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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held November 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, Ms. Easterly, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, Ms. Wilson

Member(s) Absent: Rev. Dr Perryman (zoom) and Mr. Walrod

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Ms. Vasquez called the November 16, 2022, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Misty Goodrick – Staff Attorney  
Clarisa Carmona – Records Clerk  
Darcell Jordan-Harris – Family Visits Monitor  
Dana Armstrong – Records Clerk  
Brooke Bliss – Clerical Assistant  
Loretta Kirk – Driver  
Sarah Gioiella – Caseworker Training Unit  
De'Aira Everette – Caseworker Training Unit  
Rachel Stephenson Caseworker Training Unit  
Alexa Plescher – Caseworker Training Unit  
Kaitlynn Stumm – Caseworker Training Unit  
Breonna Spears – Caseworker Training Unit  
Amina Alsouqi – Caseworker Training Unit

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2022 LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Vasquez asked if any items were to be removed from the Consent Agenda. The Building report and the 20-23 Budget were removed.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

- Minutes from 8/17/22 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel committee Meeting Minutes (canceled)
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes (9/7/22)
- Finance Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents (9/13/22)
- Minutes from 09/21/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (10/03/22)
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes (canceled)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (10/11/22)
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (11/3/22)
- Services and Programs Meeting Minutes (11/2/22)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (11/8/22)

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 favour of the motion to signify by stating aye, those opposed nays. Motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 10-22 Request for funds from donation account**

Ms. Vasquez read Resolution 10-22 – Request for funds from donation account. Ms. Cowell made a motion to vote to approve the resolution. Ms. Easterly seconded. Ms. Vasquez asked those in favour of the motion to signify by stating eye, those opposed nays. Motion unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION:** 10-22

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM THE DONATION ACCOUNT

**WHEREAS,** Administration is requesting up to \$40,000 from the Donation Account to purchase holiday gifts for children served by Lucas County Children Services, if needed, and for additional expenses pertaining to client-related holiday projects sponsored by LCCS.

**WHEREAS,** LCCS, will also be asking for donated gifts from a variety of providers in the community, now be it therefore

**RESOLVED,** that the Board approves the request for up to \$40,000 from the Donation Account to purchase holiday gifts for children served by Lucas County Children Services and for additional expenses pertaining to client-related holiday projects sponsored by LCCS.

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

Ms. Vasquez reminded those whose board appointments will be ending in 2022 to send a notice to the commissioners office for reappointment if they would like to continue on the board. Ms. Wilson will not be renewing her position but will continue to be on the search committee for the Exutive Director.

#### **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT —Donna Seed**

##### **LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 258           | 270            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,191         | 1,199          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 178           | 181            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 17            | 15             |
| Relative Placement       | 391           | 384            |

#### **DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

On November 7, 2022, LCCS, in collaboration with Lucas County Probate Court and Friends of Lucas County Children Services, celebrated our annual Adoption Day. This event involved the finalizations for two separate family systems and offered a celebratory luncheon. The event also brought attention to the importance of permanency for children and the joyful and yet complicated experience that adoption can be for family systems.

In June of 2022, the Family and Community Engagement Department was transferred into the Service Division and asked to expand services to families and collaborations within the community. Since that time, Chanda Beal, Manager, and Brian Woods, Assistant Manager, have been able to create a partnership with Mercy/Nationwide, expansion of Building a Better Future with the YWCA and Casey Foundation, the opportunity to expand our Prevention Services casework specialist for substance-involved families through the state of Ohio, and expansion of kinship service with both the Area Office on Aging and Adopt America Network. This will be one of the fastest-growing areas for service expansion to families.

The state of Ohio is adopting a kinship program, effective January 1, 2023, that allows kinship providers (that become licensed foster parents) the ability to receive legal custody and continue to collect both financial subsidies and Medicaid coverage for the children in their legal care. It is important to note that the State of Ohio is assuming financial responsibility for these subsidies after LCCS has released custody to the kinship provider. This program will allow kin families to waive the requirements of pre-service training and still provide financial support for kin and, also Title IV-E reimbursement for the placement to LCCS. As evidenced by the figures above, we are seeing a steady increase into our relative/kinship placements.

The Lucas County Prosecutor's office is requesting LCCS participate with Prosecutor Julia Bates to develop a community PSA regarding shaken babies and child safety. We will begin working with a production company with Ms. Bates and with Dr. Sala-Barnett, Coroners Office, in January 2023.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

For the second straight year, Friends of LCCS successfully applied for a coats (non-monetary) grant from the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, which partners with the nonprofit Operation Warm to provide coats to kids in need. This grant will provide LCCS 200+ coats to distribute to families on caseload. Friends of LCCS received 120+ coats with the 2021 grant.

LCCS Trunk or Treat saw a lot of donations: Amazon-Rossford and Lucas County CASA loaded the agency with candy. LCCS supervisor Mandy Mellott led a donation drive for hats and gloves, resulting in more than 1,200 contributions, mostly from the Findlay area. Julie Rule at the orthodontist offices of Drs. Steven Fox and Sorin Boeriu donated 1,000 toothbrushes. Hoen's Garden Center let LCCS pick and take dozens of pumpkins and gourds. 90 HS and college students volunteered the day of the event.

Mollie Smith and Girl Scout troop #1038 in Sylvania planned and shopped for the contents of ten duffel bags, including clothes, for emergency placement of kids coming into LCCS care.

13-year-old Kassidy Eck of Oregon donated diapers, formula, blankets, and toys to a family served by LCCS caseworker Megan Hennessy as part of her confirmation project at St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

Deb Lawniczak and OCSEA-Lucas County (Ohio Civil Service Employees Association) donated 170 baby outfits and dozens of infant accessories for the holiday gift drive.

Rolled Alloys (Temperance, MI) employees donated 200 hand-tied blankets to LCCS.

Susie's Coats donated more than 80 infant and toddler coats. Through grants and donors, LCCS is on track to distribute more than 500 children's coats to families without the need to write any vouchers.

### **IN THE MEDIA**

WTOL, wtol.com National Adoption Day 10-16-2022  
(Tymeeka Gipson interview)

WTOL, wtol.com Domestic Violence, effects on kids 10-17-2022  
(Donna Seed interview)

WTOL, wtol.com LCCS Trunk or Treat 10-22-2022  
WTVG, 13abc.com  
Sojourner's Truth Dr. Perryman profile of Robin Reese 10-25-2022

The Blade, blade.com Adoption Day ceremony/luncheon 11-7-2022  
WTOL, wtol.com  
WTVG, 13abc.com  
WNWO, nbc24.com

### **Budget Discussion**

Sam Olaniran shared a PowerPoint on the 2022/2023 Budget. A hard copy will be available to the board for voting at the December meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session for a personnel and property issues was made by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Ms. Wilson.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)**

Motion to come out of executive session by Ms. Arnold and seconded by Ms. Wilson. No action coming out of executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. McCollough

Seconded by Ms. Gagnon

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Vasquez  
Board Chair