

~~~~~

**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held May 21, 2025**

~~~~~

The regular 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:** Dr. Cowell, Ms. McCollough, Mr. Meyer, Ms. Vasquez, and Mr. Walrod

**Member(s) Absent:** Mr. Corfman, Ms. Gagnon, Rev. Dr. Perryman, and Mr. Ridi

~~~~~

Dr. Cowell called the May 21, 2025, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**COMMISSIONER ANITA LOPEZ**

Commissioner Lopez attended the LCCS board meeting today to personally address the recent developments over the past months. She emphasized her past experiences with the child welfare community, acknowledging the difficulties inherent in this work. Commissioner Lopez wanted to convey her strong support, partnership, and collaboration with the staff at LCCS. Her experiences have fostered a deep connection to working with Children Services. Commissioner Lopez felt it important to show her support to the LCCS in person at this meeting.

Commissioner Lopez explained that the commissioners have the authority to appoint or remove board members and can establish a Citizen Advisory Committee—an ongoing body that would work directly with the Children Services Board. This understanding was a driving force behind the establishment of the Task Force. She stated that she welcomes the Task Force's findings and understands that the goal should be to resolve issues at a local level and enhance services for children. Commissioner Lopez expressed her appreciation for LCCS board members and staff who have committed their time and knowledge to working with children.

Commissioner Lopez reiterated that she is available as a resource to LCCS and is open to considering other ways to expand resources for families after LCCS's involvement ends.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- There were no new employees

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Minutes from April 16, 2025, LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Personnel Committee Minutes (5/5/25)
- Services and Programs Minutes (5/7/25)

Dr. Cowell asked if any items would be removed from the Consent Agenda. Ms. McCollough requested that the finance report be removed from the consent agenda.

Dr. Cowell read the Consent Agenda into the minutes minus the financial report minutes.

Dr. Cowell asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Meyer made a motion for approval, which Mr. Walrod seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Building Update**

There were no building updates other than to confirm that there are no critical repairs that need to be made. Tomorrow, the building committee will have their 11-month walk-through with the builders. They will ensure everything is as it should be, with a few requests for adjustments to the layout in certain areas.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Financial Update**

Director Hoskins delivered a brief overview of the financial report findings. He reviewed the year-to-date financials by presenting a graph and the accompanying statistics, which will be attached to these minutes.

Dr. Cowell asked for a motion to accept the financials. Ms. McCollough made the motion of approval, which Mr. Meyer seconded—the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **CHAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Cowell expressed her gratitude for the community conversation that took place on April 28th. She was impressed with the community interactions and education that was given. She believes these events are helping the community feel connected. Dr. Cowell invites the board members to attend one of these events; the next one is scheduled for the end of June. She also expressed her gratitude to the staff for working together these past few months and enduring the media.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

### **Executive Director Report—Randy Muth**

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

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 280           | 287            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,090         | 1,093          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 227           | 215            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 14            | 18             |
| Relative Placement       | 403           | 424            |

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Collective Bargaining**

We have reached agreement over all issues with respect to all unions. Those are contained in multiple Tentative Agreements (TAs) which are being incorporated into draft Collective Bargaining Agreements. The Unions have scheduled votes to ratify those agreements for May. If the Unions ratify the Agreements, we will forward them to the Board for your consideration at the June Board meeting.

If this Board approves the ratified Agreements at the June meeting, the proposed agreements will be sent to the Lucas County Board of County Commissioners for final approval. The Commissioners may approve or reject any of the Agreements, but the approval or rejection must be as a whole – they can't line-item veto parts. Further, the Agreements will be deemed approved if the Commissioners fail to act within thirty days after we submit them.

If the Commissioners have questions or concerns, we may be called upon to address those questions and/or concerns in an Executive Session. Administration will be prepared if that happens.

### **Levy Timetable**

The first step in the levy process is to send a portfolio to the Citizen's Levy Review Committee. That must be submitted on or before May 28. The next step will be for us to defend our request at an open meeting of the Committee. That usually occurs the first week in June.

### **Annual Report**

The first draft of the 2024 Annual Report was circulated among Agency Directors yesterday. We will be prepared to present it to you for approval at the June meeting.

-----

### **DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

LCCS Family Visits is well known among families and staff for its delicious popcorn. Friends of Lucas County Children Services April 30 surprised the department with a new popcorn maker to replace their aging popper.

Rotarians from across NW Ohio participated in a day of service at Middlegrounds Metropark April 26. One of their projects involved tying blankets for children served by LCCS and neighboring counties.

Delores Bates and her volunteer mission team at Indiana Ave. Missionary Baptist Church April 16 donated a supply of African American hair care products for the children LCCS serves. The donation follows a series of child hair care trainings conducted by community partners.

Multiple donors, including Friends of LCCS, churches, and others, contributed candy, toys, Easter basket materials to ensure children in Family Visits got to celebrate the holiday with a volunteer Easter bunny.

Unity Church made two April donations of infant items, including diapers, wipes, clothes, and baby toys.

HS sophomores from Youth Leadership Toledo just wrapped a school year of volunteering focused on LCCS. Students have led donation drives at their schools and churches, helped pack duffel bags with hygiene products, and one led the pledge of allegiance at the Child Memorial. The student team came from Eastwood, Ottawa Hills, Toledo Christian, and St. John's Jesuit HS.

-----

### **IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                                      |                                                          |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Sojourner's Truth</i> ,                                           | Kei'Mani-related columns                                 | 4-9-25  |
| <i>Newsweek</i>                                                      | Kei'Mani case-related coverage                           | 4-9-25  |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | LCCS Protestors                                          | 4-14-25 |
| <i>Sojourner's Truth</i>                                             | LCCS Kei'Mani Press Conf<br>(Randy Muth, Suzette Cowell) | 4-16-25 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | LCCS Task Force                                          | 4-23-25 |

|                                                                      |                                                     |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Sojourner's Truth</i>                                             | Larry Sykes column                                  | 4-23-35 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | Task Force Applications                             | 4-24-25 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , blade.com | LCCS Child Memorial<br>(Randy Muth, Maleeka Kynard) | 4-24-25 |
| <i>Sojourner's Truth</i>                                             | Letter to the Community                             | 4-30-25 |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br>WTVG, 13abc.com                                    | Task Force Applications-- 200<br>at Deadline        | 5-1-25  |

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an executive session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Cowell  
Board Chair