

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Executive Team</u>
✓ Anne Connell-Freund, Chair	✓ Patrick Bravo	✓ Julie Barnes
✓ Keith Malick, Vice-Chair	✓ Beth Gracey	✓ 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, Laura Gentiluomo, Jon Hart, Bob King, Tracy Mayfield, Sushila Moore, Kim Myers, Tracy Pedani, Erica Sabados, Mary Serapiglia, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

Ms. Connell-Freund called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of August 24, 2021. Ms. Gracey moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Maddox. 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 (CAC)

Ms. Gracey, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met virtually on September 15 and received an Executive Director update from Ms. Barnes and a Safe Sleep Academy Presentation from Sushila Moore. The Committee also discussed the possibility of a new member joining the CAC.

Resources Committee

Mr. Malick, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of August 24, 2021. As part of the Resources Committee report, Mr. Kearns provided a summary of the Financial Statement Report ending August 31, 2021 to the full Board.

Resolution 09-2021-28/B

Authorization to enter into a one-year extension to the agreement with the County of Summit to maintain the PeopleAdmin Human Resources Information System (HRIS) at a cost that may be less than but shall not exceed \$12,885. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Jackson. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 09-2021-28/C

Authorization to accept an amount that may be less than but shall not exceed \$130,000 in grant funds from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) relative to the Communities of Support program for the term of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. Mr. Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Schuellerman. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 09-2021-28/D

Authorization to approve and adopt changes made to the SCCS Procurement Plan which includes increasing the micro purchase threshold to an aggregate amount that does not exceed \$10,000. 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 is awaiting guidance if President Biden's order, requiring all employers with 100 + employees to ensure their workers are vaccinated against COVID-19 or tested for COVID-19 weekly, applies to Ohio public employees.
- SCCS has seen an increase in COVID-19 positivity rates for employees and/or qualified family members during the past three months. During the months of March 2020 through May 2021, a total of 40 SCCS employees tested positive for COVID-19. Since June 2021, a total of 10 SCCS employees have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Through coordination with Summit County Public Health (SCPH), SCCS staff are entitled to a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot of Pfizer if their second Pfizer vaccine was at least six months ago.
- SCCS hopes to have all children in agency custody, between the ages of five and eleven, vaccinated against COVID-19 when and if the vaccine is authorized. Parental permission will be required for children in the temporary custody (TC) of the agency but not for children in permanent custody (PC).
- Hotline calls and casework services have increased due to children returning to school. Substance use continues to be a main contributing factor.
- Currently, there are 814 children in custody which has been consistent over the summer months.
- There were 209 children in PC in August. This increase may be a result of the delays in permanency that resulted from COVID-19, but Quality Improvement (QI) staff are assessing this further to determine if there are avoidable delays in the casework, court and adoption finalization process.
- Currently, there are 177 SCCS foster and foster-to-adopt homes. SCCS is increasing recruitment efforts with TRIAD in order to obtain more foster homes. SCCS also partners with Love Akron to increase awareness of our need for foster homes, especially in zip code 44306.
- The Agency's new playground officially opened with a small ribbon cutting ceremony this month. Families and children are already enjoying it during visits and it is expected to be a pleasant distraction for those children who have been removed and are awaiting placement.
- The Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) rules surrounding Title IV-E reimbursement go into effect on October 1, 2021. A SCCS Workgroup has been developing processes and is working closely with Juvenile Court. Any errors that are made can result in the loss of IV-E funding for the placement.

- Bob King, Department Director of Finance, has announced that he will retire in early 2022. His position has been posted.
- Linda McMahon, Department Director of Facilities, has also announced that she will retire in early 2022. Her position should be posted by early November.
- Currently, SCCS is experiencing a higher turnover with the casework staff. A new hire class of seven caseworkers began on September 20 and another new hire class is scheduled in November.
- The SCCS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Steering Committee met recently to discuss revisions to the Mandated Reporter Training curriculum that includes topics such as implicit bias, microaggressions and stereotypes to avoid bias in reporting. This bias often results in overreporting of children of color. This topic is also being considered at the State level. SCCS QI staff are currently working on data analysis to identify how this overreporting of children of color can be abated with training regarding implicit bias and/or identify poverty needs vs. issues of child abuse and neglect.
- The current Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) began in 2017 and SCCS was one of 11 counties to participate. Over the past four years, SCCS staff have worked hard to improve CFSR outcomes and we expect that Ohio will pass the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and an additional round of case reviews will not be required.
- SCCS is negotiating a lease agreement with Scratch Kitchen to rent the agency's kitchen space that was previously leased by Tastebuds/United Disabilities Services (UDS).

Other Business

Ms. Connell-Freund welcomed Mr. Bravo to the SCCS Board of Trustees. He will serve the term of August 16, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Adjournment

Ms. Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Stoyloff moved; seconded by Mr. Banks. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 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