

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APRIL 22, 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, Jon Hart, Ray Jacobs- Security, Ann Ream, Erica Sabados, Mary Serapiglia, Deanna Shriver, Jen Snyder

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Connell-Freund called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. and a roll call was taken.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2025. Ms. Arvay moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Stoyhoff. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment

Apostlett Pinkney addressed the Board about cultural communication and community resources. She further expressed that she would like her and Summit County Children Services (SCCS) to work together.

Mr. Lavery addressed the Board regarding agency policies and procedures and referenced an article from 1970 that he provided. Mr. Lavery discussed the history of Earth Day. Mr. Lavery also expressed his opinions about Akron Public Schools (APS) and referenced articles in the Akron Beacon Journal and The Plain Dealer.

Chair Connell-Freund stated that APS opinions are not shared by this Board.

Committee Reports

Rules Committee

Committee Chair Bravo reported that the committee met today. The minutes from September 2024 were approved and discussion was held regarding potential policy changes to the Code of Regulations. There was discussion about the possibility for virtual meetings. It is expected that recommendations will be presented at the next Rules Committee meeting in September.

Resources Committee

Committee Chair Malick reported that the committee met today. The minutes from March were approved and CFO/Deputy Director Kearns reviewed the Financial Statement Report as of March 31, 2025.

Resolution 04-2025-22/A

Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve the SCCS Administration to enter into an agreement with Logicalis, Inc. to provide products and services to upgrade the SCCS phone system at a cost which may be less than, but shall not exceed, \$333,000; seconded by Pastor Boyd. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 04-2025-22/B

Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve the Executive Director to execute the Subgrant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Medicaid accepting the terms and conditions of the Agreement in order to receive subawards as provided by ODJFS and/or ODM; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 04-2025-22/C

Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve the SCCS Administration to execute a Consultation Services Agreement with Roetzel Consulting Solutions and to provide compensation for the same in an amount that may be less than, but shall not exceed, \$45,000 for the term commencing May 1, 2025, and expiring April 30, 2026; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 04-2025-22/D

Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve the SCCS Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Triad Communications, Inc. for the purchase of Recruitment and Community Engagement Marketing Campaign services for a one-year term to commence May 1, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$200,000 annually, with the option to extend for two (2) additional one-year terms; seconded by Ms. Stoyloff. 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, Cassandra Holtzmann thanked everyone for participating in the Statewide Wear Blue Day. Community Relations Director, Ann Ream shared that April was a robust month of events that helped raise awareness about child abuse. The month will end with SCCS's Annual Appreciation Breakfast on April 30, 2025. The awards being presented include the Foster Family Award, Youth Award, Community Leader Awards and the Poster Slogan Award "A Family is a Key to the Map of Life."
- Placement Costs are a major concern within the agency. This is going to be reported to the board on a quarterly basis. The big items within our agency will be addressed first, and then external options with our community partners will be explored.
- Foster Parent recruiting was addressed during the Heartfelt Radio interview that was conducted with Executive Director, Cassandra Holtzmann and Community Relations Director, Ann Ream.
- There was a Home Study ruling this month that benefited SCCS. Judge Teodosio informed her Magistrates that SCCS is not here to do Home Studies for the court.
- Work with Akron Police Department JR6 policy/trainings will continue.
- It was reported that there has been an increase in cost for drug testing. This is being addressed with the specialty courts to determine how costs can be reduced in a safe manner.
- Summit County Prosecutors brought their service dogs to visit. This boosted morale in the staff within the agency.

- Mary Serapiglia shared information about the Leadership Academy Board Round Table, an event that allows the board members to share their leadership journeys and share advice with Leadership Academy students. The event will take place on June 17, 2025, from 1:00PM-3:00PM. An email to the board with additional information will be sent out. It was expressed that this is a positive experience for our board and the staff.
- 2025 Goals/Strategic Plan 2026-2031 is currently in the planning process.
- Ms. Arvay questioned WAB Quarterly updates. In the past, a member would speak to the board, but the current Chair is not comfortable speaking publicly, therefore the report out was included in the March board report. It was requested that a delegate could report out quarterly. Executive Director Holtzmann shared that the WAB has expressed they miss having contact with kids. SCCS staff are going to work to remind them of opportunities that will allow them to engage with kids.
- Executive Director, Cassandra Holtzmann, thanked the staff that attends the board meetings and participates.

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 5:10p.m.


GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees


Darin Kearns
Interim Executive Director

