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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held January 19, 2022**

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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. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez,
Mr. Walrod, Ms. Wilson

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Arnold, Rev. Dr. Perryman

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Ms. Vasquez called the January 19, 2022 regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND JANUARY 2022 LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Vasquez asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Nothing was removed.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 1/19/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 1/11/2022 )

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Cowell made a motion for approval. Mrs. 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**

Nomination Committee – Nomination of Officers

- The Nominating Committee (Dan Ridi, Kathy Vasquez, and Johnetta McCollough) met on January 11, 2022 and agreed to ask the current slate of officers to stand for an additional term. All officers agreed to stand for an additional term. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Johnetta McCollough respectfully submitted the following slate of officers:
  - Chairman: Kathy Vasquez
  - Vice Chairman: Suzette Cowell
  - Secretary: Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman
  - Treasurer: John Schinharl
- Ms. McCollough asked for any nominations from the floor, there were none. Ms. McCollough made a motion to move that the nominations be closed. Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. McCollough asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers for the 2022 year. Ms. Wilson made a motion with Mr. Schinharl seconded.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

- Committees are set to be appointed every year and it was Ms. Vasquez's wish to have the committee members remain the same; however if any board member would like to change please reach out and it can be discussed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 298           | 304            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,205         | 1,210          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 161           | 153            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 11            | 13             |
| Relative Placement       | 410           | 423            |

**DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

We have wrapped up another very successful holiday gift drive. We received 20,000 gifts for the children in our care, in addition to cash donations and gift cards. The gift drive has experienced year-over-year growth each of the last several holiday seasons, a reflection of the community's support for the work this agency is doing. Extra toys and clothes are stored for use throughout the year. We shared some excess items with our friends at The Movement, the YWCA, and the Kitchen for the Poor. We thank all who donated.

We are beginning to plan for our spring events, including Wear Blue Day on April 13, and the annual child memorial, which is traditionally held the last week of April.

**Case Work Safety**

On January 4, Deidre Silas, a DCFS caseworker was stabbed to death as she was checking on welfare of six children, ages 1 to 7. Silas had just begun working for DCFS last August after spending more than seven years with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. We reached out to DCFS Director Mark Smith to offer condolences and support. He responded back with this message, "Thank you for your thoughts and kind words. This is a loss to all of us not only in Illinois but in the entire child welfare community. I appreciate you reaching out and thank you again."

We have again reviewed our safety protocols with our staff in our recent Town Hall meetings. In addition, we will continue to work with our Safety Committee to ensure we keep safety in the forefront of the work. There are Safety Committee members on all floors of the agency.

**Covid/Staff Update**

As of January 3, the agency has had approximately 35 employees that have tested positive for COVID with approximately 20 employees currently on quarantine. HR will continue to monitor the increase with the current COVID variant.

The agency is scheduled to begin a new Casework training class beginning next Tuesday, January 18. This class will contain approximately 14 new Caseworker employees.

Labor Negotiations are scheduled to begin this month once Human Resources has received the Notice to Negotiate. We anticipate the Notice to Negotiate in the upcoming weeks.

**Ohio Youth Advisory Board**

Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OHIO YAB) is a statewide organization of young people (aged 14-24) who have experienced foster care. OHIO YAB exists to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that affect all youth who have or will experience out-of-home care. Lucas County Children Services Youth Advisory Board is up and running. The Independent Living Supervisor and some youth have been invited to present our revised Driver's License Policy at the Jan. 20 Ohio Youth Advisory Board Statewide meeting in Columbus.

**Independent Living**

The Independent Living program has built a collaborative relationship with the Board of DD to facilitate better outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities, who age out of foster care.

- 11 youth successfully obtained their own apartments
- 20 youth successfully emancipated from agency custody

### **Mandated Reporter/Community Resource Guide**

LCCS is working with Casey family, New Hampshire ND OHIO Metro counties to examine transforming our child protection system front door by looking at our current mandated reporting system. The goal is to reduce unnecessary and traumatic child welfare intervention - especially for poor families and families of color - while continuing a supportive effort for all families and maintaining safety for those families that need it. Last year we had 13,580 unduplicated children served, only 440 cases were open in ongoing.

### **EDI**

ODJFS contracted with Chi-By-Design (Chicago, IL) to complete State Assessment using a mixed (qualitative/quantitative) methodological design to examine "How Racism in the Ohio Child Services System impacts the Lives of Individuals Involved". The results are currently under review by the State to determine next steps. LCCS participated in the State meeting that outlined the results of the study. Based on the work that LCCS is doing in the area of Equity and Disproportionality, Chi-By-Design has proposed to ODJFS that LCCS be a pilot site to prototype the recommendation from the study.

Hope/Donna- Community Response Guide for Mandated Reporters. Big System-community wide effort to training MR's effective efforts to serve/support families. Broad Group Process. According to NH approach, DEAI/DEIS focus.

### **OhioRise**

\*Information credited to the managed care.[medicaid.ohio.gov/managed-care/ohiorise/ohiorise](https://medicaid.ohio.gov/managed-care/ohiorise/ohiorise)

Projected go-live date for OhioRise for July 1, 2022. OhioRISE is a specialized managed care program for youth with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. On April 1, 2021, ODM selected Aetna Better Health of Ohio to serve as the new OhioRISE specialized managed care organization.

Who is eligible to enroll into OhioRISE?

- Enrolled in Ohio Medicaid – either managed care or fee for service
- Ages 0 - 20
- Meet a functional needs threshold for behavioral health care, as identified by the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool

### **New and enhanced services available through OhioRISE include:**

- **Care Coordination:** Depending on the youth's needs, they will receive one of three levels of care coordination. Tiers two and three of this service (moderate and intensive) will be consistent with principles of High-Fidelity Wraparound and be delivered by a Care Management Entity. Aetna Better Health of Ohio will provide care coordination for youth in tier one.
- **Mobile Response and Stabilization Service (MRSS):** Provide youth in crisis and their families with immediate behavioral health services to ensure they are safe and receive necessary supports and access to care (this new service will also be available to children who are not enrolled in OhioRISE).
- **Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT):** Provides intensive, time-limited behavioral health services for children, youth and families that helps stabilize and improve behavioral health functioning. IHBT is an umbrella over multiple evidence-based practices. It aligns with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to cover MST and FFT.

- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF):** This service is aimed at keeping youth with the most intensive behavioral health needs in-state and closer to their families and support systems. • **Behavioral Health Respite:** provide short-term, temporary relief to the primary caregiver(s) of an OhioRISE plan enrolled youth, in order to support and preserve the primary caregiving relationship. • **Primary Flex Funds:** Services, equipment, or supplies not otherwise provided through the Medicaid state plan that address an identified need in the service plan, including improving and maintaining the individual's opportunities for full participation in the community.

### **How does OhioRISE align with FFPSA implementation efforts?**

FFPSA passed in 2018 and implemented on Oct. 1, 2021, the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is the most significant change in child protection in Title IV-E funding in decades. In December of 2021, ODJFS received formal approval of Ohio's Prevention Services Plan from ACF. OhioRISE ensures compliance with the federally mandated changes in FFPSA by focusing on prevention from entering the child protection system and out-of-home placement. OhioRISE expands current community behavioral health services that greatly reduce the need for out-of-home placements (residential treatment, moves between foster homes, etc.) The state agencies are working closely together to align services such as intensive home-based treatment, intensive and moderate care coordination, and when necessary, residential treatment settings for kids served across systems. OhioRISE supports FFPSA goals, serves the same population, and reduces the need for costlier services. Without OhioRISE, implementing FFPSA would be much more difficult and would be much costlier.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The ongoing collaboration between LCCS and Connecting Kids to Meals has passed the two-year mark. Our caseworkers and community advocates deliver healthy snacks provided by CKM to our families to ensure children receive nutritious food, especially when in-person school is canceled. The effort also serves as a "door opener" to allow LCCS staff to check on a child's welfare. More than 4,000 snack bags have been distributed as part of the partnership.

The diaper bank collaboration between LCCS and the Salvation Army is nearing its one-year anniversary, to date, the nonprofit has provided LCCS with 240 cases of wipes and diapers (multiple packs in each case). Mercy Health uses its buying power to purchase diapers, while the Hospital Council of NW Ohio provides funding through its donors.

New Life Church of God donated 15 new backpacks with school supplies over the holidays to help children served by LCCS comfortably start the second semester in a new placement or in a new school.

Diane Rice donated 50 loaded care bags for the Intake Department. Assessment caseworkers can now just "grab and go" with the care bags with the heavy influx of new cases, saving significant time and effort.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| WTOL, wtol.com         | Holiday Gift Drive, Julie Makin interview                                                     | 12/03/2021 |
| WTOL, wtol.com         | Delta Sigma Theta annual toy drive                                                            | 12/05/2021 |
| Public News Service    | Evolution of Ohio's Children Services System (3-part series, interview with Robin Reese)      | 12/08/2021 |
| WTOL, wtol.com         | Day-long coverage of drive-thru toy drop-off                                                  | 12/10/2021 |
| WTOL, wtol.com         | Thank you story to community for toy drop-offs<br>Interviews with Robin Reese, Kevin Milliken | 12/11/2021 |
| WTVG, 13abc.com        | Mall "angel tree" helps LCCS foster children<br>Interview with Julie Malkin                   | 12/15/2021 |
| Blade, toledoblade.com | Barbara Hendel column, mentions Friends of LCCS<br>Receiving donation from Charity Gayla      | 12/19/2021 |
| Sojourner's Truth      | NANBPWC gift giving to LCCS, others                                                           | 12/20/2021 |
| Blade, toledoblade.com | Shop with a Hero, LCCS kids participating                                                     | 12/20/2021 |

