

# Lorain County Children Services

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

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

Board Chair Melissa Fischer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Public can participate by dialing (614) 721-2972, Conference ID# 425 725 873#.

#### **A. Roll Call**

Present: Melissa Fischer, Kenneth Glynn, Tracy Green, Martin Heberling, Mallory Santiago

Also Present: Kristen Fox-Berki, Executive Director

#### **B. Review and Approve Agenda**

Board Chair Melissa Fischer asked if there were any additions or changes to the Agenda submitted for the December 16, 2020 Board Meeting. No additions or changes made.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Mallory Santiago, seconded by Kenneth Glynn to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

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

Board Chair Melissa Fischer asked if there were any additions or changes to the Minutes submitted for the November 18, 2020 Board Meeting. No additions or changes made.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Mallory Santiago 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.

Melissa Fischer requests that Board Policy 3.4 and the corresponding LCCS Board Public Comment Request Form are added to the January 2021 Board meeting agenda for review.

Melissa Fischer announced that effective Wednesday, December 2, 2020, Jeremy Cordes notified the County Commissioners and resigned from his position on the LCCS Board. The County Commissioners appointed Martin Heberling to the LCCS Board, effective today. The Board members welcomed Mr. Heberling.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Mallory Santiago to move into Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel matters and other matters required to be kept confidential by law. Motion carried.

A Roll Call was taken prior to Executive Session. Melissa Fischer, Kenneth Glynn, Tracy Green, Martin Heberling and Mallory Santiago were present.

Board Chair Melissa Fischer dismissed herself during Executive Session. Board member Mallory Santiago will chair the remainder of the Board meeting.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Tabled Items**

- **Board Officers**  
Tabled.

**B. Unresolved Action Items**

- **Executive Director Performance**

The Board completed their evaluation. More detailed discussion regarding the results will be held at the January Board meeting.

- **Policy 6.8 Fiscal Management Policy**

Per the Board's request, Kristen Fox-Berki updated the procedures related to Policy 6.8 Fiscal Management with her signature and provided the Board with copies.

- **Integrated Services Partnership (ISP)**

A subcommittee from the ISP Executive Committee was formed and met to discuss the contribution formula and MOU. After meeting, it was determined by the subcommittee to continue the conversation with the group of ISP Executives as a whole as there are several new State initiatives occurring, including the Federal Family First Legislation, Ohio RISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). These initiatives intersect, all related to multi-system youth (MSY) and will affect all systems involved with ISP, as well as the Family First Council. The State of Ohio has recently directed more resources to modernizing and restructuring the Family First Councils regarding MSY. The implementation for Family First will begin in October 2021, and the State is working on RFP's (Request for Proposals) for Evidence-Based Practices and prevention services. In addition, Ohio Medicaid created Ohio RISE, a new managed care approach for MSY. Ohio RISE and the Family First Councils are linked together with the goal of meeting the needs of multi-system youth. Family First and Ohio RISE provide the ability for parents to receive residential services for their children without having to relinquish custody. Lorain

County's ISP program was very innovative, has served Lorain County well and our children in custody and in congregate care dramatically declined as a result of ISP and ProtectOHIO. The State is now catching up to our county and creating their own ISP-type structure through the Family First Councils. Each entity has a role that needs to be defined. The ISP Executives are scheduling a two-hour special meeting in January 2021 to discuss the effects that the initiatives will have on the different systems and expanding the Family First Council. Kristen Fox-Berki will keep the Board informed.

## **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 11/30/2020.

Discussion topics:

- The largest sources of revenue for the month of November were Best Practices and FCM/IV-E Waiver (Monthly) reimbursements. The monthly revenue is higher than last month mainly due to the Best Practices allocation.

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

No new hires for the month of November.

Leaves:

- Maria Smartt, Direct Services Caseworker, 11/16/20
- Tiffany Joyce, Kinship Caseworker, 11/30/20

### **C. Policy 7.14 Client Grievance**

Kristen Fox-Berki provided and the Board reviewed the Ombudsman Quarterly Board Report, September 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020. Discussion held.

Kristen Fox-Berki provided and the Board reviewed the Ombudsman Report-Annual Summary, October 1, 2019 – November 30, 2020. Kristen Fox-Berki explained the impact the pandemic made regarding the clients' ability to meet face to face in the community and walk-ins, and the increase in telephone calls (from 58 to 65). This year's annual report includes a new category, online meetings. There were 5 more requests for Ombudsman services for 2020 than in 2019. Client Emails were the original and preferred contact method for services in 2019, whereas in 2020 telephone conversations and online meetings replaced email communication. Discussion held.

### **Additional Discussion Topics:**

#### **FBC Annual Holiday Party**

The holiday event was done differently this year due to the pandemic. Rather than holding the event in-person, it was set up as a Drive-Thru event. The event was held at the Lorain County Collection Center on Sunday, December 6, 2020 and included foster/adoptive and kinship families. As each family drove through, they were able to see the decorations and Santa, and received gifts, pie, and craft kits. The families enjoyed and expressed their appreciation for the event.

Annual Holiday Event for Staff

The staff typically attend an annual holiday luncheon at St. Andrews. This year, staff attended a one-hour virtual holiday event through Zoom, to interact and socialize with one another, hold a virtual scavenger hunt and play Family Feud. This event also provided management with an opportunity to thank the staff and show how much they are appreciated and valued.

**VI. New Business**

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

None.

**VII. Announcements**

None.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Kenneth Glynn, seconded by Martin Heberling to adjourn the Board meeting at 6:23 p.m. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Minutes Prepared by:  
Kimberly Kassam, Administrative Supervisor

Approved by:  
Mallory Santiago, LCCS Board Secretary