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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held April 21, 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 Microsoft Teams.

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

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Arnold

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Ms. Vasquez called the April 21, 2021 regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Tyler Tudor – Security Officer – Security  
Nicole White – Scheduler – Family Visits

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

Ms. Vasquez asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Two items were pulled from the Consent Agenda:

- From Services and Programs Committee: Discussion on Race Equity Convening.
- From Finance Committee: Labor Relations.

Amy Galvan, Manager of the Department of Family Services, gave a presentation on Race Equity Convening/Casey Foundation. The powerpoint slide deck and handouts are attached to these minutes.

The Labor Relations will be discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 03/17/2021 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 04/05/2021 )
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes ( 04/07/2021 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 04/13/2021 )

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Last Month's Executive Session**

Once we came out of Executive Session, we did not discuss what came out of the session. It was discussion surrounding a request to the Executive Director that she work with the Personnel Committee to develop a succession plan for the Executive Director.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**In-Person Committee and Board Meetings**

It's been a year since we've had an in-person meeting. The temporary changes to the Open Meetings Act expires on July 1. The temporary changes allowed for virtual meetings to be held and carry the same requirements and decision making as in-person meetings. Chances of the Governor having another executive order are pretty slim. We can expect and work from the position that virtual meetings will no longer be allowed for public meetings beginning July 1.

So with that, Ms. Vasquez has in mind to return to in-person board meetings in June as a way to slowly get back into in-person meetings for everyone and then resume in-person committee meetings in July which is about the timeframe that right now Ms. Reese is looking at to have the most full return to full staffing for the agency.

Any comments or questions about this topic? Question was asked if we would have to wear masks. Ms. Vasquez expects if that is the recommendation at the time from the health department, yes. They would be required and certainly optional if it is not required. Social distancing will be involved for a period of time. Ms. McCollough stated that we ought to anticipate visitors and we need to prepare a protocol so that it is fully published and acknowledged on how we will treat visitors who show up at the meeting. Ms. McCollough is more concerned about the protocol about the virus, masks, hand sanitizer, social distancing, etc. This needs to be a written document so there is no fallout. Ms. Vasquez asked Ms. Reese if she would have someone pull this together before July. Ms. Reese asked if even with going to full board meetings, is there any consideration to having the meeting still be virtual for people outside of the board. Rather than having people come into a room, is it possible to go hybrid? Ms. Vasquez would be supportive of this. Meetings will need to be held in the CLC to accommodate the social distancing guidelines.

We will proceed with the plan to resume board meetings in-person in June and committee meetings in-person in July. Rev. Dr. Perryman is asking that we build some flexibility into the plan making it related to 1) the law has been renewed or extended and 2) just based upon the science at the time in July. There are so many variants coming out, we really don't know what it's going to be like. Ms. Vasquez stated that if the temporary order continues, that should be based on the status of the pandemic in Ohio.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 302           | 306            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,230         | 1,233          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 107           | 110            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 10            | 8              |
| Relative Placement       | 302           | 299            |

**Stand Against Racism Conference**

- LCCS and the YWCA of NW Ohio are collaborating on the annual Stand Against Racism conference, April 22 and 23, 1 to 5 p.m. each day. This year's conference will focus on "The Trauma of Systemic Racism on Black Families."
- Thursday's keynote speaker will be Dr. Barbara Love, author and professor emeritus of social justice education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her presentation will be followed by discussions led by Dr. Michael W. Waters, founding pastor of Abundant Life A.M.E. Church in Dallas, Texas, and the author of the award-winning books, *For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World*, and *Stakes Is High: Race, Faith, and Hope for America*. His wife, Yulise Reaves Waters, Esq., will address incarceration and criminal justice reform. Ms. Waters is deputy director of the Lone Star Justice Alliance, a nonprofit legal organization in Texas that improves the lives of youth and emerging adults in the justice system and addresses racial disparities in the criminal legal system.
- On Friday, Jawanza Kunjufu will provide the keynote address. He is the author of more than 25 books about the challenges and obstacles that black boys encounter in education and American culture.

**Child Memorial**

- The annual Child Memorial will be broadcast on the LCCS Facebook page on Thursday April 29, 11 a.m. The virtual event will honor the memories of more than 20 children lost to abuse, neglect, and street violence over the past two years. Last year's in-person memorial service was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### **Family First Prevention Services Act**

- On April 5, LCCS along with Butler, Fairfield, Knox, Licking, Stark, and Trumbull counties officially launched the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) pilot.
- The Public Children Services Association of Ohio convened the participating counties to share information among themselves. At the request of the pilot counties, the group will continue to meet monthly.
- We have two management level staff, Tionna Jackson and Michele Hoffman, who are directing the agency through the pilot process and will be attending the monthly meetings.

### **OhioRise**

- I continue to serve on the OhioRise advisory board. Governor DeWine joined the virtual meeting on April 13. I was able to express my appreciation for the efforts being made toward child abuse and prevention and out of home care in Ohio.

### **Director of Diversity Equality, Inclusion, and Strategy Position**

- Director of Diversity Equality, Inclusion, and Strategy interviews began this week. We have three outstanding candidates. We will continue to keep the position posted until it is filled.

### **Ohio Metro/State Leaders Race Equity Workgroup**

- I have been working over the past year with the Casey Family Services, ODJFS and Major Metros on Race Equity work in Child Protection in Ohio. This committee is charged with helping agencies and the state to move toward equity in working with families of color in Ohio.
- We meet monthly with Casey Family facilitating the discussion. We are reviewing state data and discussing strategies on how to ensure equity to screening, case planning and services delivery, etc.

### **Town Hall**

- We continue to hold our virtual town hall meetings with staff to provide information, updates, guidance, and to listen to staff.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The Anthony Wayne HS Interact club made and donated 200+ blankets for LCCS kids as a winter service project. What sets these blankets apart is that each one is labeled with the crafter's name. The students raised \$2,000 on their own to fund the project just in time for Easter.

Foster parent Terri Bade put together 30 Easter baskets, donating them to the LCCS Family Visits department so kids spending time with birth parents could have a small holiday celebration. Project Noelle also brought nearly 100 Easter baskets to LCCS for delivery to families during home visits.

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority board approved a \$25,000 grant for the playground project, while Lucas County Commissioners are funding a \$21,000 contract with the Buehrer Group for engineering services. That brings total playground project funding to more than \$200,000 to date. Community Design Day April 16 drew 50+ people who gave their input on what they'd like to see go into the final playground design.

Christ the King students K-2 collected dozens of hats and gloves as a Lenten project to donate to LCCS kids.

Unity Church in West Toledo conducts an infant item collection each year. This time the focus was on pull-ups to keep the diaper bank stocked. A large amount of baby clothes and sleepers also were part of this year's donation.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                                 |                                                                      |            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | LCCS use of former Mott library<br>Quotes: Robin Reese, Julie Malkin | 03-21-2021 |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Editorial about governor's foster care funding proposal              | 03-23-2021 |

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Point & Shoreland Journal       | April Child Abuse Prevention Month events                                            | 03-26-2021 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com               | Julie Malkin <i>Your Day</i> interview about April LCCS events & foster parent need  | 04-02-2021 |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Feature obituary on long-time foster parent Grace Yard                               | 04-05-2021 |
| Cumulus radio stations          | Julie Malkin interview on domestic violence, Impact on children                      | 04-06-2021 |
| WTVG-TV, 13abce.com             | COVID-related fluctuation of CA/N referrals Donna Seed, Nicole Williams interviewed. | 04-07-2021 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com               | Kevin Milliken interview on playground & Community Design Day                        | 04-10-2021 |
| WSPD-1370AM                     | Robin Reese interview on Wear Blue Day                                               | 04-12-2021 |
| WRVF 101.5 "The River"          | Julie Malkin interview on Wear Blue Day                                              | 04-13-2021 |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Article on Wear Blue Day & 2020 statistics<br>Quotes from Robin Reese, Julie Malkin  | 04-13-2021 |
| WNWO-TV, nbc-24.com             | Community Design Day                                                                 | 04-16-2021 |

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Perryman to go into Executive Session for purposes of Labor Negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schinharl.

Roll Call was taken and all were present except for Ms. Arnold.

### **OPEN SESSION**

Ms. Cowell made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Rev. Dr. Perryman seconded the motion.

Roll Call was taken and all were present except for Ms. Arnold.

A motion was made by Mr. Ridi to accept the Labor Negotiations. Ms. Gagnon seconded the motion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Cowell.

Seconded by Rev. Dr. Perryman.

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman, Secretary