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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held February 16, 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. Arnold, Ms. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Mr. Walrod

Member(s) Absent: Rev. Dr. Perryman and Ms. Wilson

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Ms. Vasquez called the February 16, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Michael Babcock – Data Processing – Data Management Specialist  
Brooklyn Fairchild – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Greta Harris – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Kelly Holland – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Delores Moore – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Tarik Musallam – PC Support Specialist – IT  
Jennifer Neal – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Rachel Newton – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Ose Omorogbe – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Hannah Rodriguez – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Carly Ross – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Corisan Stimes – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Jenna Switzer – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Marissa Williams – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit  
Rolanda Wimberly – Caseworker – Casework Training Unit

**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. Resolution 01-2022: 2021 Donations was removed from the Finance Committee Meeting.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 01/19/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes and additional documents attached ( 02/02/2022 )
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 02/07/2022 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 02/08/2022 )

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Cowell made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gagnon 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 01-2022: 2021 Donations into the minutes:

Resolution 01-2022

Subject: 2021 Donations

Whereas, Lucas County Children Services received non-cash donations in 2021, and

Whereas, Lucas County Children Services received \$13,924.98 in cash donations in 2021,

Now be it therefore

Resolved, That the Executive Director be authorized to accept said donations on behalf of the Lucas County Children Services Board.

| DATE     | RECEIVED FROM              | DESCRIPTION                           | AMOUNT      |
|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 01/08/21 | Ohio Retired Teachers Assn | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 300.00   |
| 01/08/21 | KeyBank                    | Walter Brown Charities                | \$ 2,339.62 |
| 02/04/21 | KeyBank                    | Walter Brown Charities-reissue 3/2020 | \$ 2,339.61 |
| 04/05/21 | KeyBank                    | Walter Brown Charities                | \$ 2,364.25 |
| 04/13/21 | Kathy Peters               | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 25.00    |
| 04/13/21 | Dennis Yard                | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 40.00    |
| 05/06/21 | Anonymous                  | Donation                              | \$ 140.00   |
| 05/06/21 | Anne Sutkus                | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 100.00   |
| 05/06/21 | Patricia Donahue           | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 100.00   |
| 05/06/21 | Carrol Krukemyer           | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 100.00   |
| 05/06/21 | Raymond Fry                | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 25.00    |
| 05/06/21 | Sarah Yard                 | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 20.00    |
| 05/06/21 | Loraine Coutcher           | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 30.00    |
| 05/06/21 | Amy Krukemyer              | In memory of Grace Yard               | \$ 100.00   |
| 07/08/21 | KeyBank                    | Walter Brown Charities                | \$ 2,364.25 |
| 09/30/21 | KeyBank                    | Walter Brown Charities                | \$ 2,364.25 |
| 11/10/21 | Nancy Roffey               | Donation                              | \$ 30.00    |
| 12/06/21 | Jennifer Vancil            | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 100.00   |
| 12/10/21 | Ohio Retired Teachers Assn | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 223.00   |
| 12/14/21 | James Van Hook             | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 500.00   |
| 12/17/21 | Anonymous                  | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 20.00    |
| 12/21/21 | Kathleen Vasquez           | Holiday Gift Drive                    | \$ 300.00   |

**TOTAL 2021 DONATIONS** \$ 13,924.98

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- HB 51 still has not been signed by the governor, so LCCSB will go on in person.
- Rachel Gagnon will take over as the chair of the Programs and Services Committee beginning in March.

## **LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 305           | 298            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,208         | 1,205          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 158           | 161            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 11            | 11             |
| Relative Placement       | 410           | 410            |

## **DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **Weather Protocol**

During our most recent weather snow emergency, we remained open in adherence to our emergency weather protocol. We did shut down our transportation department and set up virtual visits as an option for parents that were scheduled to visit their children. As you know we are a 24/7 operation and generally allow adjustment in staffing patterns when there is a Level 3 weather emergency or in the case of a local or national emergency. When emergency situations occur, we have predesignated staff that are assigned to be in the building. (The agency Weather Protocol was handed out to all Board Members.)

### **Public Children Services Association of Ohio**

\*This statement is credited to PCSAO.org

"PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for sound public policy, promotes program excellence, and builds public value for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities."

Last year SB 216, Dylan's law was introduced and gained ground in the Ohio Legislature in mid-January. This proposed law would require PCSAs to remove custody of all substance exposed infants from the care and custody of their parents. Under current law, hospitals must report substance exposed infant births to local PCSAs and make a plan of safe care for the child prior to release from the hospital. PCSAs then assess the case and determine based upon case specific circumstances if intervention is necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the child. In some circumstances the case is closed with referrals for services other times custody removal is necessary. SB 216 would take away that individualized assessment and would mandate custody no matter the circumstances or protective capacities of the parents. The law then restricts parental contact with their infant until the parent has completed an inpatient treatment program and specialized parenting classes. Parents may not be reunified with their child for a minimum of six months and after reunification the law would require the parent to take the infant to a medical provider on a monthly basis regardless of any medical need. This proposed law would continue to overload an already overburdened foster care system by requiring custody of countless infants. It would also eliminate parent/child bonding during the most critical time for the interaction. Many PCSAs are opposed to this legislation and employees at LCCS submitted testimony in opposition to this bill. The testimony can be found on the Ohio legislature website.

## **Ohio Start**

Lucas County Children Services is an Ohio Start County since 2019. Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma), an evidence-informed children services-led intervention model that helps public children services agencies (PCSAs) bring together caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families struggling with co-occurring child maltreatment and substance use disorder. The overall goal of this program is to stabilize families harmed by parental addiction so that both children and their parents can recover and move forward with healthy and safe lives. Senate Bill 216 would be in direct conflict with the work, purpose and goals of Ohio START that has documented success working with families who are struggling with substance use disorder.

## **Placement Crisis**

On February 2, 2022, a report was released to our state partners and the media that outlined concerns from county directors about a rising crisis in finding appropriate, available placements for youth with significant behavioral needs, developmental/intellectual issues and as a diversion from juvenile corrections.

At the PCSAO meeting that was held in December 2021, county directors that serve on the PCSAO board had an opportunity to meet with ODJFS Director, Matt Damschroder, to discuss the crisis. In preparation for the report, a survey of county children services agencies was completed and revealed that in 2021, nearly 1 in 4 (24%) children entered children services custody primarily because of mental illness, developmental/intellectual disability, or as a diversion from juvenile corrections. The current workforce crisis in child protective services and behavioral health care, combined with a shortage of placement options for children with high mental and behavioral health needs, has led to children sleeping in county agencies.

## **Case example**

Email sent by Director Donna Seed to our staff partners requesting assistance

Original email sent to state and county partners on 2/1/2022:

We had a child brought to our building this morning by 4 police officers. They also brought mother and a crisis worker from Zepf Mental Health. The child, who is 17 1/2, had assaulted mother and torn up the apartment. The police were refusing to charge him as previous court/detention contacts resulted in a decision for incompetency.

This child was involved with wrap around and the Intersystem Resource Team, but they closed the case in late December 2021. This child, within the past 4 days, has ingested rock salt, Comet, gorilla glue, and attempted to eat glass. He has physically and sexually assaulted staff in a DD respite program. Over the past weekend, various systems, have reportedly directed law enforcement or DD providers to bring this child to Lucas County Children Services.

Today, we have attempted the following interventions:

1. Call to the Assistant Director at Lucas County Board of DD: Requested an emergency admit to Northwest Ohio Developmental Center. No word back as of yet. DD informed us they have no placements for this child with local providers.
2. Lucas County Family Council re-engaged: They have been in a meeting with team members since 1 p.m. today.
3. Lucas County Juvenile Court called: While in the building at LCCS, this child has assaulted a two-year-old in Level 1 visitation and is exposing himself in the lobby while demanding someone bring him drugs (marijuana or K2). There have been up to 6-8 police officers here throughout the day. The child has spit on staff and is threatening. Mother is still present here and has suffered 2 assaults from him since Sunday.
4. Lucas County Mental Health Board: They became involved, and through their board director, has been reaching out to hospitals without any success.

We are certainly very appreciative of our local partners; however, at this point, this child has only been responsive to law enforcement.

Police are extremely frustrated and yelling at our staff in the building. We had identified a respite provider who walked in....saw the child attempting to choke himself to the point of vomiting, and promptly walked out. She was offered \$400.00 a day.

We are struggling with keeping the child, staff, other children in our building, and mother safe. There is not any abuse /neglect being reported but we are the primary source of where this child ends. We do NOT hold custody. We are hoping there can be an emergency placement in a DD approved developmental center.

At this point, the alternative is to send him home with mother and repeat the cycle again as we face blizzard like conditions with up to 22 inches of snow coming.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Kim Wolff donated 25 large, empty duffle bags for kids to carry their stuff. She was motivated to do something positive for LCCS by the public misperception spread on social media that all foster children's belongings are transferred in garbage bags. Cindy and Terry Baker donated ten duffle bags loaded with socks, blankets, and personal care items for older children served by LCCS. American Heritage Girls Troop #0333 in Delta decorated and donated nearly 30 duffle-sized comfort bags and filled them with stuffed animals, blankets, coloring books and toothbrushes.

Jennifer Burton brought hats, gloves, and scarves collected by Lucas County Juvenile Court employees to help keep children served by LCCS warm. Mt. Zion Baptist Church also donated 80 pairs of new gloves.

Hope United Methodist Church donated 75 fleece tie blankets made by the congregation as part of an ongoing support partnership with LCCS. Michelle Pettrey made and donated 38 large fleece tie blankets in memory of her daughter, who passed away four years ago. Her daughter would have been 24 on February 7.

Publicity on regular and social media led to Friends of LCCS raising an additional \$3,500 for Cakes for Kids, which will make it sustainable for a long time to come.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                 |                                                                                               |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WTOL, wtol.com  | Stabbing highlights knowing when, how to seek help<br>(Mentions LCCS)                         | 1/15/2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com  | Story on the start of Cakes for Kids by a local bakery<br>(Julie Malkin interview)            | 2/10/2022 |
| WTVG, 13abc.com | Story about Madie Cares Ministries, young girl collecting<br>Blankets for kids served by LCCS | 2/10/2022 |