

Lorain County Children Services

Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Rob Weber called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Public can participate by joining with a Video Conferencing Device: 682042763@t.plcm.vc, Video Conference ID: 118 604 603 0, or Call In (Audio Only) by Dialing (614) 721-2972, Phone Conference ID: 109 710 356#.

A. Roll Call

Present: Lee Armbruster, Tim Carrion, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller, Mallory Santiago, Rob Weber

Excused: Tracy Green

Also Present: Kristen Fox-Berki, Executive Director

B. Review and Approve Agenda

Board Chair Rob Weber asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda submitted for the June 16, 2021 Board Meeting. No additions or changes made.

C. Review and Approve Minutes

Board Chair Rob Weber asked if there were any additions or changes to the Minutes submitted for the May 19, 2021 Board. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

II. Public Comment

Board Chair Rob Weber provided an opportunity for members of the public participating via phone conference to address the Board. No public comment made.

III. Executive Session (to discuss litigation, personnel matters and other matters required to be kept confidential by law)

MOTION: A motion was made by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Martin Heberling to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes:	Lee Armbruster, Tim Carrion, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller, Mallory Santiago, Rob Weber
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

IV. Old Business

A. Tabled Items

- **Policy 2.2 Annual Policy Review (TBD)**

Rob Weber met with Kristen Fox-Berki to review the Board policies. They anticipate the process of identifying additions and/or clarifications on the policies taking some time to complete, then plan to bring those areas identified back to the Board for further discussion. This matter remains tabled.

- **Policy 5.14 Annual Management Plan (July)**

Kristen Fox-Berki will provide the Board with the Management Plan at the July Board meeting.

B. Unresolved Action Items

None.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. Policy 6.1 Monthly Financial Update

Kristen Fox-Berki presented, and the Board reviewed the Lorain County Children Services Revenue, Disbursements and Cash Fund Balance as of 05/31/2021.

Discussion topics:

- Revenue:
 - The total Revenue for May is \$702,517.40.
- Expenditures:
- The total Expenditures for May are \$1,446,186.90. The agency has not been billed yet this year for Hospitalization/Dental. This expense is typically around \$600,000 quarterly.
- The beginning fund balance for May is \$23,445,062.20 and the ending fund balance is \$22,701,392.70.

B. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves

No new hires for the month of May.

Leaves:

- Sheryl Bott, Direct Services Caseworker, 5/6/21
- Danisha Garrison, Direct Services Caseworker, 5/7/21

C. Policy 7.14 Client Grievance

Kristen Fox Berki provided and reviewed the Ombudsman Quarterly Board Report for March 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021, including the number of Grievances Filed, Public Complaints, Telephone Calls, Emails, Walk-ins, New Requests for Ombudsman Services, Resolved Requests Pending from Last Quarter and Total Resolved Requests in this Quarter. Discussion held.

When caseworkers are completing a home visit and a non-member of the household is present when they arrive, caseworkers are instructed to ask for the client's permission to hold conversations in the presence of a non-member of the household or offer to speak to them in private before proceeding. As the subject

matter is private and often involves difficult conversations, the Board suggests that the caseworkers offer to reschedule the visit when possible and appropriate.

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with the definition of “Public Complaint;” a complaint from a member of the public, with no direct involvement with the agency or a specific case. Rob Weber commended Kristen Fox-Berki on the level of report-out to the Board regarding Policy 7.14.

Additional Discussion Topics:

Turning Point

Turning Point is the County’s domestic violence shelter for youth ages 12-17. This is an important resource for our community, especially LCCS, and functions as a safe place for (custody/non-custody) children to stay until an alternative placement is found or they can safely return home and link them to services when needed.

LCCS contributes \$96,000 annually; we have not increased our contribution in many years. The expense to operate Turning Point on an annual basis is approximately \$400,000. Aside from LCCS’ contribution, the remaining expenses are budgeted and paid through the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. We were asked to increase our contribution to \$130,000; an increase of \$34,000 annually. Discussion held regarding the history and development of the Turning Point Shelter. Turning Point was recently relocated, and now able to house approximately 20 youth. Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with statistics for 2019. The average length of stay for youth unaffiliated w/ LCCS was 11 days, and 15 days for LCCS involved youth. Out of 1487 days spent in Turning Point, 677 days (46%) were LCCS involved youth. Out of 140 admissions, 51 were LCCS involved. The statistics for 2020 are similar. The use of Turning Point helps to prevent children from entering LCCS’ custody and keep families together.

MOTION: A motion was made by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Martin Heberling to approve a \$34,000 increase to LCCS’s annual contribution to Turning Point, for a total contribution of \$130,000 annually. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes:	Lee Armbruster, Tim Carrion, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller, Mallory Santiago, Rob Weber
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

- VI. New Business**
- A. New Items for Discussion and Approval**
- None.

VII. Announcements

Kristen Fox-Berki will arrange for former Board Chair Melissa Fischer to attend the July Board meeting to present her with a token of the Board's appreciation for her lengthy service on the Board and serving as the Board Chair.

The Board will transition back to in-person meetings beginning in July.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lorain County Administration Building, 226 Middle Ave., 4th Floor, Room A, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

Minutes Prepared by:
Kimberly Kassam, Administrative Supervisor

Approved by:
Christina Doran, Board Secretary