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## **MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**

### **Regular Meeting Held July 20, 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. Arnold, Ms. Cowell (Zoom), Ms. Easterly (Zoom), Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Ms. Vasquez, Mr. Walrod, and Ms. Wilson
Member(s) Absent: Rev. Dr Perryman and Mr. Schinharl

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Ms. Vasquez called the July 20, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Laura Rena Laws (Rena) – Staff Attorney 2
- Justin Borkowski- Security Officer
- Bobbi Spangler – Clerical Assistant

#### **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 06/15/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Meeting Minutes (07/06/2022)
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 07/11//2022 )
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached ( 07/12/2022 )

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

- Project liaison Lyndsay Szymczak provided an update on building renovations. Interviews are underway to select the owner's representative to oversee renovations. The construction planning team will be in place within a few weeks. Window measurements were taken this week and will be ordered soon for replacement. Weekly updates are being provided to the internal building renovation committee.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Purchasing and Procurement Plan - LCCS leadership spent two years reviewing and rewriting the agency's purchasing procurement plan and policies. The board approved the procurement plan as presented in the services and programs committee.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- The board chairman reported on a meeting called by Director Reese involving TPD Chief George Kral, Juvenile Court Judge Denise Cubbon and many behavioral health leaders to discuss what should happen in crisis situations involving children. She stated it is not the responsibility of LCCS to care for a child who has threatened to harm themselves or others, but that Director Reese has the full backing and authority of the board to make decisions related to those situations.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was given by Donna Seed and Shelby Cully in Ms. Reese's absence.

*Executive Director's Report  
LCCS Bd. Mtg. 7-20-2022*

### LCCS Child Placement Statistics

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 280           | 287            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,201         | 1,200          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 177           | 165            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 15            | 12             |
| Relative Placement       | 400           | 424            |

### DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

#### **State Grant**

ODJFS announced \$548,512.00 funding to support Lucas County Children Services workforce initiatives.

"The Children Services workforce is an essential piece of achieving the best outcomes for Ohio's children and families. Historically, turnover rates in Children Services agencies exceed typical work environments, and the current environment accentuates recruitment and retention challenges. Because of these challenges, workforce has been, and continues to be, a critical priority for The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). As our 88 counties are unique in many ways, so are the recruitment and retention challenges experienced throughout Ohio. It will take the use of many different tools to make a significant impact on workforce and recruitment, but we are excited to provide funding counties need to secure these tools!

ODJFS is providing \$15 Million in funding that will be administered through the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO). The primary goal is to provide Children Services agencies the flexible funding needed to implement recruitment and retention activities specific to local needs and situations. The funding to Public Children Services Agencies is intended to help implement creative solutions that will work in tandem with other state and local workforce initiatives".

As shared in FCL 033, the funding can be used for the following:

1. Sign-on bonuses for new caseworkers
2. Retention bonuses for existing caseworkers
3. Student loan repayment and/or tuition payments for caseworkers, case aides, and supervisors
4. Referral bonuses for employees who refer candidates for frontline staff positions
5. Local workforce media campaigns
6. Agency culture and climate initiatives
7. Flexible work schedule supports
8. Avenues Virtual Reality (VR) headsets
9. Supervisor coaching specific to supportive supervision
10. Transcription services
11. Other local strategies to support recruitment or retention of children services caseworkers (approved at the discretion of ODJFS)

#### **DEIS UPDATE**

##### **Press conference:**

LCCS participated in a Press Conference on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> invited by Commissioner Pete Gerken and Community Partner The Movement (Tina Butts) to address the efforts to improve conditions and offer resources to Greenbelt residents. Community Partners and LCCS (DEIS & HR office) have been onsite to provide resources and access information to residents and community neighbors for the purpose of prevention and building community trust over the last several months.

##### **New Staff:**

DEIS office has expanded to include two new staff. DEIS Manager and Coordinator to assist with micro and macro level operational tasks of the office. Their assignments will begin in August.

July 26<sup>th</sup> Casey Families Programs will co-facilitate a deep-dive data walk on disproportionality to engage several cross-sectional staff members in the discussion. This will be a 3 hour session that will be open to staff members.

#### **Opiate lawsuit update:**

Attorneys from Zoll and Kranz report the following:

Pursuant to the OneOhio MOU the statewide and regional boards are being established to distribute portions of the settlement funds. The geographic boundary of Lucas County is designated as Region 4. The proposed board structure is as follows

3 members endorsed by Lucas County

2 members endorsed by the City of Toledo

1 member endorsed by suburban municipalities (villages and cities)

1 member endorsed by townships

Currently, the Region is working on its governance structure. Once the structure is approved, they will be drafting bylaws, including what the grant review process will look like.

The statewide board is a little further along in the process and has proposed a set of bylaws that will be voted on this month. They have not drafted the process for grant review either.

The first set of direct funds should be coming to local governments this summer, but there is no confirmation of this as of yet.

#### **School Drive**

The annual "Ready, Set, School" drive is July 27, 11am - 1 pm and 4 - 7 pm at Appliance Center on Illinois Ave. in Maumee. We are again teaming up with BuckeyeBroadband and Friends of LCCS to collect school supplies for the children we serve. The supplies will fill 750 or more backpacks that will be assembled on August 1 and 2. Caseworkers will then deliver filled bags to children on caseload in kindergarten through 12th grade. We are also working with Cumulus and Franklin Park Mall on a school clothing drive, which will center around the tax-free weekend August 5-7. We are thankful for the community's generosity.

#### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

15-year-old Bella Przynosch spent part of her summer leading a backpack and school supply drive among family and friends. The Notre Dame Academy sophomore then donated the fruits of her efforts to the children served by LCCS. Her dad dropped off the donation July 5.

LCCS board member Laura Wilson and her law firm, Schaffer and Associates, also gave a big boost to the back-to-school campaign by donating two dozen backpacks and a huge box of school supplies.

Dakota Systems and Hope United Methodist Church each conducted school supply drives and dropped off their donations the week of July 11.

Josh Podach showed up at LCCS June 30 with his daughter and a cart full of boxes. Inside were 40 huggable animal pillows for kids. Josh thought the pillows could give some comfort to children.

Davy and Stan Seevers braved the heat to deliver their monthly donation of infant/toddler bags for kids served by LCCS. The Seevers, both 80 years young, lead nonprofit partner Bags of Love 419.

#### **IN THE MEDIA**

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com  | Beat the Heat, Check the Back Seat<br>Morning show live interviews—Kevin Milliken | 6-21-2022 |
| WTVG-TV. 13abc.com | Roe v. Wade impact on LCCS<br>Robin Reese interview                               | 6-26-2022 |
| WTVG-TV. 13abc.com | Roe v. Wade and mental health<br>Robin Reese SOT                                  | 6-30-2022 |