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**MINUTES OF LUCAS COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting Held October 15, 2025**

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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:** Mr. Corfman, Dr. Cowell, Ms. Gagnon, Ms. McCollough, and Ms. Vasquez

**Member(s) Absent:** Mr. Meyer, Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom), Mr. Ridi (Zoom), and Mr. Walrod

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Dr. Cowell called the October 15, 2025, regular meeting of the LCCS Board to order. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- Amanda Mohr – Assessment Caseworker
- Olivia Gedman – Caseworker Trainee
- Madison Tyson– Caseworker Trainee
- Kaitlin Trost– Caseworker Trainee
- Jayda Young– Caseworker Trainee
- Fatina Hughes– Caseworker Trainee
- Emily Barbuto– Caseworker Trainee
- Alexis Murd– Caseworker Trainee
- Zachary Nemecek– Caseworker Trainee
- Megan Menmuir– Caseworker Trainee
- Charleigh Lemley– Caseworker Trainee
- Sandra Storer- Registered Nurse

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

- Minutes from July 16, 2025, LCCS Board of Trustees Meeting
- Services and Programs Committee Minutes (8.6.25)
- Services and Programs Committee Minutes (9.12.25)
- Personnel Committee Minutes (9.8.25)

Dr. Cowell asked if any items would be removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Dr. Cowell read the Consent Agenda into the minutes.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Task Force**

Ms. Cully provided an overview of the Task Force's recent meetings. They have been able to meet at least every other week, so far. The vision of the Task Force has been "Families in Lucas County will experience a Child Protection System that treats them with dignity, respect, and compassion where their voices are

heard, their needs are met, and their safety and feelings are prioritized." When LCCS discusses protection, our agency is only one part of the county's child protection system. The values that guide the vision are

- Equity- centering the voices of families, respecting cultural identity, and focusing on prevention over punishment.
- Transparency and accountability – Ensuring that information is shared clearly and consistently, and community oversight is welcome.
- Collaboration – Building strong partnerships across systems to protect children and support families in thriving.

From those, they will select eight priorities that the Task Force will work through in subcommittees over the next six to eight months. These subcommittees will work through these priorities during the regular monthly meetings. They will discuss these priorities and determine if they have any needs or require additional information. Then, they will develop recommendations and report out on those.

#### Task Force Priorities

1. Increase Transparency and Public Understanding
2. Address Bias and Promote Justice in Local Practice
3. Strengthen Community Engagement in the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of Children and Youth
4. Improve access, coordination and delivery of Services
5. Improve Outcomes of Children and Youth in Care
6. Support Family Stability and Reunification
7. Expand Preventive Family Centered Community Supports
8. Strengthen System Effectiveness and Accountability

The first two are currently being worked on. As always, the goal is to encourage open communication and highlight the positive aspects of LCCS by enhancing its social media presence.

#### **Opioid Memorandum of Understanding Resolution Agreements**

Michelle Kranz from Zoll & Kranz, LLC, Attorneys at Law, has represented LCCS since the inception of the Opioid litigations. These litigations have been ongoing, and a new settlement is pending approval. While LCCS does not directly benefit from these settlements, the amount of funds allocated to the State of Ohio is based on the number of entities that accept the terms. The allocations are made to the OneOhio Foundation and regionally, and LCCS is then entitled to seek funding from the Foundation. Thus, the greater the dollars allocated to Ohio, the greater the funds available to entities like LCCS.

Ms. Gagnon made a motion to accept the 3 resolutions presented. Mr. Corfman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Financial Updates and 2026 Budget**

Mr. Hoskins presented an overview of the most recent financial statements, accompanied by graphs that will be attached to these minutes. He also provided a look at the 2026 budget projections. That will also be attached to these minutes.

Ms. Gagnon made a motion to accept the financials and the 2026 budget with Ms. McCollough seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Diversity and Inclusion Policy 1100**

Dr. Hope gave an overview of the amended policy. The board voted to table this discussion until the November board meeting.

### **Fragrance Free Workplace Policy 494**

Ms. Williams presented a new policy to the board for approval. This policy aims to create, establish, and maintain guidelines for a breathable, healthy, and safe work environment. If the board approves it, the policy will go into effect on Monday, October 20, 2025.

Ms. McCollough made a motion to accept the Fragrance-Free Workplace Policy 494 without any changes. Ms. Vaquez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

### **Virtual Meeting Policy ORC 121.221**

Ms. Cully presented the amended policy to the board regarding the option for board members to attend monthly board meetings virtually via Zoom. This policy outlines the procedures members can follow if they are unable to meet in person, as well as the steps to take for notifying the chair of virtual attendance. Some circumstances prevent members from being included in the quorum count. Those are listed below under the Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Gagnon made a motion to accept the changes made to the Virtual Meeting Policy. Ms. Vasquez seconded the motion—the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **RESOLUTION 09-25:**

WHEREAS, Purchase of One (1) 2025 Chrysler Pacifica Select AWD

WHEREAS, LCCS has identified a need to replace the agency's 2004 Chevy Venture as the main transportation vehicle available to LCCS. This vehicle is no longer a reliable form of transportation for youth in LCCS custody.

WHEREAS, LCCS has determined to replace this vehicle using the Ohio State Cooperative agreement contract (State Contract) which eliminates the need for a formal competitive bidding as set out in OAC 5101:9-04-07.1 and

WHEREAS, LCCS has identified that Montrose Ford – the Ohio State Cooperative agreement vendor can supply LCCS with a 2025 Chrysler Pacifica Select AWD for \$49,036.00.

WHEREAS, A Chrysler Pacifica Select AWD will meet the needs of LCCS to safely transport youth in LCCS custody, now be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Board gives authority to the Executive Director to enter a contract with Montrose Ford for the purchase of the aforementioned vehicle for a contract price of \$49,036.00.

Mr. Hoskins presented Resolution 09-25 to the board for approval.

Ms. McCollough made a motion to accept Resolution 09-25, which was seconded by Mr. Corfman. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Dr. Joyce James Recap**

Dr. Bland presented a PowerPoint outlining the findings and recommendations made to LCCS regarding the Groundwater Analysis of Racial Inequities, which was conducted in partnership with Dr. Joyce James Consulting. The PowerPoint will be attached to these minutes.

**Trunk or Treat Event**

The annual Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for October 18, 2025. We anticipate over 2,500 children will attend this event, which will feature parade cars filled with staff and community members distributing candy. The event will take place at the Believe Center from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**CHAIRS REPORT**

Dr. Cowell noted that she has been monitoring LCCS's social media presence. So far, she has observed an increase in positive feedback, which has been a benefit of establishing the Task Force. Interactions within the community have shifted toward more constructive communication and dialogue. She expressed her appreciation to the staff for effectively communicating what LCCS has been doing.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

**Executive Director Report—Randy Muth**

**LCCS CHILD PLACEMENT STATISTICS:**

|                          | Current Month | Previous Month |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Agency Foster Homes      | 265           | 266            |
| Subsidized Adoptions     | 1,087         | 1,082          |
| Purchased Boarding Homes | 228           | 237            |
| Institutions/Group Homes | 25            | 17             |
| Relative Placement       | 380           | 350            |

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

**LCCS CY 2026 Proposed Budget**

The Finance Committee approved the LCCS CY 2026 proposed budget. The proposal calls for an expected CY 2026 revenue of \$71,284,571 and anticipated expenses of \$71,234,637. The budget must be submitted to the County in November.

**Virtual Board Meeting Draft Policy**

The last General Assembly passed HB 257 in lame duck, and it was signed by Governor DeWine. This new law authorizes certain public bodies to meet virtually under certain conditions if they adopt policies for virtual meetings and adhere to other specified legal requirements. An approved policy will allow the Board to meet quorum, hold official meetings and hold votes (on most things) even when some or all our members can attend only virtually.

Based on previous direction from the Board, the submitted policy addresses:

1. When meetings may be held completely virtual, completely in person and hybrid
2. The circumstances in which a member attend an in-person meeting virtually
3. The notice must be given to the chair by a member who wishes to attend virtually
4. Defines emergency situation in which a member may be allowed to attend without giving full notice
5. Defines a major/nonroutine expenditure which mandates an in-person meeting as individual expenditure over \$100,000
6. Defines a significant hiring decision which mandates an in-person meeting as the hiring of the Executive Director

### **Vehicle Purchase**

Owen will present a Resolution authorizing the purchase of a new van for the Agency. At any given time, we have around 900 children in our custody. Most of the transportation requirements for these children are done by caseworkers or transporters in their Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs). Caseworkers or Transporters use their own cars and the Agency reimburses them for mileage at the federal IRS rate. However, sometimes the agency is called upon to transport larger sibling groups or other groups of children such as those in our Independent Living program to various events or activities. If those sibling groups or other groups exceed the capacity of the individual employee's POV, without access to a higher capacity vehicle, we have to send multiple employees with multiple POVs to complete the transport. This increases staff time and increases the mileage we have to pay. Having access to a multi-passenger van in those instances would greatly reduce the cost of the transport.

The vehicle we're seeking to replace is a 2004 Chevy Venture which has reached the end of its life. It has been out of service for several months now.

### **Fellowship Program**

We're excited to be a part of the State's relatively new "Fellowship Program." This program was started in 2022 by Wood County Job and Family Services and is aimed at students (often in their final semesters) in human services-related majors such as psychology, sociology, family studies, and criminal justice. It differs from the University Partnership Program which is limited only to social work majors.

Students are hired as part-time county employees at public children services agencies where they get hands-on training such as shadowing assessment and ongoing case workers, as well as gaining familiarity with the laws, rules, case plans, court, and other technical aspects of what we do. They also receive the 102 hours of CORE training which is required within the first year for all new case workers. They are paid (by the State) \$15/hour for up to 20-26 hours/week.

Two individuals were hired as county employees and started on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will be permitted to work up to the maximum 26 hours per week. Each student will have a different work schedule, as it must be tailored around his/her class schedule and CORE trainings. Management will ensure that the students will have the opportunity to gain meaningful work experience in child welfare while assessing their interest in the field and getting on the job training. It will also allow us to assess their fitness for the profession before an offer of full-time employment as a classified civil servant is made. The Fellowship students will be paired with caseworkers that can model and explain the rules of best practice. Once they are trained, they will be able to complete lower-level case management tasks. They will start out in the Assessments Department and DFS and their progress will be closely monitored.

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**DONATIONS/PARTNERSHIPS**

Project Playhouse, held Sept. 18 at Buckeye Broadband, impacted 18 kids served by LCCS this year. One LCCS crew and five others from Buckeye built themed playhouses for caregiver families in honor of Sept. as Kinship Care month. Each playhouse is being enjoyed by 2-5 kids, many of them sibling groups. This annual project has now provided nearly 25 free playhouses for LCCS caregiver families.

This year's LCCS Trunk or Treat, will be held Saturday, Oct. 18, 12-2 p.m. at The Believe Center. This is our second year there, as it offers alternatives in case of inclement weather. For example, giveaways, games, and activities are held in the gym. To date, 30+ community partner trunks are lined up. Staff trunk sign-ups and the annual internal candy collection wrap up Thursday. Friends of LCCS lends support.

A pair of senior Service Leadership classes at St. Ursula Academy chose LCCS as their capstone projects this semester. After Zoom consultations with LCCS staff, one group chose to produce a two-minute video to promote foster parenting to younger adults, while the other ran a booth at Jera's Heavenly Sweet during UT Homecoming to promote foster parenting and raise funds (\$600!) for Friends of LCCS. The bakery was chosen because it provides Cakes for Kids (birthday cakes for LCCS-involved kids) at cost. This is the second straight academic year SUA students have chosen to work with LCCS in some capacity.

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**IN THE MEDIA**

|                                                       |                                                           |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , theblade.com                    | Issue 1                                                   | 9-10-25  |
| WTOL, wtol.com                                        | LCCS Task Force Meeting                                   | 9-10-25  |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , theblade.com  | Jones Defense Seeks LCCS Records                          | 9-15-25  |
| WTVG, 13abc.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , theblade.com | Project Playhouse                                         | 9-17-25  |
| <i>Toledo Blade</i> , theblade.com                    | Foster Care Advocate-Rotary<br>(Kevin Milliken interview) | 9-19-25  |
| WTOL, wtol.com<br><i>Toledo Blade</i> , theblade.com  | LCCS Records-Judge's Ruling                               | 10-1-25  |
| WTVG, 13abc.com                                       | Support Advocate of the Year                              | 10-3-25  |
| PROCLAIM-FM                                           | Community Day<br>(Randy Muth live radio interview)        | 10-10-25 |

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Corfman made a motion to go into executive session to discuss bargaining/non-bargaining staff and a confidential case. Ms. Vasquez seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, and all members were present except Mr. Meyer, Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom), Mr. Ridi (Zoom), and Mr. Walrod

Ms. Vasquez made a motion to exit the executive session. Mr. Corfman seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken, and all members were present except Mr. Meyer, Rev. Dr. Perryman (Zoom), Mr. Ridi (Zoom), and Mr. Walrod

**OPEN SESSION**

There were no business items to address following the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Gagnon  
Board Secretary