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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held March 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. Cowell, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Ms. Wilson

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Arnold, Ms. Easterly, Mr. Walrod

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

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND FEBRUARY 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 02/16/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes and additional documents attached (03/02/2022 )
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 03/07/2022 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 03/08/2022 )

Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Wilson made a motion for approval. Mr. Schinharl 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**

None

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

| <b>LCCS Child Placement Statistics</b> |       | <b>Previous Month</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Current Month                          |       |                       |
| Agency Foster Homes                    | 298   | 305                   |
| Subsidized Adoptions                   | 1,197 | 1,208                 |
| Purchased Boarding                     | 160   | 158                   |
| Homes                                  |       |                       |
| Institutions/Group                     | 11    | 11                    |
| Homes                                  |       |                       |
| Relative Placement                     | 428   | 410                   |

**DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Work Force Issues**

\*Information credited to PCSAO.org

Ohio's county child protective services (CPS) agencies face unprecedented caseworker turnover, unmanageable caseloads and unfilled vacancies. The Ohio State University College of Social Work and PCSAO released Building a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Children Services Workforce with recommendations that Ohio take a comprehensive, coordinated approach to solving a workforce crisis that has serious implications for those served. "Research relied on a staff survey of 20 representative county agencies, focus groups, a literature review, an analysis of successful workforce strategies in similar systems and development of a county toolkit." "The OSU College of Social Work relied on recently published research as well as data gathered directly from caseworkers, supervisors and administrator."

State and county-level recommendations include enhanced benefits, a public awareness campaign and increased staff diversity, among others.

Other research findings:

- Increases in tenure length appeared to be associated with lower levels of job satisfaction and higher levels of continuance commitment, which suggests that as employees remain working in a role, they feel decreasing satisfaction and an increasing necessity to maintain current employment.
- Respondents expressed an interest in increasing their direct interactions and providing more preventative services to families but spent too much time on paperwork and rule compliance.
- Caseworkers had frequent experiences of being disrespected and belittled by interagency professionals, who simultaneously expected them to resolve issues far outside their scope or capacity.

### **OhioRise**

On February 17, 2022, OhioRise launched 20 regional community-oriented Care Management (CMEs) providers to serve children with intense behavioral needs. These providers will build local systems of Care for OhioRise and help children and families access much-needed mental health care and navigate complex systems. The goal is to also ensure that children with the most complex needs get the care they need in the communities where they live.

The provider that was selected in our area is Unison Health they received a \$1,010,000 and they will serve **Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert and Williams Counties.**

### **Communication and Government Relations**

- Because April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, we have received calls from the community asking us to present about child abuse awareness or do interviews.
- Wear Blue Day is April 13 - you are encouraged to wear something blue that day and post a photo on the agency Facebook page. You will see TV, Facebook, and billboard promotions for this.
- Our child memorial will stream on our Facebook page on April 28 at 11 am. We will remember children lost to abuse, neglect, and street violence. The majority of the children we will remember this year are victims of gun violence.

## **Chief Counsel**

House Bill 4 was passed and signed by the Governor on February 28, 2022. With the passage of House Bill 4 new processes will need to be developed in the area of cross reporting referrals to law enforcement. We are working with ODJFS through the rules committee of PCSAO to assist in the development of rules that will inform agencies on these new processes.

LCCS is also continuing work with the PCSAO rules committee regarding implementation of HB 110 KGAP funding requirements. The new law creates a state program that will pay kin who assume legal custody of their relatives. However, the kin will only be eligible for these payments if the caregiver is certified as a foster caregiver and has placement of the youth for a minimum of 6 months. LCCS along with other PCSAs want to ensure that any new process would not postpone permanency for children. It will be important for LCCS to work with kinship caregivers on day one to inform them of permanency options and requirements to obtain the funds if necessary.

## **Human Resources**

Currently, our agency has 373 employees and 20 vacancies. The vacancies are as follows:

Assessments – 5

Family Services – 15

The trainees graduate training and go into their units as of March 25<sup>th</sup> and the vacancies will then be as follows:

Assessments-0

Family Services-10

### **Other vacancies**

Drivers – 2

FV Monitor – 2

Clerical – 3

Supervisor – IT Coordinator

Equity and Inclusion – Manager and Coordinator-2

## **Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KGAP)**

Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KGAP) is a new payment structure similar to that of Adoption Assistance for kin (and non-kin) who take legal custody of children. This new law was passed through in the last budget bill HB 110 and is to be effective January 1, 2023. The state is now looking at implementing Rules that will support this new structure and the PCSAO rules committee is forming a workgroup to assist with the new rules. Currently, ODJFS is visualizing a program where a relative who has become licensed as a certified foster parent, has placement for at least 6 months as a licensed foster parent, then takes legal custody they would get 80% of the foster rate up to \$350 per month. There will also be non-recurring expenses that will be covered if needed (i.e., attorney fees, home study costs, travel expenses if needed, etc...). Lucas County will have 2 representatives that will be a part of rule formation for this workgroup.

## **Children Services Transformation Advisory Council**

Previously, I served on the state Children Services Transformation Advisory Council with a final report being issued in November 2020. One of the recommendations was to explore the option of moving administration of the Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) to the state level, with administration by the Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator program (OhioKAN). With the passage of the Budget Bill (Amended Substitute House Bill 110) on June 30, 2021, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) was tasked with transitioning PASSS from the Public Children Services Agencies (PCSA) to the state agency.

As a result of this recommendation, on July 1, 2022, administration of the PASSS program will transition to ODJFS. Families will work with OhioKAN navigators to complete and submit PASSS applications and all required documentation to the Office of Families and Children (OFC). OFC will make all eligibility determinations and payment for approved invoices.

## **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Rebecca, Isaac, and their parents donated 15 care and comfort bags they assembled as a service project for their Sunday school religious education class at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Oregon.

The Sunshine Yarn Project, a local group that makes handmade toys for children facing difficult situations in their lives, in April will begin donating mermaids, an octopus, and heroes for kids served by LCCS. The toys will go into comfort and care bags given to children entering foster or kinship care. The Anthony Wayne HS Interact Club donated 150 blankets as a service project. This is the third straight year the student service club has made the tie-it-yourself fleece blankets for children served by LCCS.

Diane Rice donated her second round of emergency care bags used by the Assessments Dept on a "grab and go" basis when they get new cases.

Cedar Creek, Perrysburg Campus, devoted its Second Saturday collection to LCCS. The congregation donated diapers, wipes, blankets, baby items, toddler clothes, personal hygiene items, and cleaning supplies.

Friends of LCCS has purchased 20 Pack-and-Plays so far in 2022 to help with emergency placements of infants with kinship caregivers and other caseworker and community advocate needs.

## **IN THE MEDIA**

WTOL, wtol.com, 13abc Madie McCain donating blankets 2-14-2022

The Blade, toledoblade.com Robin Reese interview on her generosity

The Blade, toledoblade.com Editorial: Caring for caregivers and children 2-17-2022  
(Response to PCSAO study)

The Blade, toledoblade.com Community leaders confront gun violence 2-18-2022  
(Mentions LCCS)