

Lorain County Children Services

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 @ 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., 4th Floor, Room A, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

A. Roll Call

Present: Lee Armbruster, Roberto Davila, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Jim Miller, Tamara Newton, Mallory Santiago

Excused: Rania Assily, Christina Doran, Kenneth Glynn, Andrew Lipian, Kim Withrow

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 May 15, 2024, 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 April 17, 2024, Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

II. Public Comment

Board Chair Jim Miller confirmed that there were no requests from the public to address the Board.

III. Old Business

A. Tabled Items

None.

B. Unresolved Action Items

1. LCCS Board Subcommittee Re: Foster Care Recruitment

Board Secretary Christina Doran is chairing the Board Foster Care Recruitment Subcommittee. Kristen Fox-Berki met with Christina Doran, Patti Jo Burtnett and the Foster Care Recruitment Coordinator, Judith Padua. A meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024, with individuals from the Lorain County Veterans Service Commission leadership group to discuss presenting to their general membership. A meeting will also be scheduled with the UAW 2000 membership group in the fall. A connection was also made with an individual with a podcast, that could lead to another avenue for recruitment. Kristen Fox-Berki requested Board members with a connection to a civic group to reach out to her or Christina Doran to make the connections.

IV. Executive Director’s Report

A. Policy 4.6 New Hires/Leaves

There are no new hires for the month of April.

Leaves for the month of April:

1. Brittany Cobb, Scan Clerk 4/5/24
2. Eliyasa Dampha, DS Caseworker 4/16/24

B. Policy 8.1 Annual Report

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with the 2023 Annual Report. The report contained a message to the community thanking them for their ongoing support, the LCCS Core Values, a summary of the community support we received in 2023, a summary and statistics of referrals received throughout the year including reports made by mandated reporters, a summary of statistics regarding the children that entered and exited agency custody, 2023 Revenue and Expenses, and a list of the 2023 LCCS Board Members.

C. Visitation Center

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with the finalized Fabo Architecture Proposal for Professional Services, with the recommended changes made by the prosecutor’s office, and the updated Terms and Conditions. We are still working with the prosecutor’s office and the architect to finalize the terms and conditions; we are very close to reaching an agreement. To prevent waiting until the June Board meeting to approve the Terms and Conditions once they are finalized, Kristen Fox-Berki is requesting the Board to authorize her to move forward once an agreement is reached between Fabo and the Lorain County Prosecutor’s Office.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mallory Santiago, seconded by Dan Gross to approve the contract with Fabo Architecture, subject to Lorain County Prosecutor’s Office approval of the Terms and Conditions. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes:	Lee Armbruster, Roberto Davila, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Jim Miller, Tamara Newton, Mallory Santiago
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

Hero for a Day

Kristen Fox-Berki reminded the Board that the Hero for a Day event is scheduled for this Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Amvets Post #32 pavilion in Elyria.

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)*
None.

VIII. Announcements
None.

IX. Adjourn
MOTION: It was moved by Martin Heberling, seconded by Roberto Davila to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes:	Lee Armbruster, Roberto Davila, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Jim Miller, Tamara Newton, Mallory Santiago
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 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:
Jim Miller, Board Chair