

# Lorain County Children Services

## Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

### I. Call to Order

Board Secretary Christina Doran called the meeting to order at 5:02 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:** Rania Assily, Roberto Davila, Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Tamara Newton, Thomas Patrick, Kim Withrow

**Excused:** Jim Miller, Lee Armbruster, Kenneth Glynn, Mallory Santiago, Andrew Lipian,

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

#### B. Review Agenda

Board Secretary Christina Doran asked if there were any additions or changes to the Board Meeting Agenda submitted for the September 18, 2024, Board meeting. No additions or changes made.

#### C. Review and Approve Minutes

Board Secretary Christina Doran asked if there were any additions or changes to the Board Meeting Minutes submitted for the August 21, 2024, Board meeting. Hearing none, the minutes are approved as distributed.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Martin Heberling, seconded by Tamara Newton to approve the August 21, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

#### Roll Call Vote

Ayes:	Rania Assily, Roberto Davila, Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Tamara Newton, Thomas Patrick, Kim Withrow
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

### II. Public Comment

Board Secretary Christina Doran 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. Levy Discussion**

LCCS is on the ballot for November 5, 2024, for a 1.8 renewal. The Elyria Chronicle Telegram has printed an endorsement for the levy, a copy of which was given to each Board member. Kristen has spoken at the UAW CAP Council meeting on 10/2/24 and everyone seemed very supportive. Advertising will be done in the Morning Journal, the Elyria Chronicle Telegram, and on Facebook. Martin Heberling invited Kristen Fox-Berki to come speak at the LCAFLCIO (Lorain County American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations) on the second Thursday of October at 5:30pm.

Martin Heberling requested some yard signs to distribute. Patti-Jo Burtnett explained that we were doing our advertising with hand outs and mailings and do not have any yard signs.

One of the fund raisers for the levy is the Princess Ball which will be held October 20, 2024, between 11:00am and 1:30pm at Lorain County Community College. Sponsorship forms and flyers were available to take after the meeting.

## **IV. Executive Director's Report**

### **A. Peer Mentor Staff Presentation**

Last October the Board approved the Peer Mentor Program. This program pairs newly hired caseworkers with experienced mentors who are well-versed in LCCS expectations, core values, and exemplary casework practices. A presentation on the program was given by:

Amanda Pittner – HR Manager  
Narkita Guzman – Training Supervisor  
Nicole Huerner – Ongoing caseworker, (Mentor)  
Sara Simpson – Ongoing caseworker, (Mentee)

Martin Heberling thanked the team for coming to present to the board and informing them about the program. Roberto Davila asked how people were picked by the team and Amanda Pittner explained the process. Tamara Newton commented on how well the brochure explaining the program was done.

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

New Hires for the month of August:

1. Xiomara Yochum, DS Caseworker 8/26/24
2. Sh'Lea Williams, DS Caseworker 8/26/24

Leave for the month of August:

1. Arin McElwain, DS Caseworker 8/9/24

### **C. Visitation Center**

- All architectural drawings are complete. There are a few changes from the State IT and security that need to be made but all are minor.
- Specifications are 99% complete – a few minor corrections (mostly dates) will be set when the last drawings are complete.
- Bidding is expected to be ready to go out to bid by the end of September, early October.
- Since the Board of Commissioners don't own the building and LCCS is doing the renovations, LCCS will be the purchaser of the work.
- The Notice to Bidders will be advertised in the newspapers in two weeks. There will be a pre-bid meeting at the job site approximately 1 week after the second newspaper advertisement. The bid due date will be approximately three weeks after the pre-bid meeting.
- We expect to have a bid opening the first or second week of November.

Thank you to Dan Gross for reviewing all the paperwork.

### **D. LCCS Board Subcommittee Re: Foster Care Recruitment**

An event will be held in conjunction with the Lorain County Veterans Services Commission (LCVSC) on November 21, 2024, from 6:00 -9:00 p.m. at Lorain County Community College (LCCC), focusing on foster care recruitment, as well as provide the community with information about the services provided by the LCVSC. Room is reserved, flyers are being made and the agenda is almost finished.

Rania Assily would like to do a similar event at Cuyahoga County Community College. She will set up a meeting with the campus president to discuss. Will ask Kenneth Glynn at the next meeting if he could see about doing the same at Lorain County Community College.

### **V. Fiscal Reports**

None.

### **VI. New Business**

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

##### **1. Policy 3.4 Public Comment**

Tabled.

##### **2. LCCFFC Contract Approval**

Kristen Fox-Berki provided the Board with the listing of all LCCFFC contracts. Everything has been approved except the last two items on the list. In April the Board approved the list, but the LCCFFC director contacted Kristen Fox-Berki about adding two contracts under Miscellaneous Providers for family support items and respite. By approving these two contracts, LCCFFC will have some flexibility to write these contracts without coming back to the Board for approval for each one. She asked the Board to approve both contracts with a \$10,000 maximum for each one.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Martin Heberling, seconded by Kim Withrow to approve line items for LCCFFC for miscellaneous providers, not to exceed \$10,000 each. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Lee Armbruster, Rania Assily, Roberto Davila, Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Tamara Newton, Thomas Patrick, Kim Withrow
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

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

None.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Tamara Newton, seconded by Rania Assily to adjourn the Board meeting at 5:36 p.m. Motion carried.

**Roll Call Vote**

Ayes:	Rania Assily, Roberto Davila, Christina Doran, Dan Gross, Martin Heberling, Tamara Newton, Thomas Patrick
Nays:	None- 0
Abstentions:	None- 0

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 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:  
Patricia Feakins, Confidential Data Analyst

Approved by:  
Christina Doran, Board Secretary.