

# Lorain County Children Services

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.

### **I. Call to Order**

Board Chair Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 5:05 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:** Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller

**Excused:** Lee Armbruster, Tamika Bonilla, Kenneth Glynn, Mallory Santiago

**Also Present:** Kristen Fox-Berki, Executive Director

#### **B. Review Agenda**

Board Chair Jim Miller asked if there were any additions or changes to the Board Meeting Agenda submitted for the June 15, 2022, Board meeting. No additions or changes made.

#### **C. Review and Approve Minutes**

Board Chair Jim Miller asked if there were any additions or changes to the Board Meeting Minutes submitted for the May 18, 2022, Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

### **II. Public Comment**

Board Chair Jim Miller noted that there was no one from the public present and wishing to address the Board.

### **III. Old Business**

#### **A. Tabled Items**

- **Policy 4.1 Non-Bargaining Pay Scale**

Tabled. Union contract negotiations are complete, and the 2022-2024 proposed union contract will be presented to the union membership for a vote.

#### **B. Unresolved Action Items**

- **Visitation Center**

Kristen Fox-Berki, along with a few staff and Board members, visited the Children's Center of Medina County on May 23, 2022, which has two levels. The upper level is utilized by the County and houses the County's Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The lower level is utilized for visitation with children in the custody of Medina County Children Services. Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with a packet containing a description and photos of the center. There are four (4) nicely furnished visitation rooms, much larger than what we have. They also have an outside area for activities including a slide, basketball hoop etc. Kristen Fox-Berki has been in communication with Summit County to tour their visitation center, which is located on the same campus as their children services agency.

- **LCCFFC Pooled Funding MOU Approval**

The Board was provided with a draft of the Lorain County Children and Families First Council (LCCFFC) MOU at the May Board meeting, which requires a Board vote.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Martin Heberling, seconded by Christina Doran to approve the LCCFFC MOU. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

**IV. Executive Director’s Report**

**A. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves**

New Hire for the month of May:

- Tawana James, Direct Services Caseworker, 5/23/22

Leave for the month of May:

- Danielle Jarvis, Direct Services Caseworker, 5/20/22

**B. Policy 6.3 ODJFS Required Master Contracts with Child Placement Agencies**

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with a list of residential treatment centers and private agencies that we contract with for residential and foster care placements, and indicated the entities where children are currently placed. The list in its entirety includes all the places we have used within the last few years. The State requires this master contract as a standard for working with each facility, and each child has an individual contract with the facility where they are placed.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Martin Heberling, seconded by Christina Doran to give the LCCS Executive Director, Kristen Fox-Berki, the authority to sign the Child Placement Agency contracts. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

**Additional Discussion Topics:**

**Friends of Children Services Fundraiser**

The Czerniak’s Annual Golf Outing scheduled for July 16, 2022, with partial proceeds to benefit the Friends of Lorain County Children Services is cancelled due to a lack of participation. Prior to the pandemic, the Friends of Children Services held an annual Princess Ball in October each year at the Lorain County Community College. We will continue with this annual event in October 2022.

Safety

One element of the Strategic Plan includes trauma and staff safety. Kristen Fox-Berki met with the Lorain County Sheriff’s Department (LCSD) to talk about what could be done internally to make the agency safer. They offered a presentation on the “Run, Hide, Fight” strategy to train staff what to do if there is an active shooter. We will work to schedule this training with staff. The Administration Building does not have a designated police force or metal detectors, but there is currently a LCSD Deputy patrolling the entire building daily. We inquired about having a Deputy assigned to our floor/agency but due to staffing, we would be required to pay for a Deputy’s salary, which would cost approximately \$102,000 including benefits. The Deputy would need an assigned area, among other considerations. Kristen Fox-Berki will keep the Board updated.

July Board Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict, Board Chair Jim Miller suggests rescheduling the July Board meeting to July 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Martin Heberling, seconded by Andrew Lipian to reschedule the July Board Meeting to July 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

**V. Fiscal Reports**

None.

**VI. New Business**

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

None.

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

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Dan Gross, seconded by Andrew Lipian to move into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Andrew Lipian, seconded by Martin Heberling to move out of Executive Session.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Martin Heberling, seconded by Dan Gross to approve the Personnel Summary, as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Andrew Lipian, Jim Miller
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

**VIII. Announcements**

None.

**IX. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Martin Heberling, seconded by Andrew Lipian to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:34 p.m. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting is rescheduled from Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. to **Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 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