

**SUMMIT COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 28, 2023 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 Tripathy-Moore
✓ Kemp Boyd		✓ Catherine Van Horne

Staff Present: Dawn Boudrie, Jon Hart, Tracy Mayfield, Jessica Miller, Kalli Ozersky, Ann Ream, Erica Sabados, Mary Serapiglia, Laura Sasser, Deanna Shriver, Beth Lowe - Recording Secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Board Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to approve the minutes of October 24, 2023. Mr. Banks moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Malick. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Annual Conflict of Interest

The Board received the Annual Disclosure Statement, Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure and a list of active contracted vendors in their packet. Chief Legal Counsel/Deputy Director Catherine Van Horne explained that all board members must complete and submit the Annual Disclosure Statement each year.

Committee Reports

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC)

On behalf of Committee Chair Gracey, Board Chair Connell-Freund reported that the committee met on November 15 and approved all meeting minutes. The Committee received a Fiscal Overview from Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Deputy Director Darin Kearns and a Director’s Report from Executive Director Cassandra Holtzmann. The Committee also recommended reappointment of Terri Burns of the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services (SCDJFS) to the Committee for another three-year term, reviewed and updated the Code of Regulations, and discussed how to reenergize the group to be more engaged in advising and supporting SCCS’ mission. Meetings will take place quarterly in 2024.

Board Chair Connell-Freund introduced Resolution **11-2023-28/D** requesting authorization to reappoint Terri Burns of the SCDJFS to the CAC for a three-year term of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026. Ms. Maddox made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Buckner. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Planning and Programs Committee

Committee Chair Stoyloff reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of May 23, 2023. The Committee also enjoyed a very informative presentation on The LOOP from Jessica Miller, Client Rights/Quality Improvement (QI) Director, and Jennifer Jones, Performance Management Analyst/Researcher. The LOOP is a bi-monthly data dissemination, discussion, and feedback project developed and undertaken by SCCS QI staff that endeavors to share data on agency practice and performance using a combination of existing state and federal measures along with specially developed measures to examine the child welfare outcomes of children served by the agency.

Resources Committee

Committee Chair Malick reported that the committee met today and approved the minutes of October 24, 2023. As part of the Resources Committee report, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)/Deputy Director Kearns provided the Board a Financial Statement Report as of October 31, 2023.

Resolution 11-2023-28/A

Authorization to approve 2024 General Contracts in excess of \$25,000 listed on Exhibit A and directs that they be processed by the County of Summit for certification in accordance with the current SCCS Procurement policies and procedures. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Pastor Boyd. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution 11-2023-28/B

Authorization to enter into an amended First Extension to the agreement with The Bair Foundation for the provision of in-home family stability and intensive in-home services that commenced March 1, 2023 in the increased amount that may be less than but shall not exceed \$60,000 annually, with the option to extend the agreement for up to two one-year terms at such amount. Committee Chair Malick made a motion to approve; seconded by Pastor Boyd. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Committee Chair Banks reported that the current term of elected officers of the Board will expire on December 31, 2023. The Nominating Committee including Mr. Banks, Ms. Arvay and Mr. Bravo surveyed all members of the Board for nominations or self-nominations and presented the slate for election. Before the voting took place, Committee Chair Banks called for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the voting took place by paper ballot and resulted in the re-election of the following officers: Anne Connell-Freund as Chairperson, Keith Malick as Vice-Chairperson and GinaKaye Maddox as Secretary. They will serve a two-year term from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Committee Chair Banks introduced Resolution **11-2023-28/C** reflecting these re-appointments. Committee Chair Banks made a motion to approve; seconded by Pastor Boyd. 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:

- Currently, there are 910 children in agency custody. Of those, 201 are in permanent custody and 64 do not have a permanency plan. The Board was reminded that the board report includes a chart of custody trends.
- Pastor Boyd, Rev. Dr. Charles Myricks, and Rev. Ron Fowler were thanked for participating at the SCCS Minister's Breakfast on November 14 and for their partnership with SCCS in recruiting foster/adoptive families.

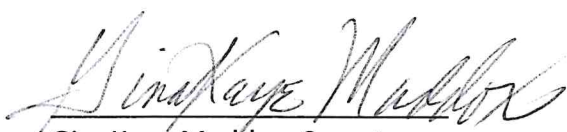
- The Legal Department is currently providing legal services to a total of 1,082 children with Juvenile-Court involved open cases. This number does not include the children on voluntary cases.
- Hotline volume continues to trend downward. October 2023 was the lowest number of reports received and screened in for assessment/investigation in the past five years.
- Law enforcement removed 48 children using the Juvenile Rule 6 (JR6) procedure. The Akron Police Department accounted for 66% (32) of these removals. Although some of the removals are necessary, SCCS is monitoring this number closely as it conflicts with the state mandate to place children in the least restrictive placements.
- Summit County Regional Dispatch Center will continue to operate the afterhours answering services until a new vendor is selected. The length of SCCS calls is a challenge for the Center. Hotline staff are flexing their time to cover as many afterhours calls as possible. This is a temporary solution until a new vendor is selected and transitioned in February 2024.
- Social Service aide Anna Pratt has developed a user manual for processing kinship applications that details how to navigate both SACWIS and Binti to complete the process. She has quickly become the point person for Binti-related questions. Her hard work is appreciated!
- The Visitation units hosted Trick or Treat in October for children and families. Many staff participated and enjoyed seeing the children and families dressed up in costumes.
- November is National Adoption Month, and many activities took place including Adoption Day at Probate Court where eight adoptions were finalized. Executive Director Holtzmann and Department Director Tracy Mayfield were interviewed on the Ray Horner show. Protective Specialized Services staff have finalized 61 adoptions so far this year with 10 more expected in November. Of those, 28 adoptions took place in Summit County, 28 took place outside Summit County and five were out of state. Additionally, the Ohio Adoption Grant is offering eligible families up to \$20,000 per child after the adoption.
- Currently, there are 33 staff vacancies.
- SCCS hosted a successful visit with Senator Vernon Sykes on November 17. He shadowed social worker Mary Baker, toured the Family Interaction Center, and met with this Director as well as Deputy Director Amy Davidson, Department Director Ann Ream and Supervisors Bea Flett and Nikaeda Griffie.
- The Women’s Auxiliary Board were at the agency for the ‘Hanging of the Greens’ on November 17.

Other Business

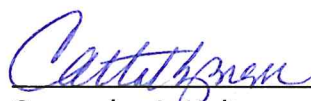
SCCS employee & Master’s student Kalli Ozersky was observing the Board Meeting and Board Chair Connell-Freund welcomed her to the meeting.

Adjournment

Board Chair Connell-Freund requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malick moved; seconded by Mrs. Stoyloff. All were in favor and the motion carried. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.



GinaKaye Maddox, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Cassandra A. Holtzmann, JD, LPA
Executive Director