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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held December 18, 2024**

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The special meeting of the Lucas County Children Services Board was held at 301 Adams Street, 3:00 P.M., in person and via Zoom.

Members Present: Mr. Corfman, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Ridi, and Ms. Vasquez

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

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Ms. McCollough chaired the meeting in place of Dr. Cowell. Ms. McCollough called the December 18, 2024, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Toni Strack – Records Clerk
- Toni Seldon – Records Clerk
- Stephanie Schmursal – Clerical Assistant
- Satonda Horton – Clerical Assistant

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

Ms. McCollough asked if any items would be removed from the Consent Agenda. None were removed.

Ms. McCollough read the Consent Agenda into the minutes:

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from November 24, 2024, LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Meeting Minutes (12/4/2024)
- Finance Committee Minutes additional finance documents attached. (12/10/2024)

Ms. McCollough asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Meyer made a motion for approval, which Ms. Gagnon seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Building Update**

Shelby Cully gave a building update regarding 301 Adams. Operations are going well, so far. The bill for building renovations should come in soon. The elevator issues and heat/cooling issues are being investigated, but otherwise everything is going well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DEIS – Dr. Joyce James Presentation**

- Dr. Bland gave a brief overlook of the groundwater analysis of racial inequities that was conducted by Dr. Joyce James Consulting. This workshop was provided to the leaders of LCCS that took place as a two-day workshop back in September/October of 2024. The complete report will be attached to these minutes.

**HB 257**

- Please read \*HB 257 under Executive Directors Activities in the minutes below.

## **2025 Election of Officers**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Dan Ridi, Kathy Vasquez, and Johnetta McCollough), Ms. McCollough respectfully submitted the following slate of officers for the fiscal year of 2025.

Chairman: Suzette Cowell  
Vice Chairman: Johnetta McCollough  
Secretary: Rachel Gagnon  
Treasurer: Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman

Ms. McCollough asked if there were any nominations from the floor, hearing none, she moved the nominations to be closed, which was seconded by Mr. Meyer.

Mr. Ridi made a motion to elect the slate of officers with Ms. Vasquez seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **CHAIRS REPORT**

- There was no chair report given.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT LCCS CHILD PLACEMENT STATISTICS:**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 296           | 314            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,108         | 1,110          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 198           | 197            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 17            | 17             |
| Relative Placement       | 400           | 371            |

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

### **\*HB 257**

We're now hearing at the state level that HB 275 may actually pass in lame duck and, if so, Governor DeWine is likely to sign it. If it passes, his new law would authorize certain public bodies (CSB is one of them) to meet virtually under certain conditions if they adopt policies for virtual meetings and adhere to other specified legal requirements. So, once we do all that and remain and remain in compliance with the requirements of the law, we will be able to meet quorum, hold official meetings and hold votes (on most things) even when some or all of our members can attend only virtually.

However, before we can take advantage of this new law, the Board must make some decisions and we must have policies in place before we can hold some type of virtual meeting. We have some time because this is not emergency legislation, so if it passes, it is unlikely to take effect until the first part of April at the earliest.

However, in anticipation of it passing, the Board may want to start thinking about the following considerations:

1. Does the Board want to make provisions for some or all meetings to be held 100% virtually or will all future meetings to be held, in whole or in part, in-person.

2. If all meetings will be held in-person, under what circumstances may a member attend virtually?
3. What notice must be given to the chair by a member who wishes to attend virtually?
4. In what emergencies will the members be allowed to attend without giving notice?
5. Will there be a minimum amount of members that need to attend in-person?
6. Is there a maximum number of occasions per year which a member can attend virtually?
7. What will the board define as a major/nonroutine expenditure which mandates an in-person meeting?
8. What is a significant hiring decision which mandates an in-person meeting?
9. In addition to the decisions which the statute mandates in-person attendance, are there other conditions/decisions which the Board like to require in-person attendance for quorum and a voting?

## **Board Membership**

Ms. Easterly has resigned. Mr. Schinharl's term expires at the end of the year, and he has not requested a subsequent term. This will reduce our Board membership to nine at the first of the year. Ohio Revised Code Section 5153.03 states that, for a county our size, the Commissioners may appoint between five and fourteen members to serve on our Board. Historically, it seems that they have appointed eleven which is what we currently have.

During a recent discussion between County Administrator Jessica Ford and the Agency Executive Director, Ms. Ford stated that the Commissioners are likely to defer to this Board regarding whether the Board would like to maintain the membership at eleven or allow it to revert to nine. Ms. Ford also stated that if the Board would like two appointments to replace, Ms. Easterly and Mr. Schinahr, the Commissioners are committed to become more deliberate about recruiting and selecting candidates.

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## **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

High school/college students have been actively lending support to LCCS in a number of ways:

Five sophomores from Youth Leadership Toledo (Eastwood, St. Johns, St. Frances, Ottawa Hills HS) have combined to lead seven donor drives during the holidays at their schools and churches while they learn about all the elements of volunteering. They'll continue to help LCCS the rest of the school year.

Three teams of seniors from St. Ursula Academy chose LCCS as the recipient of their Capstone projects from a service-learning class this semester. One team put together foster recruitment social media messages, a second made development books to help children served by the agency to deal with their emotions, and the third constructed "busy binders" full of puzzles, games, word searches, and coloring sheets for children when they first enter LCCS custody and care. In each case, the student teams met with LCCS via Zoom, then chose a project to research and help create a solution.

HS volunteers are coming to LCCS afterschool to serve as "toy teams" during the holiday gift drive to help sort donations and keep the toy room in order. The students all come from high schools that require service learning hours, including TPS academies and magnet schools.

Owens Community College dental hygiene students volunteered Friday, December 13, to help sort and put away the large amount of donations received during the WTOL drive-thru drop-off event.

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## **IN THE MEDIA**

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com                       | Adoption Day                                                                                     | 11-19-24 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com                                                          | Community Conversations Preview<br>(Hope Bland interview)                                        | 11-21-24 |
| WTVG-TV, 13abc.com                                                         | Community Conversations Event<br>(Sherry Dunn interview)                                         | 11-25-24 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com                                                          | Tattoo Shop Supports LCCS toy drive                                                              | 11-26-24 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com<br>WTVG-TV, 13abc.com | Community Bike Build<br>(Kevin Milliken interviews)                                              | 12-1-24  |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com                                                          | LCCS Holiday Gift Drive<br>(Deb Wedding, Kevin Milliken)                                         | 12-4-24  |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com                                            | Sorority Supports LCCS toy drive                                                                 | 12-4-24  |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com<br>WTOL-TV, wtol.com                       | One Ohio Opioid Grant<br>(Randy Muth interview)                                                  | 12-5-24  |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com                                            | Shred for a Toy promotion                                                                        | 12-6-24  |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com                                                          | Gift of Joy preview<br>(Kevin Milliken interview)                                                | 12-11-24 |
| WTOL-TV, wtol.com                                                          | Gift of Joy Drive Thru Drop off<br>(Randy Muth, Julie Malkin,<br>Kevin Milliken live interviews) | 12-12-24 |

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None Needed

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ridi.  
Ms. Vasquez seconding the motion.  
The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. McCollough  
Board Vice Chair