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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held April 17, 2024**

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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: Dr. Cowell, Ms. Easterly, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Ridi, and Ms. Vasquez

Member(s) Absent: Ms. Gagnon, Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom), Mr. Schinharl, and Mr. Walrod

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Dr. Cowell called the April 17, 2024, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

No new employees are to be introduced.

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

Dr. Cowell asked if any items would be removed from the Consent Agenda. None were removed.

Dr. Cowell read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from February 21, 2024, LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (3/4/24)
- Services and Programs Meeting Minutes (3/6/24)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (3/12/24)
- Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes (4/1/24)
- Finance Committee Meeting Minutes and additional finance documents attached (4/9/24)

Dr. Cowell asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Vasquez made a motion for approval, which Mrs. McCollough seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Building Update:**

Ms. Cully gave an update. There is just two months until the move. Everything has continued to go well for the construction and restructuring of the Summit building. LCCS is very excited that the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is almost complete. The move is going along smoothly, and the move week will be June 14 – 24. If any of the board members would like to see the new building, Ms. Cully will be available for tours. The possibility of an open house is in the making.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Levy**

Mr. Muth explained the discussion that took place at the last finance meeting. The outcome of that discussion led to putting together the following resolution:

### **Lucas County Children Services Board Resolution**

#### **RESOLUTION: 04-24**

**SUBJECT: 1.8 mill Levy Renewal and 1.5 mill Levy Increase**

**WHEREAS,** Lucas County Children Services' 1.8 mill levy will expire in 2025.

**WHEREAS,** Lucas County Children Services has experienced a significant increase in the cost to place children who are in need of protective services, especially those children who are multi-system youth or have complex behavioral health needs.

**WHEREAS,** the increase in cost can be attributed to the Federal Law, Family First Prevention Services Act, which increased the requirements for group homes, congregate care facilities and residential treatment facilities to house youth who are multi-system or have complex behavioral health needs. The increased requirements have resulted in an increase in cost to run these placement options. Those increased costs have been passed onto the county public children services agencies throughout the State and Country, including to Lucas County Children Services.

**WHEREAS,** the Board has determined a need to ask for a renewal of the 1.8 mill levy along with a 1.5 mill increase for a period of 5 years to maintain appropriate levels of agency service to the community.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lucas County Children Services Board give authority to the Executive Director to request the Lucas County Board of Commissioners authorize the placement of the said 1.85 mill renewal and 1.5 mill increase on the November 2024 general election ballot.

Mr. Ridi made a motion to accept the resolution that will allow LCCS to request that the LCBC authorize the renewal and increase to be put on the November 2024 general election ballot, with Ms. Easterly seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

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

Dr. Cowell invited the board members to attend the Child Memorial on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The memorial will be at 11:00 AM in the CLC.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Executive Director's Report*

*LCCS Bd. Mtg. 4-17-2024*

**Executive Director Report—Randy Muth**

#### **LCCS CHILD PLACEMENT STATISTICS:**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 308           | 287            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,120         | 1,143          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 189           | 194            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 17            | 22             |
| Relative Placement       | 396           | 399            |

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Abby Arnold Resignation**

Unfortunately, Abby Arnold has submitted her resignation from the Board to Dr. Cowell. The Toledo City Council changed their Council meetings to conflict with our Board meetings. This necessitated her resignation.

### **Levy Options and Next Steps**

The Finance Committee reviewed the two options carried forward from their meeting in March and voted to recommend that the full Board request of the Commissioners that they place a five-year renewal of our 1.8 mill levy last passed in 2020 on the ballot with a 1.5 mill increase.

If passed, the ballot initiative:

- Would result in an increase of \$12.2 M first due in 2025
- Would keep us solvent through most of 2032 with a straight renewal of our 1.85 10-year levy which can be on again in 2027
- Keeps us at only two levies meaning we will be on the ballot less often

### **June Board Meeting**

Board meetings normally occur on the third Wednesday of each month. However, the third Wednesday of June this year happens to be Juneteenth which is a holiday for the Agency. It also appears that our target date for the building move will be the second, possibly the third week of June. We could move the meeting to the second week of the month, as we usually do in December, but that will probably put us squarely in the middle of the move. Or the Board could take a break that month and combine our June and July meetings into the July meeting.

### **Isaiah 117 House**

The purpose Isaiah 117 House is to provide a welcoming home where children who have been removed from their family of origin can receive the comfort and care they need while our staff do the necessary paperwork and identify an appropriate foster home or placement. Isaiah 117 volunteers are trained to understand that when children are removed from their homes, they are usually brought to a child welfare services office to await placement which can be a few hours to several days. These children often have nothing with them and are scared, lonely, hungry, and in dirty clothing. They provide an alternative to that typical arrangement. Specifically, they provide houses (often new builds)

in the community so that these children have a place that is safe with friendly and loving volunteers who provide clean clothes, smiles, toys, showers, food and snuggly blankets while they await placement.

Isaiah House 117 volunteers recognize the trauma to the child caused by the removal. They are also cognizant of the stress removals place on the case worker and are committed to reducing that stress in any way they can. There services will also make a potential foster placement more likely and more stable.

There will be a Lucas County Expansion Kickoff event hosted by Isaiah 117 House on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at The Summit, located a 23 N. Summit Street, Toledo. Doors will open 3:00 pm and speakers will start about 3:30 pm. It should be over by 4:30 pm. The Executive Director of the newly created state Department of Children and Youth, Kara Wentz, and her Chief of Staff, Jeffery Van Deusen, will make the trip up from Columbus on that day. Director Wentz will make brief remarks. The Board, agency staff and public are invited.

#### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Family Visits passed out 110 Easter baskets and 15 gift cards from community donors throughout March, The Easter bunny visited children the week before Easter to pass out the baskets and treats during visits.

Students from the Anthony Wayne HS Interact Club delivered 300 handmade tie blankets April 4. This is the fourth year for this project, which started during COVID. The teens received a District Rotary grant to pay for supplies, along with volunteer assistance from Hope United Methodist Church in Whitehouse.

As a Social Work Month project in March, LCCS staff and supporters donated cleaning supplies and Pull-ups to help families on caseload with items that are frequently in demand, but rarely donated. Through their efforts, 25 cleaning kits were distributed, along with about 30 packs of Pull-ups of all sizes.

Isaiah 117 House-Lucas County will host a community kickoff event April 28, 3 p.m., at The Summit in downtown Toledo to inform the public of its project to change the way foster care begins. This is the official beginning of a fundraising campaign to either build a new house or rehab an existing one.

#### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                                      |                                                                       |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| WTOL, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com                    | Racial Equity Forum<br>(Hope Bland interview)                         | 3-14-2024 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Poverty Simulation Training<br>(Melonny King interviews)              | 3-26-2024 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com                                    | Child Abuse Prevention Month<br>(Randy Muth interviews)               | 4-2-2024  |
| London Mitchell Podcast                                              | Child Abuse Prevention Month<br>(Shelby Cully interview)              | 4-3-2024  |
| YES-FM                                                               | Child Abuse Prevention Month<br>(Shelby Cully & Randy Muth interview) | 4-4-2024  |
| Proclaim-FM                                                          | Isaiah 117 House<br>(Jennifer Bohnsack Interview)                     | 4-8-2024  |
| WTOL-TV                                                              | Your Day, Wear Blue<br>(Randy Muth interview)                         | 4-9-2024  |

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an executive session.

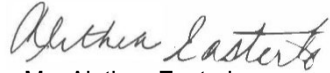
## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ridi.

Seconded by Ms. Easterly.

The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alethea Easterly".

Ms. Alethea Easterly  
Board Secretary