS Campus for advertisements and general publicity purposes related to the levy campaign. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 03-2021-23/C

Authorization for the SCCS Administration to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ohio Attorney General for use of the WebCheck criminal background check program for a three-year term at a total cost which may be less than but shall not exceed \$210,000. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Schuellerman. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 03-2021-23/D

This Resolution was first introduced as Resolution 02-2021-23/E at the February 23, 2021 Resources Committee meeting, which was not acting as a Committee of the Whole. The Resources Committee had discussion on this resolution which would authorize funds for the payment of clinical fees to a specific provider on a case that was court ordered by a visiting Juvenile Court Judge. The Resources Committee unanimously rejected the resolution and will not recommend the resolution for approval to the full Board. Concerns were expressed by the Resources Committee due to the cost estimated at \$60,000 for the assessment of which SCCS would be responsible for 80%, a lack of a cap on the fees from the provider, and language that waives some liability and holds the provider harmless. The Agency does not hold custody of the children on this case, and a motion is pending for dismissal before Judge Stucki, as well as a motion to stay this order.

The Resolution should have then been presented to the Full Board on February 23 for a vote, and it was not. The Full Board must have the opportunity to vote even when a Committee votes against a resolution per the SCCS Board of Trustees Code of Regulations. Due to this procedural error, Resolution 03-2021-23/D was re-introduced. Ms. Arvay made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Holland. None were in favor and the motion failed.

Other Business

Discussion took place during the Resources Committee meeting regarding the 2021 Board meeting schedule and when in-person board meetings could resume. It was decided to continue meeting via Zoom through June and to discuss this matter again at the June 22 Resources Committee meeting.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Barnes provided the following Agency update:

- Through coordination with Summit County Public Health (SCPH), staff were offered the COVID-19 vaccine on March 17 and March 20. Dates for the second dose have been scheduled. SCCS is very appreciative to SCPH for this opportunity.
- Staff have been notified that office-based work will resume on June 1.
- The Hybrid Work Policy, which was approved by the Board last year, will be implemented for field staff only at this time.
- Custody numbers have remained consistent again this month with 757 children in placement this week, which is 85 less children than this time last year. A total of 37% of children in custody are placed with relatives/kin.
- Hotline volume is down approximately 30% from the same time last year.
- Caseloads in Intake and Protective have remained stable with an average of nine cases per worker. However, with the increase of children in permanent custody, the caseloads in the Adoption Unit are high at 16 to 17 cases per worker. Assistance is on the way, with a recent transfer of a caseworker to the Adoption Unit.

- Over this past year, the Agency has been able to stay ahead of attrition and close to the budgeted headcount. There are a number of upcoming retirements; however, a new hire class of eight caseworkers concluded their formalized classroom training in February and interviews are underway for the May 2021 class of new caseworkers.
- The Agency has three Protective caseworker postings with no internal bidders, so new workers in training will move into those positions. SCCS is hopeful that this indicates that more Intake caseworkers are comfortable remaining in Intake longer, as typically the Intake staff have moved to Protective openings.
- SCCS sent out letters to current kinship caregivers regarding the state's Kinship Support Program (KSP) and their intent to become licensed foster parents for planning purposes. Currently, there are 283 active kinship/relative homes and the Agency has no way to know if they might have an interest in being licensed with this new program.
- The Agency is committed to making SCCS a more diverse and inclusive organization. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee has developed a comprehensive DEI Action Plan and the first initiative is mandatory Microaggressions training for all staff this summer. The Diversity Committee also proposed that the Agency embrace and encourage the use of gender pronouns and sent information out to all staff. The following DEI Statement was created as well and shared with the Board:

We Believe

At Summit County Children Services, we believe in creating a culture of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We will cultivate an environment that respects, celebrates and supports the differences of our employees and the people we serve.

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Board members were asked to stay on the meeting for a group photo for 'Wear Blue Day' to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect.
- The Community Relations (CR) staff are planning activities for Foster Parent Month in May.

Adjournment

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Maddox moved; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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GinaKaye Maddox
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GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees

DocuSigned by:
Julie Barnes
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Julie Barnes, M.Ed., LSW
Executive Director