

# Lorain County Children Services

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 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, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller, Rob Weber

**Excused:** Mallory Santiago

**Absent:** Tim Carrion

**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 September 15, 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 August 18, 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 by former employee, Jennifer Stopper.

### **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**

Board Chair Rob Weber intends to finalize and distribute the draft policies for the Board's review within the next few weeks, then hold a discussion and vote to approve the policies at the October Board meeting.

##### **• Policy 8.2 Strategic Plan Update**

Tabled.

#### **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 08/31/2021.

Discussion topics:

- Revenue:
  - The total Revenue for August is \$6,192,175.87; the majority is from the levy payment.
- Expenditures:
  - The total Expenditures for August are \$1,553,201.56.
  - The beginning fund balance for August is \$19,947,628.18 and the ending fund balance is \$24,586,602.49.

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

New Hires:

- Amelia Lord, Direct Services Caseworker, 8/16/21
- Jocelyn Cook, Direct Services Caseworker, 8/16/21

Leaves:

- Anastasia Williams, Direct Services Caseworker, 8/13/21
- Nicole Loeser, Direct Services Caseworker, 8/13/21

### **C. Policy 6.18 Fiscal Management Policy**

Kristen Fox-Berki provided a copy to the Board and summarized Policy 6.18 Fiscal Management Policy, including related agency forms and procedures.

### **D. Policy 7.14 Client Grievance**

Kristen Fox Berki provided and reviewed the Ombudsman Quarterly Board Report for June 1, 2021 – August 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. Kristen Fox-Berki reviewed each of the Resolved Requests with the Board. Discussion held.

#### Other Discussion Topics:

September is Kinship Care Month. LCCS has a total of 236 children in a Living Arrangement and 139 kinship caregivers. Of the 236 children:

- 170 are receiving the LCCS kinship subsidy.
  - 6 are waiting on completion of the kinship assessment before the caregivers will receive the funding.
  - 4 have had their caregivers denied through the kinship assessment.
- 18 are in LCCS custody in placement with a kinship caregiver.
  - 17 of these are receiving the LCCS kinship subsidy.
  - 1 is waiting on completion of the kinship assessment.

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with an example of a family in the 30 Days to Family program and the positive outcome. Discussion held.

**VI. New Business**

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

None.

**VII. Announcements**

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) goes into effect on October 1, 2021. There will not be any immediate changes to agency practice, but it will have an impact on the agency long-term. Kristen Fox-Berki will provide the Board with a brief presentation regarding FFPSA for the October Board meeting.

The October Board meeting will be held in person. Rob Weber will notify the Board if this changes.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 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