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## MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD

### Regular Meeting Held May 18, 2022

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The regular meeting of the Lucas County Children Services Board was held at 705 Adams Street at 3:00 P.M. in person and via Zoom.

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

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

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Ms. Vasquez called the May 18, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

- Kara Gruesbeck - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Sean Herron - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Shayna Mayes - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Jennifer Neal - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Briauna Nix - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Carly Ross - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Amal Shaheen - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit – resigned before meeting
- Carrie Tester - Caseworker – Casework Training Unit
- Catrina Carwell – Title IV-E Clerk
- Kristen Meach – Daycare Billing Clerk
- Holly Fredericks – Clerical Assistant
- Latoyia Johnson – Assessments Caseworker

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND MARCH 2022 LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Vasquez asked if any items were to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Schinharl asked that the building discussion be removed from the finance committee minutes.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes from 04/20/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting (5/2/22)
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes (5/4/22)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes & additional finance documents attached, removing building discussion (5/10/22)

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

#### OLD BUSINESS

- **Building Progress** – This will be a standing agenda item until renovations are completed on the building. Shelby Cully gave an overview of the building progress that has been made to date. The committee met with Commissioners on May 9<sup>th</sup> to begin the space study process. The conversation included each floor and what functions were needed/provided. The next steps will be the county doing a walk-through of 705 Adams and having interviews with the directors. The space study should be complete within the next six weeks.
- **Annual Report** – Patricia Daher gave an overview of the 2021 Annual Report with a slideshow that had been pre-recorded. A copy of the report was given to board members.

## NEW BUSINESS

- None

## CHAIR'S REPORT

- Ms. Vasquez commended on The Blade article regarding the LCCS Cakes 4 Kids initiative that provides professional cakes for children in care. Jera's Heavenly Sweets provides cakes at cost for these children. Donations have been provided from the community to cover this minimal cost.
- The building committee will be established that will have both LCCS Staff and Board Members. The following board members will sit on this committee and should be made aware of any upcoming meetings: Dr. Rev. Perryman, Mr. Schinharl, and Mr. Walrod.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The executive director report was given by Donna Seed and Shelby Cully in the absence of Robin Reese.

## LCCS Child Placement Statistics

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 295           | 297            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,202         | 1,201          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 171           | 167            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 8             | 8              |
| Relative Placement       | 437           | 425            |

## KGAP – new rules and forms for the new process.

A number of agency staff were involved in a committee with ODJFS and other PCSA representatives to assist in the development of over 40 new rules and forms related to the roll out of the Kinship Guardian Assistance Program (KGAP). The rules are now under review through ODJFS's preclearance process and will be reviewed at the PCSAO rules committee before being posted to the ODJFS clearance website for public comment. This committee involvement gives our agency a number of opportunities to influence the rule prior to finalization in efforts to ensure the State has considered practice implementations when drafting the rule.

## House Bill 616- Regarding the Promotion and Teaching of Divisive or Inherently Racist Concepts in Public Schools.

Agency staff have also been monitoring the new House Bill 616, regarding the promotion and teaching of divisive or inherently racist concepts in public schools. This bill was recently introduced in the Ohio legislature and has not been referred to a committee. Still, agency staff have already begun to oppose this legislation by recommending to PCSAO legislative committee that the agency take an official stance of opposition against the bill. Agency staff will continue to monitor this bill.

## HB-4 Implementation to begin May 31, 2022.

HB 4 requirements to cross report referrals and send out mandatory reporter letters takes effect May 31, 2022. Staff are working on implementing communication systems with local law enforcement to ensure compliance with this new mandate. In addition, we will begin work on the county wide MOU in the next few months, meeting with several community law enforcement officials, local courts, JFS, and others to ensure completion and commissioner approval by December 2023.

## HB – 508 Allocation of Parental Rights and Responsibilities

House Bill 508 was introduced in December 2021 to reform the outdated parental custody statutes. PCSAO, through its legislative committee, is keeping a close eye on the bill to ensure the overhaul does not negatively impact child welfare. A few areas of concern were noted and discussed with interested parties regarding the bill's first draft. As a result, a sub-bill was introduced to make attempts to correct some of the initial concerns. While the sub-bill addressed some of those concerns, an additional area of concern arose. The court would have the ability to order a PCSA to supervise visits of a parent who was found to have unreasonably interfered with the other parent's parenting time without a specific showing of abuse or neglect. LCCS staff continue to monitor the legislation and speak up regarding concerning trends with this legislation. Additional information will be presented to the board as it develops.

### **Opiate Lawsuit Update**

OneOhio Recovery Foundation was established pursuant to the OneOhio MOU as a result of the opiate lawsuit. As part of the foundation, Ohio has been divided up into regions with Lucas County being designated as Region 4. Discussions have begun locally regarding the structure and appointees of our regional board. The first State level meeting was May 16 which began the process of forming the Board that will make the local grant decisions. The first disbursements from the distributor agreement are expected sometime this month but it will be some time before the foundation is in a position to review applications and award funds.

### **State Treatment and Retention/Recruitment Grant**

We have been busy ensuring that LCCS is taking advantage of the state treatment foster care retention and recruitment grants. LCCS received nearly \$330,000 to use for specific projects that we listed in the grant application. Several of the major metros were not eligible to apply because they contract out their foster care programs.

The first part of the grant must be spent by June 30, so we have contracted for billboards, Val-Pak mailers, wrapping some TARTA buses, digital advertising, creating brochures, and other projects. We are also using the funds to purchase memberships to the Toledo Zoo and Imagination Station for all of our foster parents. There will be additional funding available to us in 2023.

Lucas County Commissioners are advertising for bids on the playground site prep. We hope to see some work on the playground begin shortly after Memorial Day weekend. Whether the playground gets finished this summer/fall will depend on building renovations and we're having those discussions over the next few weeks. We hope to know something more definitive soon.

### **DEIS Directors Report**

DEIS Department has continued the support the Green Belt community as outreach work on Equity stemming from the Green Belt. LCCS DEIS on campus weekly and is collaborating with The Movement (Tina Butts) to assist with prevention, education, and resources. LCCS received a call from a resident who stated that they felt comfortable call LCCS regarding residential management concerns and child safety (No window screens in apartments). An attempt to change the public perception of the Child Protective Services.

LCCS will be represented in the Casey Family Programs "Signature Report" by highlighting Casey's Race Equity Improvement Collaborative. Casey has reached out to LCCS to recognize the agencies commitment to Race Equity and the efforts set forth by LCCS under an Equity Model. Casey will highlight The Green Belt initiative to focus on community outreach from a race equity perspective.

### **Donation/Partnerships**

Libbey Glass brought glassware, flatware, and dishes to meet a common need of upcoming HS graduates as they emancipate and head to their first apartments.

DFS Supervisor Linda Rosenbloom suggested cleaning kits to help some of her unit's families. Wyse Construction answered the call and brought a pick-up truck load of cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

The Glass City HOG (Harley Owners Group) motorcycle club held a two-week drive for personal hygiene products for LCCS and The Cocoon shelter in Wood County. The drive followed up a very generous toy donation to LCCS during the holidays.

Maumee Presbyterian Church members made two dozen hand-tied blankets donated just after Easter.

Unity Church dropped off a second infant item collection, including diapers, wipes, blankets, clothes, and pacifiers.

Junior League of Toledo donated dozens of diaper packs to help solve some supply chain issues being experienced in the LCCS diaper bank.

Scrap4Art donated 20 painted suitcases made during a fundraiser. Those will be used for changes of placement.

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### **In The Media**

|                                                       |                                                                                                  |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com | Child Memorial, baby killed<br>Robin Reese interview                                             | 4-28-2022 |
| WNWO, nbc24.com                                       | Child Memorial<br>Robin Reese interview                                                          | 4-28-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                        | Vigil for baby killed<br>Robin Reese interview                                                   | 4-28-2022 |
| <i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com                    | LCCS sued after infant dies in foster care<br>Julie Malkin no comment                            | 5-2-2022  |
| WNWO, nbc24.com                                       | Foster Care Awareness Month, shortage<br>of foster homes Sherry Dunn, Sheila Mobus<br>interviews | 5-6-2022  |
| <i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com                    | Cakes for Kids                                                                                   | 5-15-2022 |