

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 26, 2024 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	✓ Andrew Schuellerman	✓ Liz Mangon
_____ Omar Banks	✓ Katie Stoyhoff	✓ Sushi Moore
_____ Kemp Boyd		✓ Catherine Van Horne

Staff Present: Traci Foley, Jon Hart, Julie Lackney, Tricia Ligotti, Leah Marino, Tracy Mayfield, Ann Ream, Erica Sabados, Laura Sasser, Mary Serapiglia, Deanna Shriver, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2024. Mrs. Stoyhoff moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Bravo. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Committee Reports

Resources Committee

Committee Chair Malick reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of February 27, 2024. As part of the Resources Committee report, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Deputy Director Kearns provided the Board a Financial Statement Report as of February 29, 2024.

Resolution 03-2024-26/B

Authorization for the SCCS Executive Director to request that the Social Service Advisory Board (SSAB) recommend, and Summit County Council place a six-year renewal levy on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot in the amount of 3.25 mills to be collected during years 2026 through 2031. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Stoyhoff. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 03-2024-26/C

Authorization for the SCCS Board of Trustees to ratify the Tentative Agreement of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 4546, AFL-CIO and SCCS Administration for a successor agreement for the period of 2024-2026. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Secretary Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 03-2024-26/D

Authorization to approve the SCCS Executive Director's recommendation for a general wage increase (GWI) for Non-Bargaining Unit and Management (NBU & MGMT) employees, and the Executive Director, of 4% effective January 1, 2024, and a lump sum value equal to 4% of the annual salary for those NBU & MGMT employees who are at or above the top of their salary scale. NBU & MGMT employees who will reach the top of their current salary scale as a result of this GWI shall receive the balance of the GWI in the form of a lump sum payment. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Arvay. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 03-2024-26/E

Authorization to approve the revised pay scales for NBU & MGMT employees and authorizes the SCCS Executive Director to implement the same. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Schuellerman. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Other Business

Chair Connell-Freund thanked Executive Director Holtzmann, Deputy Director Mangon and the union leadership team for their hard work to finalize the 2024-2026 collective bargaining agreement.

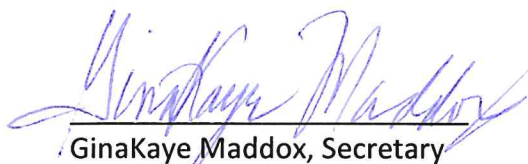
Executive Director's Report

- The state review of SCCS child protection operations, Child Protection Oversight Evaluation (CPOE), has been completed and SCCS leadership attended the exit conference to discuss the draft report. SCCS received glowing accolades on the cases that were reviewed, staff knowledge of their cases, and general practice. By rule, SCCS will need to complete a Plan for Practice Advancement.
- SCCS is still seeking a vendor for afterhours call answering services. Summit Emergency Communications Center (SECC) continues to answer afterhours hotline calls in the interim. SCCS is discussing options with the Sheriff's Office to take afterhours calls and provide assistance with Juvenile Rule 6s (JR6s) and other security matters.
- A voluntary Intake Overflow plan was implemented for Intake case assignments due to high Intake caseloads and anticipated higher call volume through May 31. At this time, a total of 25 cases have been assigned to casework staff who volunteered.
- The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (ODCY) Director Kara Wentz and members of her executive leadership team visited SCCS on March 13. Discussion took place on a variety of topics including key priorities; county partnership; delinquent/behavioral population and program solutions and systemic weaknesses. Director Wentz also gave SCCS the opportunity to make requests for the Ohio Biennial Budget.
- SCCS placement provider, Mohican Young Star Academy, requested immediate removal of two SCCS youth. The provider stated that there was a significant safety threat on campus involving a crime gang who was recruiting residents and planning an attack. SCCS Placement unit staff did an exceptional job identifying alternate placements for these youth and helping to coordinate their moves.
- SCCS presented levy projections to the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB) Budget & Levy Committee and the plan was approved. The plan will go to the Full SSAB Board on April 24 for their vote. In the future, the SCCS Board of Trustees will receive this information first.
- On March 25, SCCS hosted a visit with Chris Gessner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Akron Children's Hospital, and his wife Jane. The Gessners learned about SCCS and the levy campaign and took a campus tour.

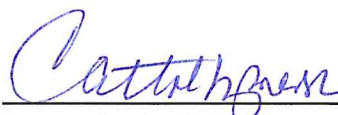
- On March 25, Executive Director Holtzmann and Community Relations Director Ann Ream presented to County Council and declared the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM).
- On March 16, Executive Director Holtzmann participated on a panel presentation with church leaders for OneCity, a Ministry of Love Akron, at the Akron Public Library. Attendees learned about SCCS's need for foster parents and how to become licensed as well as volunteer opportunities. SCCS currently has 126 approved traditional foster homes.
- Congratulations was extended to SCCS Clerical Services Supervisor Jazzmin Bowman, who was selected among 40 members of Torchbearers, Class of 2024.
- Congratulations was also extended to Caseworker Jodi Foraker for being selected as the Caring for Kids Community Advocate of the Year award winner. She was nominated by the Wendy's Wonderful Kids staff for her work and advocacy on behalf of youth in the agency's permanent custody.
- SCCS executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) and Independent Living (IL) staff applied for 15 housing vouchers to assist youth who have little or no support after leaving custody but who are in need of housing. Appreciation was extended to Department Director Tracy Mayfield for her work in this regard.
- In recognition of CAPM, the following activities are planned for April 10 if you wear blue: Wear Blue Day social media campaign; Blue at the Zoo with free admittance; and Meet the Minions and receive a discount off admission at the Akron Children's Museum.
- SCCS Attorney Chelsay Finney became a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS), after passing a rigorous application process, judicial review, peer review, and examination. To date, Ms. Finney is the first attorney in Summit County to earn certification, and only the fourth attorney in the State of Ohio.
- Executive Director Holtzmann thanked the Board for allowing her to work remote from Colorado for the birth of her first grandchild.

Adjournment

Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Stoyloff moved; seconded by Ms. Maddox. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Cassandra A. Holtzmann, JD, LPA
Executive Director