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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held February 17, 2021**

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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. Arnold, Ms. Cowell, Ms. Gagnon, Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez,
Ms. Wilson

Member(s) Absent: Ms. McCollough

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Ms. Vasquez called the January 20, 2021 regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Anthony Cabot – Caseworker – Training Unit  
Sarah Gabor – Caseworker – Training Unit  
Kendra Jones – Caseworker – Training Unit  
Brea Krumn – Caseworker – Training Unit  
Randi Wooddall – Caseworker – Training Unit  
Rachel Zsarnay – Caseworker – Training Unit

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND JANUARY 2021 LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Vasquez asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing nothing, Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 01/20/2021 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes and an additional attachment ( 02/03/2021 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 02/09/2021 )

Ms. Vasquez moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Hearing nothing, the Consent Agenda items are adopted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Code of Regulations**

- Everyone received a copy of the potential amendments to the Code of Regulations at the January board meeting. Ms. Vasquez read the new language into the minutes:

**ARTICLE III - OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of the Board are: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Immediate Past President. (The immediate Past President officer is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Committee for a term of one year, beginning immediately following his/her term as President.) The Executive Director or his/her designee shall serve as Recording Secretary for the Board.

Section 2. Officers are elected for a term of one year. The Chairperson may serve no more than four, one year terms.

Is there a motion to approve these amendments? Rev. Dr. Perryman made the motion to approve the amendments and Mr. Schinharl seconded the motion. Motion passes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

- Looking at membership of the committees. Ms. Vasquez would like everyone to consider the committee that you're on and whether you wish to continue or whether you wish to move to another committee. Ms. Vasquez is not asking

anyone to do this, but if there is a committee you would rather serve on or in addition to your current committee, please let Ms. Vasquez know.

- We have had some regular updates on our Strategic Plan over the past year. After the end of the first quarter this year, Ms. Vasquez would like for us to set aside some time, probably during a board meeting, to review the progress and any refinement we might want to make.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 309           | 322            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,227         | 1,235          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 105           | 111            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 8             | 9              |
| Relative Placement       | 302           | 339            |

### **Domestic Violence**

Certain conditions in our community have given rise to domestic violence. Some of these conditions have been made worse by COVID-19. Children at home due to no in-school learning, unexpected time at home, unemployment and financial insecurity, anxiety and stress all have aggravated an already high incidence rate of domestic violence. We are going to increase our efforts around messaging and prevention. In addition, we are going to utilize our Parenting Empowerment Institute (PEI) to inform and educate our families and the community about domestic violence.

### **Parent Empowerment Institution (PEI)**

Lucas County Children Services has established goals to safely reduce the number of children in Foster Care by 75%. The establishment of the Parent Empowerment Institute is one strategy to assist with that goal. Furthermore, The Parent Empowerment Institute will serve as a formalized program geared towards strengthening the knowledge, skills and abilities of caregivers and parents to sustain the family unit, preventing child abuse/neglect within the community.

The fundamental structure of this program with three primary pillars of focus include Advocacy, Legal, and Support. The program will consist of trainings, communal events, tools and resources to assist families. The program approach is implementing successful prevention strategies that aid the entire family and focusing both on the child's safety and well-being and the parents' emotional and economic well-being.

### **Kinship Support**

As directed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), we have notified kinship caregivers of the new Kinship Support Program and how to become licensed. The program will provide financial payments to kinship caregivers who have received placement of a child in custody of a Public Children Service Agency (PCSA) and who are not licensed foster caregivers. These payments are for a time-limited period (nine months initially, but then six months ongoing) and will be paid by the state. Once the kinship caregivers become licensed, counties will pay the foster care per diem.

ODJFS shared how they arrived at the county cost estimates for the Kinship Support Program. The estimates are based on anticipated foster caregiver per diem costs. Those costs do not take into account administrative costs or growth in cases.

ODJFS estimates the following costs for the program:

- SFY2021: State costs: \$17M; County costs: \$0 to \$3M (few kin are expected to become licensed by June 30, 2021)
- SFY2022: State costs: \$32M; County costs: \$23M
- SFY2023: State costs: \$28M; County costs: \$25M

### **Family First Service Prevention Act**

LCCS, along with Butler, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, and Stark counties, are participating in the prevention services pilot. We have formed an internal group to lead us through the pilot and are gearing up to implement prevention services on April 1. The pilot counties will use the Family First Transition Act funds through the Center of Excellence to implement the new prevention services.

### **Meeting with Sheriff Navarre**

The LCCS leadership team had its first meeting with newly-elected Sheriff Mike Navarre. We discussed LCCS security needs, DART and future collaborations.

### **PCSAO Membership Meeting**

The first PCSAO membership meeting of 2021 is Thursday, March 4. The meeting will be virtual, which opens up the opportunity for board members to attend. The speakers include Kimberly Henderson, Director, ODJFS; Kara Bertke-Wente, Assistant Director, ODJFS; Kristi Burre, Director, Office of Children Services Transformation; and LeeAnne Cornyn, Director, Children's Initiatives. There is no cost to attend.

### **LCCS Website**

After more than two years of hard work, LCCS is about to launch a new website, to be located at our present address, [www.lucaskids.net](http://www.lucaskids.net). Building a website from scratch is a difficult, time-consuming and expensive process, but we used our own staff to get the job done. Until now, we have been part of the county's website, but it no longer meets our needs. Many other county agencies have set up their own sites, as well. With the launch, we have room to grow and add features that will increase functionality and help us better tell our story.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The Mercy Foundation has awarded a Grey Nuns Community Fund grant of \$25,000 for the playground project. That brings total funding to \$130,000 so far. Other current playground activities:

- A landscape designer is donating her services for educational gardens and garden art.
- The Toledo Design Collaborative will host a Community Design Day with stakeholders—partners, LCCS staff, and parents—a socially-distanced charrette leading to a final design.

The LCCS diaper bank now has a sustainable funding source to continue as a preventative service under the Family First legislation. Bon Secours Mercy will use its buying power and donor funding compiled by the Northwest Ohio Hospital Council to purchase diapers and wipes at much cheaper prices. Salvation Army will receive/store them so LCCS can access on an as-needed basis for caseworkers to distribute.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                                      |                                                                                                         |                              |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WGTE-TV, FM 91                       | Business 360 with Kristi Huffman<br>Robin Reese & Wendy Spoerl interviewed                              | 01-29-2021<br>(airs Feb. 18) |
| WTOL, wtol.com                       | Park Hotel will become housing for foster kids<br>aging out of care<br>Kris Kapela-McGuckin interviewed | 02-01-2021                   |
| 13abc, 13abc.com<br>NBC24, nbc24.com | Choose Your Partner Wisely, domestic violence<br>Robin Reese interviewed                                | 02-08-2021                   |

Any questions for Ms. Reese? Mr. Schinharl asked if it is possible to share any information on the recent resignation and what the possible plan is moving forward. Ms. Reese was going to speak about this at the Personnel Committee and wanted input from the board. Since there was no Personnel Committee meeting in February, she will discuss it at the March meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Rev. Dr. Perryman.

Seconded by Mr. Ridi.

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Perryman', written in dark ink.

Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman, Secretary