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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held July 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. in person and via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Ms. Arnold, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, Ms. Vasquez, Mr. Walrod, Ms. Wilson

**Member(s) Absent:** Ms. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Mr. Schinharl

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

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Brooklynne Gregory – Day Care Billing Clerk – Clerical

Amanda Mellott – Caseworker – DFS Unit 03

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

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

- From Finance Committee:
  - Resolution 04-2021 APPROVAL TO USE WALMART CAPITAL ONE RETAIL STORE CARD
  - Resolution 05-2021 DEPOSITORIES INSTITUTION NAME CHANGE

Ms. Vasquez read Resolution 04-2021 Approval to Use Walmart Capital One Retail Store Card into the minutes:

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESOLUTION</b> | 04-2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>   | <b>APPROVAL TO USE WALMART CAPITAL ONE RETAIL STORE CARD</b>                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>WHEREAS,</b>   | Lucas County Children Services, per Ohio Revised Code 5153.16(A)(4), has the responsibility to any child adjudicated to be abused, neglected, or dependent child the agency finds to need public care or service;        |
| <b>WHEREAS,</b>   | the current Walmart Voucher Program to meet this responsibility was discontinued April 9, 2021 and replaced with a Walmart Capital One Retail Store Card;                                                                |
| <b>WHEREAS,</b>   | the Walmart Capital One Retail Store Card will meet the emergency needs of the agency as highlighted in Ohio Revised Code 5153.16(A)(4) and will act as a back up to the other card program currently run by the agency; |
| <b>WHEREAS,</b>   | this program is in line with Ohio Revised Code Section 307.86(K) exempting this type of purchase from competitive bid requirements;                                                                                      |
|                   | Now be it therefore                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>RESOLVED,</b>  | that the Board approves the use of the Walmart Capital One Retail Store Card for use to meet the emergency needs of children in need of public care.                                                                     |

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve this Resolution. Rev. Dr. Perryman made a motion for approval. Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. Vasquez asked those in favor of the motion to signify by stating aye, those opposed nay. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Vasquez read Resolution 05-2021 Depositories Institution Name Change into the minutes:

**RESOLUTION**            05-2021  
**SUBJECT:**                **DEPOSITORIES INSTITUTION NAME CHANGE**

**WHEREAS,**                The Ohio Revised Code requires the governing board to designate the public depositories and award the public moneys to and among the eligible depositories pursuant to Section 135.12, Ohio Revised Code.

**WHEREAS,**                The Board approved First Federal Bank as the depository institution for the deposit of the agency fund through Resolution 04-2019 for a period of five years beginning January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2024. The bank has since June 2020 adopted a new name, "Premier Bank;"

Now be it therefore

**RESOLVED,**                that the Board hereby accepts the adopted name, "Premier Bank," and this Resolution acts as an addendum to Resolution 04-2019.

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve this Resolution. Ms. Allen made a motion for approval. Ms. McCollough seconded. Ms. Vasquez asked those in favor of the motion to signify by stating aye, those opposed nay. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 06/16/2021 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 07/12/2021 )
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes ( was canceled )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 07/13/2021 )

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. McCollough made a motion for approval. Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. Vasquez asked those in favor of the motion to signify by stating aye, those opposed nay. Motion unanimously carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Vasquez reported to the board that she had taken a lengthy tour of 705 Adams, which she found to be in "increasingly horrible condition," citing recent rains causing flooding in the basement, "leaving it unusable." She stated it is "taking a toll emotionally" on the staff and cited a need to replace several windows and to replace carpet that "cannot be cleaned." Ms. Vasquez stated Lucas County administrative staff recently has taken a stronger interest in the concerns of LCCS leadership than in the past. There is an RFP to replace windows in the building. She believes that the work environment is taking a toll on staff health, safety, and morale. Ms. Vasquez announced plans for a special LCCS board meeting to discuss possible solutions to the situation.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 316           | 309            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,223         | 1,223          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 122           | 122            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 11            | 10             |
| Relative Placement       | 340           | 330            |

## **DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **State Budget/Child Protection Allocation**

- Gov. DeWine signed HB110 on July 1. The budget includes an additional \$10M/year for the State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA) as added by the Senate.

### **Children's Services Transformation Advisory Council**

- Many of the Advisory Council's transformation recommendations were included in the budget bill. The Office of Families and Children has released a timeline for implementing all the recommendations by the end of SFY2023 and will host a "Children Services Transformation Advisory Council Update" on Tuesday, July 20, 2-3:30 p.m. No registration is necessary.

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

- The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was adopted on February 9, 2018 and must be fully implemented nationwide by October 1, 2021. Family First places emphasis on the use of evidence-based prevention services to alleviate the need for placement of children in foster care, and ensuring appropriate settings are used for children in foster care.

### **OhioRise**

- Ohio Department of Medicaid is working on the next generation of its managed care program, which includes launching OhioRISE services (IHBT, wraparound, MRSS, respite) by January 2022. One of the goals of the program is to prevent custody relinquishment, OhioRISE will utilize a new 1915c waiver to target the most in need and vulnerable families and children to prevent custody relinquishment.

### **Ohio's Current System for Kids with MultiSystem Needs**

- 40% of kids over age 15 in the child welfare system are in congregate care
- 140 kids per day are receiving care out of state - a 200% increase in kids per year compared to 2016
- 38% of Youth with Multi-System Needs have individuals in their families with a history of Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder and/or Serious Emotional Disturbance primary diagnosis

### **Equity/Inclusion**

- We have partnered with the YWCA, Fifth Third Bank and ProMedica to Screen a Virtual Panel Discussion of the Documentary "Bias" If you're human, you're biased. Now what? It is an Award-winning documentary film by Robin Hauser that highlights the nature of implicit bias and the grip it holds on our social and professional lives.

### **Playground Project**

- The playground project is looking at a possible groundbreaking in mid-September. The steering committee has approved a final design with \$100,000 worth of playground equipment (before discounts). Engineering drawings and bid documents are being prepared by Buehrer Group and Lewandowski Engineers to be submitted to the county plan commission for approval.

### **Trunk or Treat 2021**

- This year's Trunk or Treat is scheduled to take place Saturday, Oct. 23. LCCS has received site approval from TPS to host it again at the former site of Libbey HS. Friends of LCCS, Libbey Legacy Lives, and Cornerstone Church all are back as event partners. Planning meetings begin in August once backpacks and school supplies are distributed.

### **Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act**

- Until September 30, 2021, the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, provides additional funding to protect and support youth or young adults currently or formerly in foster care. The additional Chafee funding may be used to provide immediate, critically needed assistance.
- In April 2021, LCCS was allocated \$281,266 in Chafee stimulus funds. As of 7/15/2021, we have already approved over \$100,000.00 in assistance to young adults.
- These funds can be used for the following populations: young adults under age 27 who emancipated from a PCSA at or after age 18, youth who experienced foster care after attaining age 14 and were subsequently reunified and youth who exited foster care to adoption or guardianship after attaining age 16.
- Due to flexibility with funding under this special act, LCCS has been able to provide direct financial assistance via a check. The young adult can then use the funds as they see fit to make life improvements. Some have used the funds to pay for legal issues, court fees, car impound fees, etc. (things that LCCS cannot typically pay for). In addition, LCCS has been able to use the funds to pay for some of the following items: several months of rent, utility bills (including those that are delinquent), car repairs, auto insurance, assistance with purchase of a vehicle, clothing, food, hygiene items, furniture and educational needs such as books, supplies and fees not covered by the State Education Training voucher (ETV).
- Outreach efforts are part of this package. We've shared the information with local homeless shelters, Lucas County Juvenile Court, Ohio Bridges, and community providers, including mental health agencies. Post-Emancipation and Independent Living workers have reached out to previous clients who are eligible for the funds. In addition, we've contacted LCCS caseworkers who are working now with emancipated young adults as parents so that we can make them aware of how to access these funds. In case more personal stories are needed...here are some examples on how we were able to help young adults.
- One young Father who has custody of his two toddlers had his car impounded after it broke down on the Ohio turnpike. He was unable to come up with the cash to pay the impound fee and these kept accumulating each day. Because he didn't have a vehicle, he had difficulty getting to work and then was in jeopardy of losing his JFS funded daycare for his children. We were able to provide him with direct financial assistance so that he could use the money to get his vehicle out of impound and get back to work. We also provided him with furniture for his apartment, food, and other supports.
- A young woman had her vehicle held at the car repair shop because she could not pay the total bill for the repairs. She was making payments each month but not having her vehicle was affecting her ability to get to her job at a local health facility. We were able to provide her with direct financial assistance so that she could pay off the car repairs and use her vehicle again to get to her job regularly. We also assisted her with getting caught up on her car payments.

### **New Juvenile Court Judge**

- There will be a new face on the bench at the Lucas County Juvenile Court. Governor Mike DeWine appointed Linda Knepp to the judgeship left vacant by the retirement of Judge Connie Zimmelman. Knepp assumed office on July 6; she will have to run for election this November to complete the unexpired term that ends in January 2025. Knepp has most recently served as a Magistrate at the Lucas County Probate Court, and as an Assistant Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney in the Juvenile Division. Her other positions also included spending 16 years as an Administrative Hearing Officer with the Lucas County Child Support Enforcement Agency. Knepp received her law degree from University of Toledo College of Law, and an undergraduate degree from Wayne State University.



### **Graduating Youth**

- LCCS had 10 youth graduate high school this year. Six are headed to college and eight of the 10 graduates are employed right now. LCCS recognized their achievements with a celebratory Graduation parade and cookout. The Friends of LCCS purchased food for the event, including the decorated cake. The graduates were also sponsored by individual LCCS Units and by Love and Luggage. LCCS also purchased new laptops/chrome books for each graduate utilizing Independent Living TANF/Chafee funds.

### **Hope Toledo**

- We recently met with John Jones, the Director of HOPE Toledo, and Shawna Woody to discuss how we could build collaborations to ensure that children in our care and custody benefit from Hope Toledo.

This statement is accredited to HOPE Toledo:

- HOPE Toledo is a 501(c)3 organization established to help children obtain high-quality early childhood education through HOPE Toledo Pre-K and post-secondary training in college or trade schools through HOPE Toledo Promise. In conjunction with Toledo Public Schools, Washington Local Schools, early childhood education providers and many other educators and service organizations in our community, HOPE Toledo Pre-K will help improve school readiness outcomes and subsequent school performance. Simply put, more of our children will enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- HOPE Toledo Promise builds on the foundation of the Jesup W. Scott High School Promise, piloted and launched by the Kadens Family Foundation.

### **Youth Advisory Board**

- This group consists of 12 youth in LCCS custody or newly emancipated who want to help make positive changes for youth in foster care. The YAB group had been meeting virtually but began meeting face to face once a month beginning in April 2021 (following COVID guidelines). The YAB group assisted with updating the LCCS Driver's license policy and they are currently working on updating/creating a policy regarding sibling visits. The YAB group volunteered at the Graduation parade and will be assisting with the backpack/school supply drive. LCCS utilized our YAB grant funds to purchase chrome books for the YAB youth to use for research and advocacy.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

A downtown neighbor to LCCS recently partnered with the playground steering committee to give kids the chance to learn how to ride a bike as part of future playground activities! Our friends at Toledo bikes refurbished and tuned up four donated bikes with training wheels, then added two more training bikes to the mix so parents can teach their kids how to ride a bike during a future supervised visit. The playground's rubber surface will feature a "track" so kids can ride bikes with training wheels or tricycles.

For the second straight year, Levis Commons and Buckeye Broadband are partnering with LCCS and Friends of LCCS for the back-to-school drive. The shopping center is hosting a drive-thru drop-off to collect school supplies on July 30. Buckeye Broadband employees contributed \$5,000 toward the purchase of school supplies and backpacks again. Other donors include two law firms and a church. This year's goal is 750 filled backpacks, after supplying 900+ due to the pandemic last year.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                            |                        |            |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| WNWO, nbc24.com            | LCCS graduation parade | 06-11-2021 |
| The Blade, toledoblade.com | LCCS graduation parade | 06-12-2021 |

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Wilson.

Seconded by Mr. Ridi.

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Perryman".

Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman, Secretary