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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held March 15, 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. Arnold, Ms. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Ms. Vasquez, and Mr. Schinharl
Member(s) Absent: Rev. Dr. Perryman, Mr. Ridi, and Mr. Walrod

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Ms. Vasquez called the March 15, 2023, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Teresa Campbell – Training Unit
- Kimberly Davis – Training Unit
- Brandon Howard – Training Unit
- Ashley Kellerman – Training Unit
- Diego Zapata – Training Unit
- Ashley DuShane – Fiscal Secretary
- Dai'ja Banks – Out of Home Care
- Becca Hill – Clerical
- Tracie Kynard – Out of Home Care
- Arletta Rodgers - Nurse

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. McCollough made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel and real estate matter. Ms. Cowell seconded the motion.

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

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

After the executive session, the action was to offer a contract to Mr. Randall Muth for the Executive Director of LCCS position. Ms. McCollough made a Motion to accept the contract. Ms. Gagnon seconded the motion. All in favor of the motion to signify by stating aye, and opposed nay. The motion unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA AND FEBRUARY LCCS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Vasquez asked if any items would be removed from the Consent Agenda. Nothing was removed.

Ms. Vasquez read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from 2/15/23 LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Minutes from 3/1/23 Special LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (3/7/2023)

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Strategic Plan Update – A PowerPoint presentation was given by Ms. Seed, Ms. Galvan, Ms. Bland, and Ms. Williams. The most recent strategic plan was presented to the board. A copy of the PowerPoint will be attached to these minutes.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Vasquez gave a huge thank you to the search committee for their hard work and dedication in locating an executive director. They have worked tirelessly since August, and everyone is happy with the results. Ms. Vasquez would also like to thank Ms. Cowell for stepping in and chairing the last meeting, as Ms. Vasquez could not attend. April is child abuse prevention month, and with that, the wear blue campaign will be held on April 12, and the child memorial will be held on April 27 at 11:00. This will be a live memorial held in the CLC.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 291           | 275            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,189         | 1,194          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 174           | 173            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 21            | 22             |
| Relative Placement       | 406           | 406            |

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson held a community forum on youth violence within the city and provided an invitation to a team from LCCS: me, Hope Bland, and Amy Galvan. The team was asked to participate in identifying the services we provide and the problems our systems face when confronted with youth violence within our community. Professional services organizations and grass roots providers attended this forum. LCCS was able to highlight the need for crisis intervention services for children and youth in our community, the lack of support we find for behavioral issues, and the lack of care provided with in-home support for parents/caregivers. We also recommended programming that supports, engages, and empowers youth in our community and provides extracurricular activities that can help provide social skill building and problem-solving for the critical situations that youth in this community face (food deficits, gang activity within neighborhood locations and the need for a stronger element of programming for youth which highlights culture and diversity in positive ways). These programs could be offered through existing community center locations and additional state funds provided to these grass roots organizations. We hope that Senator Hicks-Hudson can become an effective voice of advocacy at the state legislative level to bring our community concerns forward and benefit local programming serving our youth.

Casey Family Programs has been working with the major metro counties in Ohio to address the impact and influences mandated reporting has on our service delivery and on disproportionality within the child welfare system. Recently, we were invited into a meeting with New York City child welfare and Los Angeles County child welfare for a Peer Technical Assistance call, sharing our strategies and challenges with our work in Ohio. This meeting was an

opportunity to listen to colleagues around the country working on similar services and take the same opportunities to introduce change into the child welfare system and within our communities. Some general themes that emerged were the need for community education, advocacy that will be required to address policy and legislation/laws impacting the service child welfare provides, and discussion of specific curriculums that can support mandated reporter training. The overall goal of this project and peer discussion is to shift the focus of the role of mandated reporters into one of the mandated supporters.

LCCS has partnered for many years with the University of Toledo UPP program. This program has allowed students to enter employment at LCCS after nearly a year-long internship. Recently, Dr. Michael Pryor and Kristin Williams, UPP Director, met with me regarding developing an expansion into the UPP program. Previously, UPP students were not current LCCS hires and were working on completing a bachelor's level Social Work program. They completed internships at LCCS and were then able to apply for potential hire. This program will continue. A new component to this program will now be provided for master's level Social Work degrees, and.... LCCS may already employ the individual involved with the UPP master's level program and may count their employment as their required internship under new university guidelines. Hopefully, this will improve retention and increase the pool of candidates promoted to supervisory agency positions.

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Hope United Methodist Church in Whitehouse has started a "blanket ministry" which gets their entire congregation involved in wrapping children served by LCCS in warmth and love.

Their most recent donation involved 65 hand-tied blankets.

Thrive Childcare in Oregon donated 25 child comfort kits and 30 pencil boxes full of school supplies. The donation was a project involving their school-age children putting together the kits containing a stuffed animal, coloring book and crayons, and other items children would enjoy. The pencil boxes will be used during the back-to-school drive.

ProMedica donated 200 washable cloth facemasks for LCCS staff, children, and families.

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**IN THE MEDIA**

WTOL-TV, wtol.com LCCS Hires New Executive Director 3-1&2-2023

WTVG-TV. 13abc.com (Kathy Vasquez interview)

### **MR. MUTH**

Mr. Muth was impressed with the progress and where our agency is going and the acknowledgment of where LCCS needs work. He is excited to join our team and can't wait to be a part of LCCS.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Cowell

Seconded by Ms. Easterly

Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Vasquez  
Board Chair