

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Board Members		Board Members	Executive Team
✓	Anne Connell-Freund, Chair	Patrick Bravo	✓ Cassandra Holtzmann
✓	Keith Malick, Vice-Chair	Traci Buckner	✓ Amy Davidson
✓	GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary	✓ Beth Gracey	✓ Darin Kearns
✓	Anna Arvay	✓ Katie Stoyhoff	✓ Liz Mangon
✓	Omar Banks		✓ Sushi Moore
✓	Kemp Boyd		✓ Catherine Van Horne

Staff Present: JoAnn Dunson - Recording Secretary, Darci Edwards, Jon Hart, Julie Lackney, Tracy Mayfield, Ann Ream, Laura Sasser, Mary Serapiglia, Deanna Shriver,

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2025. Mr. Malick moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Gracey. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Apostlett Pamela Pinkney addressed the Board of Trustees. She informed the group that free smoke detectors would be available at the American Red Cross and stated she could provide information about the Sojourner Truth Legacy Scholarship that is available. Apostlett Pinkney stated she wanted to make a difference in processes and challenged the group over the fact that she does not see women of color in leadership roles. Apostlett Pinkney shared her personal experience with reporting abuse and read a poem to the Board. After being informed that her time for public comment had ended, she continued to speak to the Board and requested a meeting with Executive Director Holtzmann. Apostlett Pinkney was advised that Community Relations did attempt to contact her. She exited the meeting following this exchange.

Mr. Lavery addressed the Board regarding agency policies and procedures and referenced the letter that he provides. He was advised he could not mention his children by name during his public comment. Mr. Lavery expressed his opinion about the agency's 'slogan' and Akron Public Schools.

Committee Reports

Planning and Programs Committee

Committee Chair Stoyhoff reported that the committee met today and the meeting minutes from November were approved. Ms. Stoyhoff shared that Cory Kendrick presented on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey that is completed every few years. Mr. Kendrick will be sharing additional information with the Board regarding the survey material.

Resources Committee

Committee Chair Malick reported that the committee met today. Darin Kearns reviewed the Financial Statement Report as of January 31, 2025.

Resolution 02-2025-25/A

Authorization to Approve RCF Group Cubicle Purchase Agreement 2025. This resolution authorizes the SCCS Administration to enter into an agreement with River City Furniture, LLC to provide such cubicles at the SCCS campus at a cost which may be less than, but shall not exceed, Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000) Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

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

- Executive Director Holtzmann combined Jan/Feb data due to time constraints at last meeting. She shared that 9,119 reports were received on our hotline in 2024 and 3,164 (35%) of these were screened in and 8% were provided information referrals. The Board was informed that more detailed data would be shared at the May 2025 meeting.
- Winter Wonderland had 242 children participate. The event was brought inside due to inclement weather. Executive Director Holtzmann provided credit to Social Service Resources Director, Sushila Moore's team and Community Relations staff that helped with the quick transition. She also shared that Akron Police Department, and the Akron Fire Department were involved with the event.
- Unite Us, and electronic referral and verification system has been approved. The county is paying for this referral system for all county entities that can utilize it. There were some obstacles getting State approval, but it is now being implemented. Mike Hostetler was acknowledged for his work in getting this approval. This is a referral system that goes from SCCS directly to various providers that have the services available for our case planning.
- Executive Director Holtzmann provided praise to Director Mangon about her recruitment efforts. She shared there were ten new caseworkers in January, and another good size class is expected in March. There are close to 340 full FTEs currently.
- The Board was informed that there are 821 children in our custody, with 33 of them being in Residential facilities. There are 180 children in permanent custody, and 66 of them do not have a permanency plan. Executive Director Holtzmann also informed the Board that 55 of the children in permanent custody are over the age of 12.
- The Legal Department is currently working on House Bill 7. This would provide childcare for our foster parents and kinship homes. PCSAO reached out to Legal Director, Catherine Van Horne and asked if Summit County would like to submit some language that will be taken to their legislator, Representative Andrea White from Dayton, Ohio.
- Executive Director Holtzmann also shared an experience she had at one of our client's START program graduation. She stated that the young lady who was graduating spoke at her graduation and stated that "SCCS saved her life."
- A grant application was submitted to One Ohio, but they denied the funds request. Social Services Director, Amy Davidson, has prepared a new grant request after learning that they are open to receiving another application if the funds were reduced. This grant would build another dyad for the START program. The agency hopes to have an update soon.
- SCCS is aware that agency placement budget cannot be sustained at its current level, even with our reserves. The current Executive Team is actively working on different approaches to ensure this situation is not left as it is prior to retirements. Delinquency cases are the most expensive

cases, and they are not IV-E eligible because they come from detention. The strategies being reviewed will safely reduce placement costs.

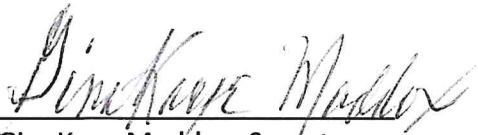
- APD/SCCS JR6 policy changes are being discussed. APD has been very receptive to amending their policy. During this discussion, there has been a decline in JR6 removals by APD. January 2024 had 43 JR6 removals, compared to 20 in January 2025.
- Executive Director Holtzmann shared that she and Director Sushila Moore had the opportunity to be interviewed by a St Vincent St Mary student who is interested in Social Work. Following the interview, the student has requested to complete her Capstone Experience with SCCS. Mary Serapiglia and her team are working with the student to arrange this.
- Cuyahoga County DFS and SCCS continue to collaborate on the subject of youth violence and juvenile cases coming through PCSA. The hope is that Case Western and The University of Akron will be able to assist in compiling information for the two agencies.
- Another meeting with the Prosecutor is scheduled. SCCS is working on a collaborative relationship with their office and are working to change to our approach. SCCS would like to recover costs with child support. Our agency is paying out millions of dollars in placement costs, and this could potentially create parental engagement and accountability.
- Executive Director Holtzmann shared that she has been having one on one meetings with Department Directors. She is also offering a half day of office hours for Supervisors and a second half day of office hours for All Staff.
- The Strategic Plan schedule is in place. The plan is to bring it to the Board for approval in January 2026. SCCS's QI department will be doing our Strategic Plan. Executive Director Holtzmann felt this was worth mentioning because agencies our size typically recruit outside firms to handle their Strategic Plans. Being able to handle this in house saves the agency money and this also provides a lot of knowledge to our QI department.
- April Child Abuse Prevention Month Events are being scheduled and the calendar is being finalized. Close up sessions are being held for gun safety, safe sleep, and unintentional ingestions. SCCS is also hosting child abuse and neglect training our churches and Wear Blue at the Zoo. We will close the month with the SCCS Annual Appreciation Breakfast on April 30, 2025. SCCS is also working with the local libraries to light up all the libraries in Blue for Child Abuse Awareness.

Open Forum

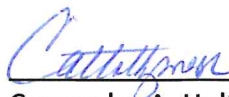
Committee member Arvay asked for an update regarding the Sheriff's Department staff referral for After Hours calls. HR Director, Mangon has connected with them to determine their qualifications. The Sheriff may have additional contacts, as well. It was further explained that the Sheriff's Department does want to have a contract with SCCS, they just do not want it to include phone calls. They are interested in providing policing for the agency.

Adjournment

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Stoyloff moved; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Cassandra A. Holtzmann, JD, LPA
Executive Director

