

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members	Board Members	Executive Team
✓ Anne Connell-Freund, Chair	✓ Patrick Bravo	✓ Cassandra Holtzmann
✓ Keith Malick, Vice-Chair	✓ Beth Gracey	✓ Amy Davidson
✓ GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary	✓ Andrew Schuellerman	✓ Darin Kearns
Anna Arvay	✓ Katie Stoyhoff	✓ Valarie Nash
✓ Omar Banks		✓ Katerina Papas
✓ Wendy Bolas		✓ Catherine Van Horne

Staff Present: Dawn Boudrie, Laura Gentiluomo, Jon Hart, Sushila Moore, Deanna Shriver, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Others Present: Thomas Lavery, Kelsey Hubbard

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Connell-Freund called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2022. Mr. Banks moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Malick. 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 (CAC)

Committee Chair Ms. Gracey reported that the committee met on May 18 and received an executive update from Director Holtzmann. The committee also heard a presentation from Cecilia O’Donnell, Executive Director of Fostering Independence, and Traci Foley, SCCS Director of Placement Services, regarding independent living services and support for youth emancipating from custody. Election of CAC Officers also took place at this meeting. Beth Gracey will serve as Chair and Allyson James will serve as Vice Chair through December 31, 2023.

Planning and Programs Committee

Committee Chair Mrs. Stoyhoff reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of February 22, 2022. Ms. Davidson, Mr. Kearns, and Ms. Foley presented an analysis of placement trends from 2017 to present. The number of children in custody has increased 20% and placement costs have increased 27%. There are more children placed in paid network foster homes at a higher rate than in SCCS foster homes due to the lack of bed space and lack of traditional foster homes. SCCS is seeing more delinquents and/or youth with high level behavioral health needs and having problems finding placements for them. Residential treatment facilities are experiencing staffing shortages, increased demand, and state reform requirements.

Resources Committee

Mr. Malick, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of April 26, 2022. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the Financial Statement Report ending April 30, 2022 to the full Board.

Resolution 05-2022-24/B

Authorization for SCCS Administration to enter into an amended fourth extension to the agreement with Todd's Enviroscares, LLC for snowplowing services in an increased total amount not to exceed \$69,000 (\$54,000 originally) for the term of the fourth extension. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 05-2022-24/C

Authorization for SCCS Administration to enter into an agreement with D&R Carpet Service, Inc. to provide carpet replacement in the SCCS Administration and Education Center buildings at a cost which may be less than but shall not exceed \$96,778.83. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 05-2022-24/D

Authorization for the SCCS Administration to enter into an agreement with North Electric, Inc. to provide installation of an upgrade to the security badge access system on the SCCS campus at a cost which may be less than but shall not exceed \$82,800. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mrs. Stoyhoff. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 05-2022-24/E

Authorization to purchase from USI Insurance Services National, Inc. Professional/General/Umbrella and Excess Auto Liability Insurance coverage through the carrier Old Republic for a one year period commencing May 31, 2022 for an amount that shall not exceed \$233,858 and Cyber Insurance coverage through the carrier North American Capacity Insurance Company for a one year period commencing May 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$14,252 and issue payment to USI Insurance Services National, Inc. for broker services in the additional amount that shall not exceed \$25,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$273,110. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Bolas. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

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

- Currently, there are 845 children in custody .
- The Intake Department currently has 56 caseworkers assigned, with 48 having case assignments, and 29 of those staff on full rotation. The average workload for those caseworkers on full rotation is about 13 cases and an overall departmental average of 10.7 cases per case-carrying worker; with the highest caseloads at 17, and 11 caseworkers carrying over 15 cases. The average does not adequately reflect overall workloads this month, as we have many vacancies and there have been many staff off full rotation for various reasons (Family Medical Leave (FML), vacations, etc.

- The Protective Services Department currently has 55 caseworkers assigned, with an average caseload of 11.6 cases and the highest caseload at 16 cases. We have had eight protective caseworkers resign, retire or were promoted this year. This requires their caseloads to be reassigned within the departments. Exit surveys indicate that they feel very supported by the agency but it's just not enough to balance out the stress levels. The domino effect of resignations is adding to this stress. These workers report leaving for a complete career change out of social work or to stay at home with children.
- SCCS has filled five vacancies in Intake and six in Protective Services beginning with the new hire class in June. So far, three more intake caseworkers are starting in August.
- In April 2020, the hotline received 507 calls, which resulted in 185 screened in reports. In April 2022, the hotline received 855 calls, which resulted in 321 screened in reports.
- The agency recently suffered the sudden loss of Supervisor, Scott Kemp. SCCS Peer Support Mentors as well as the Protective Services director and supervisory team stepped up to support the staff through this tragedy.
- SCCS has had four new families ordered into the Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRRC) during the month. Judge Teodosio and the magistrates would like to increase capacity. Director Holtzmann and Judge Teodosio are also in conversations regarding a veteran's program.
- The Annual Foster Parent Dinner was held on May 13. A total of 44 foster families, including seven new families, were recognized. Director Holtzmann was honored to attend and pleased to share a personal story about her maternal grandmother being raised in a foster home in Ravenna.
- SCCS entered the final year of the three-year paid placement contracts, offering a 2% increase to the providers. Several would not agree and would only accept anywhere from 4% to one of our costly residentials at over a 30% increase, with most sighting staffing shortages and costly Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) requirements as reasons.
- In April, the Visitation units worked with 193 unique families to supervise 557 face-to-face visits and two virtual visits, for a total of 559 family visits.
- The final Quality Improvement Center on Workforce Implementation Team (QIC-WIT) evaluation report is expected the first week of August and will conclude the six-year project. Ms. Davidson will travel to Washington, D.C. as the county representative from Ohio's implementation team, along with other state level and QIC-WIT members. Each of the eight project sites will present their work and evaluations on the first-ever national research study on the child protection workforce. We are hopeful this research will provide insight into strategies for building and retaining our crucial workforce amid a national staffing shortage.
- SCCS will participate in phase 2 of the Child Protection Oversight and Evaluation (CPOE) 12, the state audit process scheduled to occur October 2022 - September 2024.
- The Maintenance team is working to remodel the Just for Kids room which will allow staff to take children to the restroom in a safer environment. This space will also be used when children require showering and overnight stays awaiting placement.
- TC Architects was approved for the agency's pavilion project with planning to begin this month.
- The state migration project is 95% complete on the backend. The user migration portion is 70% complete. ODJFS staff are working weekly with the IT Department to update and migrate all user and training machines by the end of May.

- Channel 5 interviewed Ann Ream, Director of Community Relations, about SCCS and the need for more foster families and the story aired on May 4. Ms. Foley was interviewed by Ray Horner in relation to Foster Care Month and the interview aired on WAKR on May 9.
- Director Holtzmann continues to work with the Summit County Executive Office staff to resolve issues with the audit.

Other Business

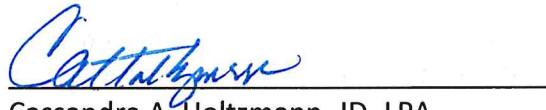
On behalf of the SCCS Board of Trustees, Ms. Connell-Freund thanked Katerina Papas for her service and dedication to the agency and children and families of Summit County. She welcomed Catherine Pomeroy Van Horne as the new SCCS General Counsel and Deputy Executive Director of Administrative and Legal Services.

Adjournment

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Stoyhoff moved; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Cassandra A. Holtzmann, JD, LPA
Executive Director