

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JUNE 24, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present:** Josh Brewer- Security, Dawn Boudrie, JoAnn Dunson - Recording Secretary, Traci Foley, Jon Hart, Jessica Miller, Erin Pemberton, Ann Ream, Erica Sabados, Laura Sasser, Mary Serapiglia, Deanna Shriver, Jennifer Snyder, Octavia Sommerville

**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 from June 24, 2025. Ms. Maddox moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Ms. Buckner. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lavery was advised by Chair Connell-Freund that he was not to make any comments about the Teodosio Family or their tragedy. When he questioned why this was, he was advised by Mr. Bravo that it was not relevant to the business of this Board. Mr. Lavery addressed the board regarding agency policies and procedures and referenced the article he included with his letter.

**Committee Reports**

**Women's Auxiliary Board (WAB)**

Erin Pemberton reported out on the accomplishments by the WAB over the past few months. She advised the Board that a written summary was provided to the board members outlining what was provided in 2024. Ms. Pemberton shared that in 2025, the WAB has received twenty thousand dollars in grants from numerous agencies. There have been multiple successful fundraisers including the 5K donut dash in May, which raised close to nine thousand dollars. A chili and soup luncheon and two bake sales were also held at Summit County Children Services (SCCS). Ms. Pemberton shared that these fundraisers are replacing the rummage sales that were held in the past. Additional fundraisers will be added as needed.

The WAB has donated many needed items to the agency. Their craft committee has also donated craft items and outside toys to the Family Interaction Center (FIC) and the Family Enrichment Center (FEC) to increase engagement. Donuts for Dads donations were made the week before Father's Day and countless hours were volunteered at numerous events for the agency.

Last year, \$5000 was donated to create a sensory room in the FIC. This room is completed. Ms. Pemberton provided pictures of the completed room to the board. Ms. Pemberton also shared that the WAB is going

to become a Care Community for at least one foster family this fall, with the hope to increase the number of families in the future.

The board requested to be advised when bake sales are being held at the agency so additional support can be provided. They also requested to be notified when Food Trucks are scheduled to be at the agency.

#### **Resources Committee**

Committee Chair Malick reported that the committee met today and spent time discussing the paid placement crisis. Department Director Deanna Shriver reviewed the Financial Statement Report as of December 31, 2024. Mr. Malick also shared that the Resource Committee did break into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

#### **Resolution 06-2025-24/A**

*Authorization for SCCS Administration to execute an Agreement with the Summit County Sheriff's Office for policing and investigation services in the amount which may be less than but shall not exceed ninety-two thousand dollars for the term July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.* Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **Resolution 06-2025-24/C**

*Authorizes a budget adjustment increase in the amount of four million dollars to the overall 2025 budget, along with increasing the contract services pool line by four million dollars.* Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **Resolution 06-2025-24/D**

*Authorizes an interim compensation adjustment for Interim Executive Director Darin Kearns to the amount of seventy-eight dollars per hour as base pay, effective May 27, 2025.* Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

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

Interim Executive Director Darin Kearns introduced Octavia Sommerville, a leadership academy student to the board.

The Board received a Director's Report in their packet. Interim Executive Director Kearns highlighted various numbers that were shared in the written report. Mr. Kearns shared that our reporting numbers have declined due to Akron Public Schools (APS) being on summer break. APS is one of the largest sources of reporting. The intake department has been doing well at screening in the most critical cases which has helped control the number of cases that are coming in.

This director shared that there were 47 JR6 removal this month, and 43 of them were conducted by the Akron Police Department (APD). The agency will continue to work with APD on their policy revisions with the goal of having this number reduced.

This director shared training updates with the board. Leadership Academy Class IV practiced crucial conversations in a learning lab this month. This was completed as a triad with the student and members senior leadership. This lab was very interactive and offered constructive feedback to the students. The spring semester wrapped up at the end of May, and eight interns accepted full time positions with SCCS. Another intern class will be held in the Fall; there are currently four students already selected.

This director shared that the new cloud-based phone system should go live at the end of June, early July. Extensive testing will take place for about two weeks. The hotline is one of the most important pieces to test to ensure calls are rolling correctly and they are being recorded.

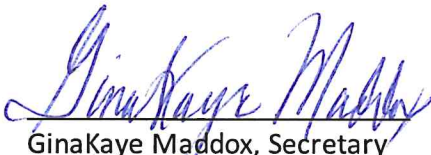
Cassandra Holtzmann and several SCCS foster parents conducted interviews with WAOH-TV to promote SCCS and shared their journey and the process on how to become a foster parent. Natalie Feaser, the new administrative assistant in Community Relations also published a second article with the Akron Beacon Journal for Foster Care Awareness Month. The article was provided to the board.

Jon Hart has been working on the 2025 Child Abuse and Neglect Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). It has been shared to solicit feedback, comments and suggestion. Once finalized, it will then go through the process of gaining signatures from the 35 needed signatories. Ms. Holtzmann and Deputy Director Van Horne had their quarterly meeting with Judge Teodosio. The topics discussed were drug screens order through the Family Reunification Recovery Court (FRRRC), placement crisis and referrals related to delinquency cases. SCCS also hosted a meeting with Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) director and chief legal counsel on May 1st. SCCS will be collaborating with CSEA and Child Protection Unit (CPU) prosecutor to request child support to be ordered against parents who refuse to take their children back.

Ms. Buckner questioned whether the agency was tracking retention among our caseworkers. Interim Executive Director Darin Kearns shared that it may take some time to fully track this, but it is something the agency will do. Deputy Director Mangon shared that this is our first large group of interns who accepted caseworker positions within SCCS in quite some time. She stated the agency has been making changes to continue boosting our intern program. It was also clarified that interns and Leadership Academy are not the same programs. HR is currently tracking turnover rates and will inquire ways to include the intern retention overall.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malick moved; seconded by Ms. Buckner. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57p.m.

  
GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary  
Board of Trustees

  
Darin Kearns  
Interim Executive Director

