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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held June 15, 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. Easterly, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Ms. Wilson

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

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Ms. Vasquez called the June 15, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Stephanie Reed Marshall – IT Coordinator

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

Ms. Vasquez asked if any items were to be removed from the Consent Agenda. None were removed.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 05/18/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 06/06/2022 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 06/07/2022 )

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Building Discussion** – Ebonie Jackson gave a brief overview of the progress made.

- The contractor that was hired for the window's out of Columbus, Ohio.
- A Liaison between LCCS and Commissioners will be Lindsay S.
- The LCCS Building Rep will be Kelly Dinkens
- The commissioners stated that LCCS can take as long as needed to respond to the MOU

**NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

- Ms. Vasquez remarked on the building discussion progress. The Board Members that will be on the building committee are Mr. Walrod, Mr. Shinharl, Dr. Rev. Perryman, and Ms. Vasquez. They should be invited to any meeting that is forthcoming.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## LCCS Child Placement Statistics

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 287           | 295            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,200         | 1,202          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 165           | 171            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 12            | 8              |
| Relative Placement       | 424           | 437            |

### OhioRise

OhioRise is set to launch on July 1. (Video presentation) <https://managedcare.medicaid.ohio.gov/managed-care/ohiorise/0-ohiorise>

### Ombudsman office

On May 31, Ohio's first-ever Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office began operations. This new "virtual" statewide program came out of Governor DeWine's Children Services Transformation Advisory Council report. It is currently housed within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The office consists of both a Youth Ombudsman and a Family Ombudsman, who will ensure the independent and impartial review of youth, family, and community complaints and concerns, while attempting to resolve their issues. Jenny R. Stotts will serve as the first-ever Youth Ombudsman, while Jennifer A. Sheriff will serve as the first-ever Family Ombudsman.

### ODJFS Performance Incentives

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder announced that 52 counties are receiving a total of \$5 million in performance incentives for their children services efforts. It is part of a new program that rewards counties for meeting certain performance metrics.

Lucas County Children Services will receive \$48,076 for making at least 95% of our monthly visits with children and parents. The ODJFS Office of Families and Children is issuing the children services best practice funds, which were appropriated as part of House Bill 110 (HB110) and signed by Governor DeWine on June 30, 2021.

### Mileage Rates

On June 9, 2022, The Internal Revenue Service announced an increase in the optional standard mileage rate for the final six months of 2022. Effective July 1, the standard mileage rate for business travel will be 62.5 cents per mile, up 4 cents from the rate set at the start of the year. Because of the recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2022. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates each fall for the upcoming calendar year.

### Grant Opportunity

Lucas County, through the grant application sent by Mercy/Nationwide Children's Hospital, will receive funds from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund to develop the Family Success Network. This network will provide several services within our community for children and families. This is an opportunity to create prevention services outside of LCCS and develop a strong community for families. This program will offer trauma informed services, parent education, coaching/mentoring, financial literacy, early childhood interventions and information and referral. Both Lucas and Wood Counties will be able to access the network, referring families that either don't meeting screening criteria for protective services, or who have Alternative Response cases that will close. This will allow our system to have a place to refer families that need services but don't need system interventions.

### Department of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Strategy

On June 13, consultants from Casey Family Foundation facilitated an in-person discussion with 20 staff from across the agency to review and analyze data related to disproportionality. It was the first step toward thinking about the ways we can use data to help the agency consider potential solutions to the problem of disproportionality. Bi-weekly deep data-dive sessions will continue until the group identifies what we hope will be the most effective strategies.

Lucas County Children Services was asked by ODJFS to serve on a committee that continues to work on the issue of disproportionality in Ohio's child protection system. ODJFS and the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council contracted with a research group called ChiByDesign. This organization was chosen for its unique anti-racist and trauma-informed approach to research. The agency was tasked with investigating how, and why, Ohio's children services system disproportionately impacts Black and mixed-race children and families, and why we are seeing inequitable outcomes. Their findings were consistent with statewide data and, not surprisingly, what we found as we developed our strategic plan. We are working with ODJFS and ChiByDesign on developing strategies to address the issues identified in the research. In the coming

weeks, ChiByDesign will visit LCCS to have some discussions with LCCS staff, and families and youth with lived experience with the child protection system. The sessions will provide an opportunity for the various parties to come up with solutions to address some of the challenges found during their research related to Ohio Child Protective Service and racial barriers.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

USBorne book reps donated more than 400 book-in-bag sets to encourage summer reading by children served by LCCS. Donations occurred May 27 and June 13.

Michelle Brumbaugh made two drop-offs of books on behalf of a retired neighbor who reviewed children's books as a career. Family Visits and Community Outreach efforts will use the books for families in need.

Buckeye Broadband employees made and donated 1,000 personal hygiene kits on May 23. Those will be used for both children served by LCCS and in community outreach efforts.

Jenny Hansen of Toledo Safe Routes to School donated 20 bike helmets to LCCS to ensure our young bike riders stay safe this summer.

Hope United Methodist Church donated 70 handmade blankets June 13 as a continuation of its ongoing blanket ministry.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

*The Blade*,  
toledoblade.com LCCS moves to dismiss parent lawsuit 5-31-2022

*The Blade*,  
toledoblade.com  
LCCS a partner in Fatherhood Week 6-2-2022  
Photo of LCCS supervisor Keith Robinson

WNWO, nbc24.com  
WTOL, wtol.com  
WTVG.13abc.com LCCS graduation parade around the block 6-8-2022