

Lorain County Children Services

Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Rob Weber called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. at the Lorain County Administration Building, 226 Middle Ave., 4th Floor, Room A, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

A. Roll Call

Present: Tim Carrion, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Tracy Green, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Jim Miller, Mallory Santiago, Rob Weber

Excused: Lee Armbruster, Andrew Lipian

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 July 21, 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 June 16, 2021 Board. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

D. Former Board Chair Recognition

Former Board Chair Melissa Fischer was invited by the Board to today's meeting to recognize and acknowledge her years of service as a Board member and Board Chair. Board Chair Rob Weber welcomed Ms. Fischer and formally thanked her for her service to the community and to the Board. Kristen Fox-Berki presented Melissa Fischer with a gift and spoke about her accomplishments during her tenure, including (1) her commitment to modernizing the way we serve and fund services for MSY (multi-system youth) with complex issues needing intensive services; utilizing State funds to decrease the agency's contribution while maintaining the same level of services to our children and providing the ability to redistribute levy funds to assist with other needs throughout the community and (2) advocating for and implementing financial support to our kinship caregivers. Our agency is only one of three counties in the State that is able to independently provide a stipend to our kinship caregivers. Melissa Fischer expressed her gratitude.

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 Jim Miller, seconded by Tim Carrion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

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

IV. Old Business

A. Tabled Items

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

Rob Weber and Kristen Fox-Berki are working diligently to review the Board Policies and after a few more sessions, will provide the Board with a draft of the proposed policy changes for the Board’s review.

• **Policy 5.14 Annual Management Plan**

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with the Management Plan, outlining the 2021-2022 priorities for the Manager/Director team, including:

- Update and Consolidate Records Retention Schedule
- Evaluate Turnover and Explore Ways to Increase Employee Retention
- LCCS Move from County Administration Building to LCJFS Building

Discussion held regarding the move to the JFS building. Kristen Fox-Berki and the leadership team have accepted the possibility of a move to the Lorain County JFS Building and are starting to think through the transition plan to optimize the possibility of increased space to meet LCCS needs. There is more space at the new building in comparison to our current space, and we will have an opportunity to customize the new space to fit the needs of the agency and potential growth. There will be designated space available at the Justice Center for caseworkers to work between court hearings. We do not have the details regarding the cost of the move, renovations or the new lease. Any contributions from the Lorain County Commissioners toward the move and renovations to the new space would require their vote and approval.

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 06/30/2021.

Discussion topics:

- Revenue:
 - The total Revenue for June is \$209,303.83.
- Expenditures:
 - The total Expenditures for June are \$1,410, 551.17.

- The beginning fund balance for June is \$22,701,392.70 and the ending fund balance is \$21,500,145.36.

B. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves

New Hires:

- Heather Thacker, Direct Services Caseworker 6/7/21
- Ashley Curry, Direct Services Caseworker 6/7/21

Leaves:

- Sarah Laubli, Direct Services Caseworker, 6/14/21
- Aleeyah Norvel, Direct Services Caseworker, 6/30/21

C. Policy 8.2 Strategic Plan (September)

This agenda item will be tabled until the September Board meeting.

VI. New Business

A. New Items for Discussion and Approval

None.

VII. Announcements

Kenneth Glynn announced that his Board term expires on August 15, 2021 and expressed his honor and privilege to serve the children and families of Lorain County. Board Chair Rob Weber thanked Mr. Glynn for his service on the LCCS Board.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 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