

**Lorain County Children and Family Council
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 1, 2020
Meeting Location: Zoom Teleconference
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

In attendance: Jody Barilla, Chair (Lorain County Domestic Relations Court), Barb Tamas, Vice Chair (Lorain County Job and Family Services), Elaine Georgas, Secretary (Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County)n County), Susan Shepard (Parent Representative), Natalie Trachel (Department of Youth Services), Dave Covell (Lorain County General Health District), Kristen Fox Berki (Lorain County Children Services) Franco Gallo (Educational Services Center of Lorain County), Dan Haight (The LCADA Way) Karen McIlwaine (Parent Representative), Jeff Keruski (Lorain City Schools), Rick Soto (City of Lorain), Jim Cordes (Lorain County Commissioner’s office) Doug Messer, Interim Director – Council Staff

Guest: Amy Carles – Office of Ohio Consumer’s Council

I. CALL TO ORDER
9:05 am Jody Barilla

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS
Members introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Ms. Barilla presented the minutes of Council’s meeting of June 4, 2020.

MOTION: by Mr. Covell, seconded by Ms. Tamas that the minutes of the Council meeting of 06/04/20 are approved.

Carried.

IV. REPORT DOUG MESSER
A. REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORT

Doug provided the annual report to members. He provided highlights on the: Shared plan which includes a research project regarding engaging families into Early Intervention services. Doug reports that the final research report will be sent to members once received. Service Coordination – there are 21 children involved with 4 referrals. Doug indicated using the CANS to assess, which is consistent with Medicaid redesign. Early Intervention is going well, the new information toolkit and marketing information is available and additional funding for NAS and Lead and will be incorporating this into the EI process. Outreach is difficult in virtual format. Doug reported there is new Multi System Youth funding.

B. STAFFING

Doug reported that the Service Coordinator position is still vacant and it has been difficult to recruit. The position is posted at the county and he has received several applications, but applicants are looking for full time (noting this is an intermittent position without benefits). Doug detailed how TANF case management reimbursement does not cover his salary. Jody indicated that staffing will be addressed at the Executive Committee.

C. EI RESEARCH

Doug indicated that the EI Research project including qualitative phone call and follow up has warranted a time extension on the project. Doug is waiting on the final information and will forward to members.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. PROGRAM, DATA AND EVALUATION

Dave Covell reported there has not been a meeting of this committee and asks for other members to assist him at this time. Kristen offered to meet with Dave regarding this committee.

B. FINANCE, BUDGET AND ALLOCATION

Doug reported that this committee discussed and established a policy for expenditures that fall out of the normal range – i.e. unusual circumstance or unforeseen expenses – giving the Interim Executive Director latitude up to \$1,000 and would come back to council for approval.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jody reported that the committee is working on the Shared Plan which includes using the EI research and how the shared plan will also focus on data driving strategic planning. Jody reported that the Executive Committee also discussed the financial procedures for council.

D. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jody and Doug discussed the need to for a committee to address Medicaid redesign involving Councils and funding for services for families (Multi System Youth – restricted via Children Services and directly to Council – for placement). Doug reported how the local Integrated Services Partnership exists in Lorain county, the potential to discuss access to MSY funds and relationship between ISP and council. Amber Fisher will participate and asks for other members who are familiar to be included on this committee. Doug met with Heather Distin (ISP Coordinator) and suggests that Council directors who serve on council and ISP work through this. Doug explained how other counties coordinate this through councils but not wanting to recreate something that is not necessary but consistent with statutory requirements. Jody, Kristen, Elaine and Susan, Natalie and Amber will be on this committee to help with policies. Jody and Doug will bring the Ad Hoc Policy committee together and will schedule this meeting.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CY 21

Jody reported the Executive Committee recommends the following for officers: Chair - Jody Barilla, Vice Chair – Barb Tamas, Elaine Georgas- Secretary.

MOTION: Dave Covell made a motion which was seconded by Jim Cordes to elect the following officers: Chair – Jody Barilla, Vice-Chair – Barb Tamas, Secretary- Elaine Georgas.

Carried.

VII. BOARD/GUEST COMMENTS

Jeff Keruski asked for an overview of committees. Doug will coordinate this.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Carles shared information about the transition plans for utilities for disconnection and pre-COVID procedures – Columbia Gas (resumed in July). First Energy’s plan just resumed (resuming October 5th – back to normal -no transition). Amy reported how customers are required to pay delinquent amount and get services charges, and late payment charges. She explained the percentage of income payment plan variances. Amy will send additional details to assist members with this. Winter crisis program will begin November 1. Summer crisis program ended.

Dave Covell reminded that the winter and the holidays will include COVID and a vaccine is anticipated late March. He explained that more details on vaccines will be available in December. Elaine Georgas reminded members that COVID continues to stress individuals and families and the need for each other for help.

IX. NEXT MEETING

Ms. Barilla reported the next council meeting will be held on February 4, 2021 at 9:00 am. – format TBA.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tamas made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Covell, to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 am Ms. Barilla adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.

Submitted by,
Elaine Georgas, Secretary