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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held August 17, 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. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Mr. Walrod, and Ms. Wilson

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

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Ms. Vasquez called the August 17, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Jessica Bashaw – Caseworker Training Unit
- Madalyn Brown - Caseworker Training Unit
- Ms. Sam Daunhauer – Caseworker Training Unit
- Selena Evans – Caseworker Training Unit
- Christina Holler – Caseworker Training Unit
- Carmen Kantner – Caseworker Training Unit
- Michele Kaminski – Caseworker Training Unit
- Spencer Smith – Caseworker Training Unit
- Ivana Stolar – Caseworker Training Unit
- Michelle Veith – Caseworker Training Unit
- Sierra Wiggins- Caseworker Training Unit

**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 07/15/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes ( 08/01/2022 )
- 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**

Legal counsel Shelby Cully reported that the review panel has selected contractors in construction management with, Lathrop, and architecture, The Collaborative. Contracts are now being negotiated. The group is looking at window samples. The side of the building that had already been replaced will get protective screening to reduce temperature and light.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Appoint Interim Executive Director**

The LCCS board chair asked if there was any discussion regarding officially voting Donna Seed as LCCS Interim Executive Director once Robin Reese officially retires. There were no board discussion. Donna will serve as LCCS Interim Executive Director until a replacement is found. Ms. Vasquez asked for a motion to appoint Donna Seed which was given by Ms.

McCollough and seconded by Ms. Wilson. Ms. Vasquez asked those in favour of the motion to signify by stating aye, those opposed nays. Motion unanimously carried.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

No Chair report was given.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 287           | 280            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,198         | 1,201          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 180           | 177            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 17            | 15             |
| Relative Placement       | 399           | 400            |

### **Adoption Subsidy**

Post Adoption Special Services Subsidy (PASSS) is one of the state subsidies available to assist Ohio families after the finalization of their adoption. The subsidy is available to all adoptive families regardless of the type of adoption (international, attorney, public or private agency), with the exception of step-parent adoptions. Since the inception of the PASSS program it has been a county administered program. As of July 1, 2022, administration of the PASSS program was transition from PCSAs to ODJFS. ODJFS will contract with the OhioKAN vendor to support families in completing and submitting PASSS applications to ODJFS Office of Families and Children (OFC).

### **Workforce Grant:**

This summer, as previously reported, Governor DeWine released dollars for workforce recruitment and retention to PCSAO to distribute to all 88 counties throughout Ohio. Lucas County decided to ask for direct input from the line staff this grant is intended to serve. Caseworker classifications and line supervisors were brought together for two meetings to discuss ways that the dollars can be impactful on the current and incoming workforce.

Feedback from staff is that the meetings were not only productive for the purpose of the grant; but also offered an opportunity to give voice to their current workload issues.

The grant is due on September 30, 2022, but the projected writing times for the grant are that completion and submission will be done by August 31, 2022. The grant allocation for Lucas County Children Services workforce initiatives is \$548,512.00.

### **DEI**

We have begun the process of doing a deep data dive to gather information that will enable us to form judgements about how we intake, assess and deliver services to families, particularly families of color. We are being assisted with this process by BJ Walker and Jim Dimas from Casey Family Casey. The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Deep Dive Data session is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 14, from 11 am to 2 pm, in the CLC**. This process will most likely result in recommendations to the board on our strategic plan.

### **Tiered Treatment Foster Care:**

The state is proceeding forward with the Treatment Foster Care program and hope to be piloting their suggestions by fall of 2022. We have had active participation with staff and foster parents on this committee. Several PCSA's (Lucas included) along with PCSAO sent a letter to the state with concerns for this proposed implementation. The greatest concern is the requirement of the use of the CANS tool for placement into treatment foster care. Many placements occur as an emergency and do not allow thorough assessments. Even though CANS can be completed within the first 30 days, this will be an added burden to

public child welfare in terms of having enough staff availability to assess these levels of care with each placement and moves that may occur after the initial placement.

It is not yet decided who will be chosen to pilot this project as the committee consists of both public and private agencies.

#### **Youth and Family Ombudsman Office:**

As of May 30, 2022, Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine opened the Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office to address consumer complaints throughout the child welfare system. LCCS had already envisioned and implemented a local Ombudsman Office to bring transparency and neutrality to clients with concerns. Jennifer Sherriff served most recently in that role and has now been hired as the first Family Ombudsman for the State of Ohio. The State Office has now been open a little more than 2 months and LCCS is working with Ms. Sherriff as well as her Youth Ombudsmen counterpart, Jennifer Stotts to develop a new process of addressing client concerns. As Ms. Sherriff is no longer serving us locally, we will also be changing our internal policies and procedures and hope to introduce those policies and practice at next month's board meeting.

#### **Delinquency**

We continue to meet regularly with a multisystem team of professionals to develop and implement strategies addressing violent youth in our system. In addition, we met with the Lucas County Prosecutor's office and will be meeting with the Lucas County Risk Management office to continue to look at effective solutions. The prosecutors have requested, and we have provided a document with our concerns addressing both the issues of delinquent youth being referred to children services for placement needs as well as concerns for violent youth in our care being held accountable for their delinquent behavior.

#### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Rossford Amazon, Matrix Technologies, Erie Construction, Savage and Associates, Community Residential Services, Buckeye Broadband, and the Appliance Center all held donation drives for backpacks and school supplies. With their help and \$13,000 in support from Friends of LCCS, 775 new backpacks with fresh school supplies were distributed to children served by LCCS. A dozen teens, some of them from Independent Living gave 100+ service hours to get everything ready for the build Aug. 1.

Cumulus Media and Franklin Park Mall are co-sponsoring a back-to-school clothing drive, which started the weekend of the tax-free shopping holiday August 5. During the entire month, shoppers can take a tag listing needed clothing items, shop, and return the items to the mall office. The program works very similar to the Angel Tree program during the holiday season.

LCCS and Habitat for Humanity are teaming up for a Project Playhouse build Sept. 8 at Buckeye Broadband's Oregon Rd. campus. The cable and Internet provider is sponsoring five playhouses to be built and sent to kinship and foster care families with sibling groups or large groups of young children. Families will be selected from a pool of applicants to Habitat for Humanity, which receives the \$15,000 sponsorship fee and is providing all of the building materials for the playhouses. Teams of volunteer builders will be a mix of Buckeye and LCCS employees.

#### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                       |                                                                      |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com                    | Greenbelt Apts. progress touted<br>(LCCS part of community outreach) | 7-14-2022 |
| <i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com | LCCS leader to retire Oct. 31                                        | 7-22-2022 |
| <i>The Blade</i> , toledoblade.com                    | School drive to fill 750 backpacks                                   | 7-24-2022 |
| WNWO, nbc23.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br>BCAN, BCSN      | School supply drive-thru drop-off event                              | 7-27-2022 |
| WNWO, nbc23.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br>BCAN, BCSN      | LCCS hosts Backpack Build                                            | 8-1-2022  |
| WTVG, 13abc.com                                       | LCCS to host Safety Fair                                             | 8-3-2022  |

