

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MARCH 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:** Josh Brewer, JoAnn Dunson - Recording Secretary, Jon Hart, Leah Marino, Tracy Mayfield, Jamie Pastorius, Ann Ream, Mary Serapiglia

**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 February 25, 2025. Ms. Stoyhoff moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Apostlett Pinkney addressed the Board of Trustees and provided an apology for behavior at February Board meeting. She stated she would like to help our agency. Apostlett Pinkney shared her personal story of reporting abuse and its outcomes. She published *Choose Life* and shared this book with the Board. Apostlett Pinkney requested a meeting with Executive Director and Board Chair to discuss ways they can help each other.

Mr. Lavery addressed the Board regarding agency policies and procedures and referenced the letter that he provided. This is the same letter that was shared in February. Mr. Lavery shared his personal story and shared his opinions about Akron Public Schools (APS).

Chair Connell-Freund shared that the comments made about APS is the opinion of Mr. Lavery. She further shared that these are not the opinions of this Board or this Agency.

**Committee Reports**

**Resources Committee**

Committee Vice Chair Stoyhoff reported that the committee met today. The minutes from February were approved and CFO/Deputy Director Darin Kearns reviewed the Financial Statement Report as of February 28, 2025.

**Resolution 03-2025-25/A**

*Authorization to enter in an agreement with Legacy Maintenance Services, LLC.* This resolution authorizes the SCCS Administration to enter into an agreement with Legacy Maintenance Services, LLC to provide such cleaning and flooring at the SCCS Campus at a cost which may be less than, but shall not exceed,

Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) annually, with the option to extend such agreement for four additional one-year terms. Committee Vice Chair Stoyhoff made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report**

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

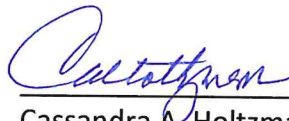
- Executive Director Holtzmann provided a workforce update. Social Services and Human Resources are working to improve Social Work recruitment. Behavior based questions were developed and are being utilized with the hope of increased retention among our social workers. There are six caseworkers (CW) who began training in March. This is following a class of 10 who recently graduated and were placed with their Transition Supervisors. Legal Staff has a mentoring program to help prep CW with legal proceedings. This program trains CW prior to going to court. Executive Director Holtzmann was asked about Exit interviews. She informed the Board that Exit interviews are open to all employees but are not required. Ms. Buckner suggested 'Stay Interviews.' Executive Director Holtzmann confirmed HR is interested in returning to this practice. The plan is to have these interviews among the same groups of workers.
- Sheriff's office contract ends June 30, 2025, and have informed (Summit County Children Services) SCCS that they will not renew phone answering services. The contract will be renewed for policing. Hotline answering service solutions are being explored and SCCS is looking at ways for our agency to handle this. One of the solutions being considered is an upgraded phone system that could allow remote work for afterhours calls. This is going to be handled as an emergent need. This new system will allow the calls to be recorded. Dawn Boudrie, Amy Davidson and Sush Tripathy-Moore are working on consent calls being transferred to Medical Records staff. Team Ohio, an online reporting tool will also reduce incoming hotline calls once it has gone live. It is currently active in Summit County and is expected to roll out to all of Ohio in April.
- Executive Director Holtzmann provided Budget and Legislative information. There is an increase in the current House Bill 96 for an increase in State Child Protection Allocation. This increase will go from \$155M to \$180M in 2026 and then increase to \$185M in 2027. There is a proposal to allocate \$20M to regional wellness campus for at risk youth. Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) would like these locations to be expanded to be utilized by the Juvenile Court System, also. The belief is that private providers will be targeted for this proposal. There is also a proposal to disallow the use of Social Security benefits for the care and maintenance of children in Foster Care. The Ohio Department of Children and Youth has estimated that an estimated amount of \$17M/year would be lost in Title IV-E. This would affect our ability to leverage more clients.
- Executive Director Holtzmann shared that she testified in support of House Bill 7. This bill proposes the expansion of publicly funded Child Care to Foster and Kinship Caregivers. Kathleen Paydo, one of our well-known Foster Parents also went and testified from the perspective of a Foster Parent.
- CFO Kearns and Executive Director Holtzmann have been discussing the costs associated with Orthodontia work. This service is provided to children in our permanent and temporary custody. Embracing Futures meeting took place and informed our agency that they can serve these children. They advised that the application needs to be filled out prior to the child turning 18 years old. As long as this is done, services will continue after the child turns 18 years old.

- March is Social Work appreciation month. Executive Director Holtzmann expressed her appreciation for social workers and the leadership to the social workers. She stated “It’s time to celebrate the profession and show support for our social workers and recognize their actions. The theme for 2025 is ‘Social Work Compassion Plus Action’.” The Prosecutor’s office will be bringing their two service and compassion dogs to SCCS tomorrow morning in honor of Social Work Appreciation Month.

#### Adjournment

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

  
GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

  
Cassandra A. Holtzmann, JD, LPA  
Executive Director