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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held June 21, 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. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Ridi, Mr. Schinharl, and Ms. Vasquez

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Arnold, Dr. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom), and Mr. Walrod

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Ms. Vasquez called the June 21, 2023, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was not present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Geoff Milewski – Data Analyst
- Janel James – CW Trainee
- Megan Jagos- CW Trainee
- Kaitlyn Cook – CW Trainee
- Paige McNutt – CW Trainee
- Summer Wyatt – CW Trainee
- Makaya Walker – CW Trainee
- Katelyn Davis – CW Trainee
- Constance Whaley – CW Trainee
- Brandon Howard – CW Trainee
- Mitchell Rossi – IT Specialist

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**Building Update:** Shelby Cully gave a building update on the Summit Street address. There has been a draft of the sublease obtained. This will be looked over by the committee and possibly voted on next month.

**Case Discussion:** Nicole Williams gave a brief overview of a recent complaint and the findings and recommendations made. Ms. Williams also spoke about a recent fatality and possible charges that would be coming for the family.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Interim Executive Director — Donna Seed**

**LCCS Child Placement Statistics**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 301           | 304            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,185         | 1,182          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 165           | 178            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 26            | 29             |
| Relative Placement       | 427           | 417            |

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

Human Services/Child Welfare organizations across the country have begun to refocus and re-align their strategic planning initiatives to reflect a strong movement towards community engagement, creating a workforce culture of safety, well-being, and belonging, and addressing the profound reckoning needed within the system to acknowledge the previous harm that has been done to children and families and the contributing role the system plays within systemic racism and other inequities. The management team here at LCCS feels these values need to be reflected through our planning, partnerships, and service initiatives. This can be accomplished by expanding collaborations with persons with lived experiences, developing partnerships with community agencies, and engaging staff for their insights in envisioning these strategies moving from concepts to operational realities. We have been developing or expanding collaborations with Mercy/Nationwide, Lucas County Metroparks, and possible expansion into the Iowa Project, a state-administered program involving the engagement of persons with lived experiences. Throughout these initiatives, child welfare must continue to see through a clear equity lens. Planning and development of strategy, program, and service should ensure that the overall impact on all families and children is in the highest regard.

Placement costs have shown a month-to-month influx based on the needs of presenting children, the number of resources available to be engaged, and placement availability. LCCS has successfully recruited some new foster homes; however, the new homes must be able to handle placements in the early months of fostering, and there has been an increase in home closures for existing homes. This has created fewer available homes within the placement network. We have engaged strategies of developing new resources for placements outside of Lucas County, both foster and group home level of care. We also have found that many congregate care facilities have requested increased service contracts after a state-approved Title IV-E ceiling rate increase. This is one factor impacting increased placement costs. The Placement Department has been reaching out to other county agencies to begin troubleshooting efforts to curtail costs, share strategies being utilized to address budget increases, and consider existing options for children presenting with significant behavioral health and delinquency issues.

LCCS and Friends of Lucas County Children Services have been reaching out to funders involved with the playground project to inform them of the current status of the playground and to request their support in locating another public venue that this inclusive playground could serve. We have been meeting with the Glass City Metroparks and are in early discussion about possibly relocating the playground into that space.

## DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS

Unity Church held its second baby shower of the spring April 30 to benefit the littlest ones served by LCCS. The congregation donated a carload of diapers, wipes, Pullups, and infant items.

The LCCS Family Visits team received from Stephen Guillette and Jupmode a donated case of T-shirts to be used in a special Father's Day project by the children LCCS serves.

## IN THE MEDIA

|                                                                      |                                                                                               |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WTVG, 13abc.com                                                      | Child Memorial Preview                                                                        | 4-24-2023 |
| WTVG, 13abc.com                                                      | Child Memorial Interviews<br>(Donna Seed, Charles Williams,<br>Jason Wegman)                  | 4-27-2023 |
| WTVG, 13abc.com<br>WTOL, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Child Memorial                                                                                | 4-27-2023 |
| WTVG, 13abc.com                                                      | Interview segment about Love &<br>Luggage, emancipating youth<br>(Keith Robinson, Sarah Otis) | 5-5-2023  |

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Vasquez thanked Donna for stepping in as Interim Executive Director.

Ms. Vasquez asked the board to please let Nikki Nye know in advance if you can or can not make it to a board meeting.

**DIRECTOR MUTH**

Mr. Muth gave an overview of his experience in Child Welfare. So far his experience has been positive and uplifting. Ms. Seed has helped bring him up to speed on how the day to day runs here at LCCS, and he is very thankful. Mr. Muth's goal is to get to know the agency as a whole and individually.