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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held December 14, 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. Easterly, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Mr. Walrod, and Ms. Wilson
Member(s) Absent: Ms. Arnold, Ms. Gagnon (Zoom), Rev. Dr. Perryman, and Mr. Ridi

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Ms. Vasquez called the December 14, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Emily McGill - Attorney

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

Ms. Vasquez asked if there were any items to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Nothing was removed.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 11/16/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (12/5/2022)
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes (12/07/2022)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (were given in paper form at the meeting)

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

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

The board chairman thanked Ms. Wilson for her years of service on the Board of Trustees as today will be her last meeting. LCCS has felt supported and important to Ms. Wilson. Ms. Wilson will still stay on the committee to search for a new Executive Director for LCCS. Board members whose terms expired in December have been reappointed, with the exception of Ms. Wilson.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Interim Executive Director Report—Donna Seed**

**LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 265           | 258            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,201         | 1,191          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 179           | 178            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 20            | 17             |
| Relative Placement       | 406           | 391            |

## **INTERIM DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT:**

### **Mandated Reporting**

LCCS has been working over the past six months, with Evident Change and the Casey Foundation, to improve our work in the community with our mandated reporters. We will begin soliciting feedback through survey and focus groups from the community reporters, parents with lived experience, and other key professionals engaged with our system. A thorough review of the reporting system serves to accomplish several tasks within the child welfare system:

1. Ensures that child welfare is involved with the referrals that involve safety and risks issues appropriate for the system.
2. Provides another tool for the continued efforts to address disproportionate representation within the system, beginning with the screening process (front door work).

Over the next three months, information will be collected by Evident Change and then the data presented sometime in the mid-March time frame. Those results will also be available to all of our key informants, stakeholders, and parents involved in the project.

It is important to note that the State of Ohio ODJFS staff are also involved in this project meaning it will eventually be expanded out to other counties. Currently, this project is only in Lucas, Franklin, Hamilton, and Cuyahoga counties.

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

A team of various disciplines (Fiscal, DFS, Family & Community Engagement, and Legal) have come together to inform our Kinship providers of the program that will begin on January 1, 2023. We currently have 7 home studies being completed for kinship and a process in place to inform all kin as they accept placement to provide information about this very supportive program. We anticipate having a caseworker in place by early January to receive the licensed studies and will be watching this area as one for potential growth for ongoing kinship support.

### **Best Practice Incentives**

Earlier this year, ODJFS brought back the program offering financial reward for successful visitation with children and families. LCCS will once again receive an award of \$20,098.00 for a 96% completion rate of all visitations. This award is reflective of the efforts put forth by our caseworkers, case aides, and the supervisors who manage this challenging work.

### **Christmas/Holiday Drive**

As evidenced by the listings below, the generous spirit of our Board of Directors, Friends of Children Services, and our many community partners (corporate/private, public, and individual), we have had a successful Christmas season to date. There will be more listings to come throughout the rest of this year that you will see acknowledged in the next report as they are not yet received but are still anticipated.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Suzie's Coats founder Susan Perry met a big need at LCCS with two rounds of coat donations for infants and toddlers in mid-November. In all, the nonprofit donated 80 coats for the littlest ones LCCS serves.

An Ability Center volunteerism class donated ten hand-tied blankets on the final day of their six-week course. One of the young people in the class was adopted and went through the foster system herself as a little girl, so the project became especially important to her to pay it forward to other foster children.

Mecca Temple #43 stopped by LCCS one Saturday morning with a donation of 20 new suitcases and rolling duffel bags, then presented a generous check to Friends of LCCS to help pay for holiday bikes.

Tiara Bender and her coworkers at Toledo GM Propulsion Systems conducted a large book drive to keep children reading during their holiday break from school.

Bags of Love 419 brought the first of its monthly infant care bag contributions to help caseworker Danette Popovich in her Preventive Services work with families who had a baby exposed to THC in utero. The contents are specially designed to make sure those infants get off to a good start in life.

December marks three years since LCCS began partnering with Connecting Kids to Meals to provide healthy snack bags to the children and families the agency serves. Since that time, LCCS caseworkers have delivered more than 10,000 snack bags to ensure kids get the proper nutrition on days away from school when they won't have access to free/reduced breakfast and lunch.

The annual WTOL toy drive netted nearly 5,800 donations this year. To put that in perspective, 20 pickup truckloads were delivered to LCCS throughout the day December 8.

The Global Tax Department at O-I came to LCCS December 9 to sort and put away the WTOL donations. Their volunteer event also helped to "pull back the curtain" on what we do to a Fortune 500 company.

One Church out of Columbus has sent \$10,000.00 in gift cards to be utilized for ages 12 and older. This is a statewide effort the church takes on with distribution throughout the counties.

Holy Trinity Church has issued \$1,050.00 in gift cards and over 100 toys to the LCCS gift drive.

**IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                           |                                                                |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| WNWO, nbc24.com                                           | Angel Trees at Franklin Park Mall                              | 11-14-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | UT Law School gift drive<br>(Tymeeka Gipson interview)         | 11-17-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | Gift of Joy drive kickoff<br>Story & Kevin live interview      | 11-18-2022 |
| The Blade, blade.com<br>WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com | Community Bike Build                                           | 11-27-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | City of Toledo toy shopping<br>After raising \$4,000 in raffle | 12-5-2022  |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | LCCS caseworkers shop in toy room                              | 12-6-2022  |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | Gift of Joy toy drive                                          | 12-8-2022  |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                            | O-I workers sort toys                                          | 12-9-2022  |

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Walrod to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel and property matter. Ms. Easterly seconded the motion.

Roll Call was taken, and all members were present except for Ms. Arnold, Ms. Gagnon (Zoom), Rev. Dr. Perryman, and Mr. Ridi.

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Wilson made a motion to come out of the Executive Session. Ms. Cowell seconded the motion.

Roll Call was taken, and all members were present except for Ms. Arnold, Ms. Gagnon, Rev. Dr. Perryman, and Mr. Ridi

No action to come out of Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Wilson

Seconded by Ms. Cowell  
Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Vasquez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kathy Vasquez  
Board Chair