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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held January 18, 2023**  
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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. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, Ms. Vasquez, and Mr. Walrod

**Member(s) Absent:** Ms. Arnold and Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom)

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Ms. Vasquez called the January 18, 2023, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND DECEMBER 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 12/14/2022 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes (1/4/2025)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents (1/10/2023)

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution January 2023 was read into the minutes.**

**Resolution** January 2023

**Subject** 2022 Donations

**Whereas**, Lucas County Children Services received non-cash donations in 2022, and

**Whereas**, Lucas County Children Services received \$18,852.39 in cash donations in 2022, now be it therefore

**Resolved**, that the Executive Director be authorized to accept said donations on behalf of the Lucas County Children Services Board

**DATE RECEIVED FROM DESCRIPTION AMOUNT**

01/05/22 Douglas P Lijje Holiday Gift Drive \$ 50.00  
01/05/22 KeyBank Walter Brown Charities \$ 2,364.25  
01/25/22 Delta Sigma Theta Inc Holiday Gift Drive \$ 302.50  
04/15/22 KeyBank Walter Brown Charities \$ 2,776.16

04/26/22 Glass City Federal CU Wear Blue Campaign \$ 170.00  
 07/12/22 KeyBank Walter Brown Charities \$ 2,776.16  
 08/09/22 LCCS found in old case file \$ 1.00  
 09/23/22 KeyBank Walter Brown Charities \$ 2,776.16  
 09/29/22 Martin Luthern Evangelical Out of Home Care Services \$ 5,898.41  
 10/04/22 Deposit credit for disputed item \$ 39.00  
 10/07/22 Todd Spotts Legacy Scholarship \$ 50.00  
 10/07/22 Jaclyn Brown Legacy Scholarship \$ 100.00  
 10/07/22 Jaclyn Brown Legacy Scholarship \$ 975.00  
 11/15/22 True Vine Missonary Baptist Legacy Scholarship \$ 200.00  
 11/15/22 Misc Cash Legacy Scholarship \$ 0.75  
 12/01/22 Ohio Retired Teachers Assn Holiday Gift Drive \$ 248.00  
 12/13/22 Law Offices of Kurt M Young LLC Holiday Gift Drive \$ 100.00  
 12/13/22 Karen Koester Holiday Gift Drive \$ 25.00

**TOTAL 2022 DONATIONS \$ 18,852.39**

Ms. Cowell made a motion to accept the resolution with Ms. Gagnon seconded. All in favor of the motion signified by stating aye, those opposed nay. Motion unanimously carried.

**Nomination Committee**

The Nominating Committee (Dan Ridi, Kathy Vasquez, and Johnetta McCollough) met on January 13, 2023 and agreed to ask the current slate of officers to stand for an additional term. On behalf of the Nominating Committee Ms. McCollough respectfully submit the following slate of officers:

- CHAIRMAN: Kathy Vasquez
- VICE CHAIRMAN: Suzette Cowell
- SECRETARY: Rev., Dr. Donald Perryman
- TREASURER: John Schinharl

It was asked if there were any nominations from the floor, hearing none the nominations were closed by Ms. McCollough and seconded by Mr. Ridi. Mr. Ridi stated a motion to accept the slate of officers, with Ms. Gagnon seconded. All in favor of the motion signified by stating aye, those opposed nay. Motion unanimously carried.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Vasquez asked if anyone would like to change their role on the board or be added to an officer role, they should get with the chair and request such. If any board member would like to change their current committee roles or be added to one of the committees, they should also express those wishes to her.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Interim Executive Director's Report  
 LCCS Bd. Mtg. 1-18-2023*

**Interim Executive Director Report—Donna Seed  
 LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                     | Current Month | Previous Month |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes | 270           | 265            |

|                          |       |      |
|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,208 | 1201 |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 180   | 179  |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 27    | 20   |
| Relative Placement       | 435   | 406  |

**INTERIM DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT:**

We are very pleased to announce that ODJFS has informed us that Lucas County will receive continued funding to support our Prevention Services Specialist. This role specifically is working with cases that enter our system with marijuana identified as the parent(s) substance of choice. The Specialist engages with the family, working along with the Assessment Caseworker, to ensure appropriate service linkages are completed. Our intent with this position is to determine whether these early interventions allow for reduced to no future involvement within our system. At any point in time, the specialist worker carries a caseload of 25-40 cases. She is involved for 60-90 days and has been able to develop strong connections with the families. The intention for this additional funding (\$60,000) will be to continue this position and offer additional training in skill development for prevention services. Our hope is to collect data for another year with a vision to expand our services if the data we collect demonstrates that the program is effective.

The DEIS Department has been participating with planning a statewide conference involving another county system, the State of Ohio DEI Director, and the Ohio Supreme Court DEI Director, to coordinate a Child Welfare DEI Event hosted by Mahoning County. Ms. Vanessa L. Dorantes, LMSW, who is Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families for the State of Connecticut, will be the guest speaker for this event. In June 2022, Ms. Dorantes received the Casey Excellence for Children Leadership Award, which honors individuals who have inspired, and lead, change impacting the lives of children and their families that are engaged with the child welfare system. Specifically, Ms. Dorantes will speak about her role as a leader of the change she brought to Connecticut. She will focus on the innovation and the framework she used to significantly reduce disproportionality in Connecticut's child welfare system. LCCS staff will be attending this training both in-person and through a virtual option.

LCCS has been acknowledged by *Casey Families Programs* in their most recent publication called, *"Investing in Equity; Sustaining hope for Children and Families."* The publication highlights DEIS and the agency's approach to tackling disproportionality through prevention and community engagement. It chronicles our work with the Greenbelt Community and our partnership with community agencies to educate members of our community about the importance of Covid vaccination. We hope to build future collaborations that will continue these community efforts and guide our system into prevention services work.

Several months ago, our Ohio Start program, through the efforts of Amy Galvan, Chanda Beal, Tionna Jackson, and Katrina Jones, was recognized for its work to advance diversity and inclusion work with families that have been impacted by substance use. Family Services partnered with DEIS and Ohio State to create a video that highlighted the importance of being inclusive in our service offerings. This is highlighted today as LCCS has been made aware that the state of Ohio is requesting permission to utilize this video as a state training tool for the Ohio Start program.

**DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

The LCCS holiday gift drive set a record for the fourth straight year, topping 21,000 donations for the first time. Despite predictions of a weak holiday due to the economy, the quality and quantity of toys,

coats, winter gear, clothing, shoes, books, stuffed animals, personal hygiene items, and other donations was gratifying to see.

The City of Toledo's Streets, Bridges & Harbor Department employees led a huge toy drive among city workers and raised an extra \$4,000 in a raffle to go shopping for more toys.

Gordon Food Service delivered a truckload of toys for the LCCS holiday gift drive.

PNC Bank stuffed a trolley full of gifts and delivered them to our partners at WTOL.

The staff at Owens Corning World HQ held the company's third holiday gift drive to benefit LCCS. Employees donated nearly 900 items including toys and winter gear.

The Cummins Sales and Service team in Maumee surprised LCCS by assembling and delivering 30 bikes, complete with helmets and locks.

Pitt Ohio staff and families joined the holiday gift drive for the first time, giving up part of their Sunday to drop off a truckload of toys for the children served by LCCS!

The 5th and 6th graders at Cardinal Stritch raised \$1,500, then went shopping for a dozen kids on the Angel Tree at Franklin Park Mall.

The health care careers students at Bedford HS led a school-wide hygiene product drive for fellow teens served by LCCS. The donations were included in the Independent Living gift baskets.

The members of Holy Trinity Lutheran church collected more than \$1,000 in gift cards that will be used throughout the year.

The WTOL Weight Loss Challenge participants joined in the TV station's annual gift drive with a toy drive of their own, presenting the donations during their workouts at Super Fitness.

For the third straight year, One Church in Columbus organized a statewide effort through partner churches to donate gift cards for foster teens. LCCS received over \$10,000 worth of gift cards to give every child 12 and older an extra \$50 during the holiday gift drive.

Toy teams made up of high school volunteers made order out of chaos every day after school in the LCCS toy room, processing donations and resetting displays. The schools represented included Southview, Central Catholic, Springfield, St. Ursula, Toledo Early College HS, and UT Excel students.

Friends of LCCS funded a special deal on infant formula at a deep discount, made possible by partners at Bags of Love 419 and EnPuzzlement so the babies and families LCCS serves have a supply to count on in emergencies. The special purchase comes at just the right time, as news reports of another likely infant formula shortage in northern Ohio arrived during the holidays.

The Bookmiller family hosted a holiday party and collected 30 cases of Pull-ups and diaper wipes for LCCS instead of exchanging gifts.

The Glass City HOGS (Harley Owners Group) chapter held a winter gear drive and dropped off the organization's donation January 9.

The diaper bank collaboration between LCCS and the Salvation Army is nearing its second anniversary in February, with usage continuing to grow in 2022. As voluntarily self-reported by caseworkers and community advocates, the LCCS diaper bank served more than 800 households and over 1,000 children during 2022, for an average of 67 households and 85 children per month. Those actual numbers are higher (1,500+ children in 2022), based on the number of cases picked up from the Salvation Army (370) and diapers donated by the general public (60+ cases). Mercy Health uses its buying power to purchase diapers, while the Hospital Council of NW Ohio provides funding through its donors.

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**IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                                      |                                                                                           |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| WTOL, wtol.com                                                       | Leading Edge for toy drive<br>(Julie Malkin interview)                                    | 12-14-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                                       | Weight Loss Challenge toy drive<br>(Kevin Milliken interview)                             | 12-14-2022 |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com                                      | Angel Tree at Franklin Park Mall                                                          | 12-17-2022 |
| WNWO, nbc24.com                                                      | Toledo Bar Association collects hats &<br>gloves for LCCS                                 | 12-20-2022 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Christ the King principal reinstated<br>LCCS confirms abuse allegation<br>unsubstantiated | 12-22-2022 |

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. McCollough to go into Executive Session to discuss a property matter. Ms. Cowell seconded the motion.

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

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

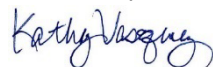
Roll Call was taken, and all members were present except for Ms. Arnold and Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom)

No action to come out of Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Cowell  
Seconded by Mr. Schinharl  
Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Vasquez  
Board Chair