
MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD
Regular Meeting Held September 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Lucas County Children Services Board was held at 705 Adams Street, 3:00 P.M. via WebEx.

Members Present: Ms. Allen, Ms. Arnold, Ms. Cowell, Ms. McCollough, Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Ms. Wilson

Member(s) Absent: None

Ms. Wilson called the September 16, 2020 regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

Lisa Simpson – HR Assistant Manager – Human Resources

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND AUGUST 2020 LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Wilson asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Vasquez asked that the Strategic Plan Target Outcomes from the Services and Programs Committee Minutes. Ms. Wilson read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from August 19, 2020 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Minutes from September 2, 2020 Services and Programs Committee Meeting (and additional attachments)
- Minutes from August 24, August 31, and September 8, 2020 Fundraising Committee Meetings
- Minutes from September 8, 2020, 2020 Finance Committee Meeting
- Finance Committee Reports (separate attachments)

Ms. Wilson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Hearing nothing, the Consent Agenda items are adopted with the exclusion of the Strategic Plan Target Outcome color graph.

Ms. Vasquez spoke about the color graph, Strategic Plan Data Tracking, which is inside the Services and Programs Committee minutes. Ms. Vasquez wanted to bring your attention to it outside of the Consent Agenda as they spent so much time trying to get our Strategic Plan in the direction that we wanted it to go, and we were insistent that we would have it be a living and working document. This is the first quarter quarterly report that the staff has prepared for this. Ms. Vasquez wanted to bring this to your attention as things are moving in the right direction.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Wilson reports that there was a Personnel Committee meeting on September 14 and minutes were sent out yesterday. For a brief overview, Ms. Wilson reports that they talked about the inclusion, diversity and equity training and position and were provided with a COVID update.

2020 Fiscal Training was provided by Ms. Jackson for all board members.

Quarter 2 Quarterly Stats Report was attached with the Consent Agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

- We are missing a key person today. Ms. Reese is getting ready to undergo surgery on Monday. It is not clear how long she will be off after the surgery. Ms. Lloyd and the directors will be overseeing everything in Ms. Reese's absence.

- CARES Awards are tomorrow. For those of you who have not purchased tickets, they are \$50. Ms. Wilson encourages all to purchase tickets and attend the event.
- We are Issue 18 on the ballot. We have yard signs now. Get in touch with Julie Malkin or Kevin Milliken for signs. We will be doing canvassing in the next few weeks. If anyone is available to help with canvassing, please let Ms. Wilson know.
- Ms. Malkin reports total sales of 75 attendees on 49 different orders, some tickets were comped to sponsors. Total sales are \$2,427.00. We also have face masks and will have t-shirts for the levy.
- Please be sure the board members receive the link to sign up for canvassing and the Early Vote Center.
- We have not heard back from the Chamber.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LCCS Child Placement Statistics

	Current Month	Previous Month
Agency Foster Homes	336	354
Subsidized Adoptions	1,240	1,247
Purchased Boarding Homes	87	86
Institutions/Group Homes	8	11
Relative Placement	282	282

The finishing touches are now in place for the Virtual CARES Awards Thursday, Sept. 17, 6 to 7:30 pm. A web link is being sent out today to those who purchased tickets.

I gave a presentation to the Lucas County Democratic Party executive committee, which has endorsed Issue 18. Party personnel will provide a lot of campaign assistance going forward.

The second town hall meeting on racial equity and institutional bias took place via Zoom Aug. 27. Ohio Child Welfare Allies Town Hall had strong participation from LCCS staff. The third town hall will bring both groups together. Each town hall includes a brief survey afterward to inform future town halls, as well as future Racial Justice in Child Welfare activities in Ohio.

We continue to hold Tuesday town hall meetings with LCCS staff, with morning and afternoon sessions. Those are moving to a bi-weekly format going forward, along with a manager's meeting just prior to each morning online town hall session.

Julie and I met with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's staff via Zoom on Sept. 2. We updated the senator's team on COVID-related challenges, including school and daycare issues.

The PCSAO annual conference will be held virtually for the first time Sept. 16 and 17. I helped plan the agenda as part of the PCSAO Trustees Board.

I continue to work on the Governor's Children Services *Transformation* Advisory Council, which recently finished work on foster care and is now moving to consider court and adoption-related issues. The group's next meeting is Sept. 21. A report is due soon.

I continue to serve on a PCSAO modernization work group regarding what the future will look like for county child protective services. The work group is addressing the recruitment, onboarding, and retention issues regarding caseworkers. Priority recommendations will soon be made to ODJFS for funding.

I'd like to point out that one of the child placement statistics listed above is down significantly. The number of children placed in group homes in August (8 children) is at its lowest point this year, down from a high of 15 back in February—nearly cut in half.

Pending legislation and court decisions:

- HB33—Animal abuse reporting; passed the House the previous week and now proceeds to the Senate. PCSAO supports this bill.
- HB558-- Report child abuse to military authorities; PCSAO provided written Interested Party testimony on May 28, focused on reporting at investigation phase vs. open case; experience of PCSAs who currently have MOUs with Wright-Patterson.
- SCR14—Declare racism a public health emergency; PCSAO provided written proponent testimony on June 9.
- HB640—Establish kinship caregivers' bill of rights; bill unlikely to move at this point in the General Assembly; PCSAO will monitor.
- Supreme Court of Ohio decision in re KM. which held that 2151.35 (B) (1) imposes a mandatory deadline requiring a juvenile court to dismiss a case without prejudice if the court fails to conduct a dispositional hearing within 90 days of the filing of a complaint alleging that a child is abused, neglected or dependent.

DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Caseworkers have delivered approximately 900 backpacks full of school supplies to LCCS kids across the region. Directions Credit Union collected school supplies at their locations through Aug. 22. A late donation from Hollywood Casino from an internal backpack effort for employee's children also helped.

Kristina White and her Osborne Books & More team got together and donated more than 90 bags of new books and toys for infants to teens. The bags will be given as birthday gifts, holiday gifts, and to kids who need them "just because."

The management team at Five Below on Monroe St. donated a SUV load of excess inventory for the enjoyment of LCCS kids. Headphones went to homes learning remotely, some STEM kits went to foster recruitment, and art and STEM kits will be used during the holiday gift drive.

The holiday gift drive already is seeing donations. LouAnn Fletcher of Berkey gave the very first toy donations. Kandy Takas of Genoa donated several rolls of wrapping paper and a couple of boxes of bows.

IN THE MEDIA

Ohio AP	Rep. Sobbecki's donation to Friends of LCCS (story on legislators donating First Energy contributions)	8-25-20
<i>Toledo Blade</i>	CARES Awards preview (in Blade briefs)	9-8-20
13-abc	Shaken Baby Syndrome (Nicole Williams interview)	9-9-20

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Vasquez to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion seconded by Ms. McCollough.

Roll Call: All Board members present.

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Cowell made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Schinharl seconded.

Roll Call: All Board members present.

Two motions coming out of Executive Session:

Ms. Vasquez made a motion to extend Ms. Reese's contract to three (3) years, expiring in December 2023 with the only adjustment being to revise to six months' notice to resign or retire. Ms. McCollough seconded the motion.

Ms. Vasquez made a motion to allow Ms. Reese to cash out up to 55 hours of her vacation time in lieu of a salary increase for the current year of her contract. Ms. McCollough seconded the motion.

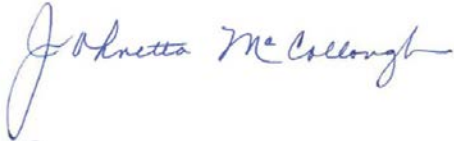
Discussion was held regarding the three new board members that were sent over from the Commissioners Office. Ms. Wilson will see who she needs to reach out to there and get them appointed to the board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Schinharl. Seconded by Rev. Dr. Perryman.

We stand adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Johnetta McCollough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Johnetta McCollough, Board Secretary