

Lorain County Children Services

Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. via Phone Conference

I. Call to Order

Chair Melissa Fischer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. via phone conference. Public can participate by dialing (614) 721-2972, Conference ID# 563 999 726#.

A. Roll Call

Present: Jeremy Cordes, Melissa Fischer, Kenneth Glynn, Tracy Green
Excused: Mallory Santiago
Also Present: Kristen Fox-Berki, Executive Director

B. Review and Approve Agenda

Chair Melissa Fischer asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda submitted for the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting. No additions or changes made.

MOTION: It was moved by Tracy Green, seconded by Jeremy Cordes to approve the Agenda for the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting. Motion carried.

C. Review and Approve Minutes

Chair Melissa Fischer asked if there were any additions or changes to the Minutes submitted for the June 17, 2020 Board Meeting. No additions or changes made.

MOTION: It was moved by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Jeremy Cordes to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comment

Board Chair Melissa Fischer noted that there was no one from the public participating via phone conference wishing to address the Board.

III. Old Business

A. Tabled Items

None.

B. Unresolved Action Items

• Integrated Services Partnership (ISP)

The ISP Executives completed and approved the final amendment to the ISP MOU and provided to the Board for approval.

Resolution 07-2020-05

Chair Melissa Fischer reviewed Resolution 07-2020-05 to ratify the ISP MOU.

MOTION: It was moved by Tracy Green, seconded by Kenneth Glynn to approve Resolution 07-2020-05. Motion carried.

Kristen Fox-Berki was informed that the MSY fund allocation was decreased by 75% for FY2021, from \$449,858.25 to \$106,545.00. ODJFS Director Hall referred to this decrease as a “temporary hold back” and she is optimistic about the full allocation being restored. Kristen Fox-Berki will keep the Board updated as more information is received. Once MSY funds are used, we will revert to levy funds for ISP.

- **Levy Discussion**

Kristen Fox-Berki presented our levy request to the Board of Commissioners on June 24, 2020 and received approval to place the 1.8 mill renewal levy on the ballot for the November 2020 primary election. The Board of Commissioners will send a correspondence to the Board of Elections with their request to place our levy on the ballot in November.

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with an overview the campaign plan. Management have started to hold conversations with staff regarding their opportunities to participate in the campaign in the coming weeks and months ahead. A good share of the campaign will be managed through virtual advertisements, as well as newspaper articles in the Morning Journal and Chronicle Telegram and a focus on targeting voters submitting absentee and mail-in ballots. More information should be forthcoming in September and October regarding campaign events and whether they will be held in-person or virtual due to the pandemic and limitations around mass gatherings. Yard signs will also get distributed and posted about six weeks prior to the election.

The Board requested Kristen Fox-Berki to present a campaign plan for the August Board meeting to allow the Board members time to schedule attendance for the events if needed to participate and collect information from service organizations and whether they will meet in person or virtually. Kenneth Glynn offered to hand out pamphlets to the food pantry recipients hosted by Second Harvest. Discussion held.

IV. 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 06/30/2020.

Discussion topics:

- For Revenue, June 2020 FCM/IVE Waiver (Monthly) was lower than it was for June 2019 due to Protect Ohio ending. We are now receiving reimbursements and adjusting to the reimbursement process. The federal government passed legislation to assist waiver states financially and the State of Ohio is expected to receive 90% of what they would have received through Protect Ohio funding. We may not know the allocation amount that will be designated to Lorain County until the end of 2020 or possibly January 2021.
- For Expenditures, Services to Clients and their Families, Monthly Board and Care for June 2020 is higher than it was for 2019 due to the additional stipend we provided to our foster families for COVID-19.

- For Expenditures, Vehicle & Travel/Training is lower due to the pandemic and staff working remotely. Staff are utilizing their personal vehicles more than the County vehicles.

The Board requested and Jessica Basinski will provide a separate line item in the monthly financial report for MSY funds beginning in August.

B. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves

New Hires for June 2020

- Megan Lusk, Direct Services Caseworker, 6/1/20
- Tina Meade, Direct Services Administrative Assistant, 6/22/20

Leaves for June 2020:

- Meredyth Fifield Direct Services Caseworker, 6/17/20
- Oleksandr (Alex) Bormotov, Direct Services Caseworker, 6/24/20

Kristen Fox-Berki offered and Julie Haight accepted the Director of Social Service Programs position. Ms. Haight has been with the agency for 25 years and is currently one of the managers for Direct Services. She has also held positions as a supervisor and caseworker. Kristen Fox-Berki plans to post the Direct Services Manager position soon.

C. Policy 8.2 Strategic Plan Update

The current strategic plan is completed and Kristen Fox-Berki will provide the Board with a summary for the August Board meeting. The Board suggests connecting the Guiding Principles and Strategic Vision document to the outcomes and new practices implemented through the strategic plan and make it available to the community on the public LCCS website.

Additional Topics for the Executive Director's Report:

Kinship Navigator Service Agreement

We provide \$35,647.45 annually for services to kinship families in Lorain County through the Office on Aging Kinship Navigator program including legal services, support groups, linking to ODJFS and other services, emergency and food assistance, case management and other services.

MOTION: It is moved by Jeremy Cordes, seconded by Tracy Green to approve the Kinship Navigator Purchase of Service Agreement, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Motion carried.

Blessing House Groundbreaking Ceremony

Kristen Fox-Berki was asked to speak at the Blessing groundbreaking ceremony on June 26, 2020 on behalf of LCCS. Our agency interacts a great deal with Blessing House staff. Kristen Fox-Berki expressed that she was honored to be a part of their celebration and that Blessing House does wonderful work for our community.

COVID-19 Update

Governor DeWine announced that Lorain County was elevated to Level 3, as well as Cuyahoga County where many of our staff reside. We will continue to monitor the Governor's orders and are willing to pivot the direction we need to take based on those orders.

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

None.

VI. New Business

A. New Items for Discussion & Approval

None.

VII. Announcements

Kristen Fox-Berki announced that the parking structure appears to be completed and staff should be able to move back into the parking structure soon.

VIII. Adjourn

MOTION: It was moved by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Jeremy Cordes to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes Prepared by:

Kimberly Kassam, Administrative Supervisor

Approved by:

Melissa Fischer, LCCS Board Chair