

# Lorain County Children Services

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 18, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

### I. Call to Order

Board Chair Rob Weber called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. at the Lorain County Administration Building, 226 Middle Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room A, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

#### A. Roll Call

**Present:** Lee Armbruster, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Tracy Green, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Mallory Santiago, Rob Weber

**Excused:** Tim Carrion, Dan Gross, Jim Miller

**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 August 18, 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 July 21, 2021 Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

### II. Public Comment

Board Chair Rob Weber provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board. Public comment given.

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

None.

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Tabled Items

- **Policy 2.2 Annual Policy Review** *(August/September)*

Rob Weber and Kristen Fox-Berki have been meeting to review and revise the Board policies. Tentatively, a draft of the proposed changes will be available for the Board to review and approve at the September 15, 2021 Board meeting.

- **Policy 8.2 Strategic Plan Update** *(September)*

Tabled until the September 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 07/31/2021.

Discussion topics:

- Revenue:
  - The total Revenue for July is \$1,654,597.09.
- Expenditures:
  - The total Expenditures for July are \$3,207,114.27. Kristen Fox-Berki noted that we were billed for six months of Hospitalization/Dental rather than quarterly, due to a delay in billing.
  - The beginning fund balance for July is \$21,500,145.36 and the ending fund balance is \$19,947,628.18.

### **B. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves**

New Hires:

- Mary Knoblock, Direct Services Caseworker, 7/19/21
- Suzanne Becka, Direct Services Caseworker, 7/19/21

Leaves:

- Mercedes Thompson, Direct Services Caseworker, 7/2/21
- Jennifer Stopper, Direct Services Caseworker, 7/14/21
- Nicole Smart, Direct Services Caseworker, 7/30/21

### **C. Policy 7.1 Present All Programs and Services Not Required by ORC**

Board Chair Rob Weber requested Kristen Fox-Berki provide the Board with an overview of Policy 7.1. Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with, and reviewed, a list of programs currently offered by LCCS and a copy of the ORC. The required duties of a Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) are outlined in Section 5153.19 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

- Programs required by ORC 5153.19 include: 1) Accept Reports & Investigate, 2) Custody and Care, 3) Placement, 4) Foster Care and 5) Adoption.
- Services offered by LCCS that are not required by ORC 5153.19 include: 1) Case Management, 2) Kinship Services, 3) Lorain County Public Health Services, 4) Case Aide Services, 5) Foster Care and Adoption Services, 6) Family Drug Court Services and 7) Accelerated Safety Analysis Protocol (ASAP) Services.

The Board expressed their support for the agency's provision of additional services above and beyond the minimum requirements and found the tool useful to provide the public with a comprehensive list of services to the community utilizing levy funds. Discussion held.

#### Other Discussion Topics:

- August is back-to-school month for most school-age children. Every year agency staff collect and provide backpacks and school supplies to families through the back to school drive. The LCCS Children and Family Funds Committee purchased 150 book bags utilizing agency funds. Overall, 200 bookbags were

assembled for families. We were also able to provide gift cards to families for school clothes and specialty school supplies such as calculators, etc. We received donations from Lorain Correctional Institute (LCI), the Lorain County Recorder's office, LCCS Staff, ClearView Church, and Harvest Ridge Church for the drive. If someone from the public would like to donate to the agency or participate in a drive, they can contact Kristen Fox-Berki or someone from the Children and Family Funds Committee.

Kinship caregiver stipends were established in 2020 and the first payments were distributed to kinship caregivers in August 2020. The Board will need to establish a cycle to review this on a regular basis to ensure a competitive rate is provided.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. New Items for Discussion and Approval**

- **Board Member Ride-Alongs with LCCS Staff**

Kristen Fox-Berki offered the Board members to ride along with a caseworker or shadow a referral specialist to learn about the screening process for incoming referrals.

Discussion held regarding the potential move to JFS. Monthly meetings are held with management and union leadership to keep them informed. To address staff concerns, Kristen Fox-Berki will send an email to all staff to clarify what is known/unknown regarding the move.

## **VII. Announcements**

Kenneth Glynn's Board term was renewed, and he will remain an LCCS Board member (uninterrupted term).

## **VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lorain County Administration Building, 226 Middle Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room A, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Kimberly Kassam, Administrative Supervisor

Approved by:  
Christina Doran, Board Secretary