



Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. at Cuivre River Electric Cooperative's Community Room by LCRB Vice Chair Melba Houston.

Roll Call and Introduction of Guests:

Present: Margie Beckmann, Glenda Fitzgerald (via Zoom), Kristin Gentry (via Zoom), Christine Heintzelman, Dr. Elaine Henderson, Melba Houston, Jim Price, Scott Hufty, Donna Orf, Cheri Winchester and Hally Wells

Absent: Kathy Boessen, Katrina Ellis and Sarah Lavy

Guests: Attending via Zoom: Madeleine Castle (Senator Hawley's Office), Judson Bliss (SLC), Cassie Holt (PCHAS), Freda Clemons (PCHAS), Kelly Weiser (PreventEd), Jaidan Adams (PreventEd), Julie Seymore (TCAC), Madronica Malone (ThriVe-Best Choice), Ron Tompkins (NFN), Kim Farris (CHN), Cynde Weber (CHN), Sarah Gramanzini (St. Stephen Christian Preschool), Dr. Cynthia Gandolfo (BOLD, LLC), and James Whitaker (Catholic Charities)

Attending in Person: Marilyn Carter (D.A.R.T. Coalition), Jessica Rogalski (CNW), Sherry Saunders (SJA), Jason Miller (Elsberry R-II School District), Laura Parn (Troy R-III School District), Alaina Laxton (Citizen/CASA Advocate), and Alana Hickman (CASA)

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the September 24, 2025, meeting minutes. (M.S.P.: Hufty, Price)

Monthly Financial Report:

Ms. Winchester reviewed several financial documents with the committee that included:

- Balance Sheets as of September 30, 2025
- Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual September 30, 2025
- Sales Tax History from 2024 to Present
- LCRB 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Funding Summaries
- LCRB 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Schedules of Units

The balance of the Peoples Bank & Trust account on 10-21-25 was \$169,157.43 in the Main Checking Account; 1,257.05 in the Money Market Accounts; and \$334,560.80 in the Certificate of Deposit, for a total balance of \$504,975.28.

The Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2025, shows a balance of \$10,000 in the prepaid tax match fund and \$332,799.24, which includes the LCRB \$200,000 reserve fund, held in the LCRB certificate of deposit. Assets and equity are in balance at \$533,683.78.

A total of \$163,023.87 was received in August 2025 (111.55% of the monthly budget), and a total of \$101,846.07 (53.77% of the monthly budget) was paid out in expenditures, resulting in a net income of \$61,177.80.

The August 2025 sales tax revenue (deposited on September 7, 2025) totaled \$173,064.59 (\$15,391.33 or 9.76% more than August 2024).

In September 2025, \$109,675.10 was paid to our providers for August 2025 services. The outstanding 2025-2026 contract commitment is \$1,937,456.86 (for the contract term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026). The usage rate of our contracted services through August 31, 2025, is 9.11%.

A motion was made to approve the monthly financial reports as printed, submitted and explained. (M.S.P.: Heitzelman, Beckmann)

Provider Brief: Dr. Cynthia (Berry) Gandolfo, PhD, CA/N Plan Outcomes

CA/N Plan

Based on the comprehensive, yearlong work of the Lincoln County Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) Plan—an initiative that engaged key community partners, including Lincoln County’s multidisciplinary team and mandated reporters—the **Lincoln County Resource Board (LCRB)** sought funding to implement a strategic, data-driven response to child abuse and neglect. This initiative, informed by rigorous data collection and analysis led by **Dr. Cynthia (Berry) Gandolfo**, builds upon evidence-based recommendations to establish a more effective, multi-tiered system of care that prioritizes child protection, mental health, and long-term family support.

This funding request will **transform and strengthen** the infrastructure for responding to child abuse and neglect, positioning Lincoln County as a **statewide pilot for a scalable, best-practice model**. By integrating **therapeutic interventions and community-based support services**, this model aims to **not only protect victims but also equip families with the resources needed to prevent future harm**, setting a precedent for effective child welfare reform across Missouri.

CA/N Plan Goals:

- Reduce substantiated child abuse and neglect cases.
- Enhance and standardize the community response.
- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration.
- Break the cycle of abuse.

Thanks to Senator Travis Fitzwater, the LCRB received a one-time investment of \$100,000 to implement the CA/N Plan recommendations, which largely centers on the establishment of a trauma intervention specialist/case navigator to enhance the child welfare response by integrating therapeutic assessment, triage, and intervention throughout the duration of a child’s case. This specialist would ensure that children who are involved in the system receive trauma-informed care while also coordinating critical support services for families. By addressing these gaps with a dedicated trauma intervention specialist, this initiative seeks to build a more responsive and effective child welfare system—one that prioritizes early intervention, evidence-based therapeutic care, and family stabilization to reduce abuse and neglect rates and improve long-term child well-being.

More information will be shared as the LCRB works with the state and its multi-disciplinary team partners to implement the plan.

Correspondence & Announcements:

- The Child Advocacy Center will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Wednesday, November 12. The LCRB will be recognized during the event, and LCRB staff and board members are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Ms. Winchester if you would like to attend.
- Ms. Winchester shared information regarding the anticipated November suspension of SNAP benefits should the government shutdown continue. Ms. Winchester encouraged providers and community partners to reach out to LCRB-funded agencies, the Early Childhood Task Force, and local ministries to help support families during this difficult time.

Old Business:

Lincoln County System of Care Meetings

- The Lincoln County System of Care will meet on Wednesday, November 12 at 11:00 a.m. at the Troy R-III School District’s Central Office, Powell Conference Room, due to group size and technology needs.
- Since the September meeting, Dr. Cynthia (Berry) Gandolfo reviewed the participants’ feedback regarding the highest priority needs for the System of Care (SOC) to consider. Truancy/Chronic Absenteeism remains the

priority issue, followed by parent engagement. (Substance use concerns were also cited among several school buildings.)

- Dr. Gandolfo will speak with our school districts' leadership regarding best practices and revised attendance policies to share at the November meeting, along with a review from our child welfare and law enforcement partners regarding the referral system and process for extreme cases of absenteeism and truancy.

2025 LCRB Legislative Summit & Mobile Outreach Tour, Sponsored by Toyota Motor Manufacturing

- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Missouri has awarded the LCRB \$3,000 for the 2025 LCRB Legislative Summit and Mobile Outreach Tour, scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025. The grant will cover the summit's costs. No children's services funds are expended for the tour.
- Through the Toyota grant, the LCRB will provide bus transportation from the Lincoln County Health Department. Current plans call for the buses to depart from the health department by 8:30 a.m., transporting participants to our first stop at the Winfield Early Childhood Education Center. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m., with tours of the center offered until the program begins at 9:30 a.m. Following the Winfield program, the buses will depart for Elsberry where we will conclude the tour. While in Elsberry, guests will learn how the community and LCRB-funded providers came together to support businesses and families in the aftermath of flooding earlier this year, and how these partnerships work to serve children and families during times of personal crises.
- The LCRB expresses its sincere gratitude to Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Missouri for its 10th annual sponsorship of this unique experience where we transport policymakers and community leaders to the forefront of issues and opportunities affecting our kids' and families' behavioral health.
- Please RSVP to diretor@lincolncountykids.org to reserve your spot for the day. If you wish to take the provided transportation, please indicate that and include your cell number in the event there are any updates on the morning of Summit.

New Business:

November and December 2025 LCRB Meeting Dates

- Because LCRB meetings fall on the fourth Wednesday of each month, they traditionally fall on the eve of Thanksgiving and during Christmas week. Members discussed whether to adjust our upcoming meeting schedule to ensure quorum.

*A motion was made to **keep** the November meeting date as scheduled on November 26, 2025, and move the December meeting up one week to Wednesday, December 17. (M.S.P.: Heitzelman, Orf)*

- The Finance Committee will conduct an e-meeting in December to accommodate the change, and the December meeting will be held at the **Lincoln County Health Department**. In celebration of the holiday, LCRB staff and members will provide breakfast for the December meeting; providers and guests are encouraged to attend in person to enjoy the meeting, meal and fellowship.

Executive Director's Report:

Ms. Winchester stated that she will email the board her completed written report. She highlighted several items, including:

Fall Site Visits and Audits

- Hally will conduct the first set of site visits and audits for the 2025-2026 contract cycle during the month of November. These visits ensure compliance with LCRB funding and reporting standards and serve as a safeguard for Lincoln County taxpayers. During the site visits, the LCRB ensures proper record keeping, validates age and county requirements, and more. Staff report audit outcomes to the board to support the members' funding allocations and decision-making processes.

LCRB Presentation for Community Partners of Eastern Lincoln County

- Ms. Winchester spoke to members of the Community Partners of Eastern Lincoln County regarding the Lincoln County Resource Board during its October 9 Coffee and Connections meeting, held at Common Grounds Coffee House in Winfield. LCRB members Dr. Elaine Henderson, Katrina Ellis, and Christine Heintzelman attended the meeting.

The Early Childhood Task Force (ECTF)

- The ECTF Shower of Love fund currently holds \$3,611.82. Regular requests for assistance are vetted and submitted by our providers and ECTF partners, and distributions are made to support Lincoln County families with critical care items, one-time-only utility or rent payments, car repairs, childcare assistance, and more.
- The ECTF is partnering with NorthRoad Community Church to participate once per month in the NorthKids play groups, which the church offers weekly for the community at large. ECTF members have committed to participating during the first Monday play group where they can engage with parents, offer activities and resources, and educate parents about local programs and services for Lincoln County's children and families.
- Once again, the ECTF will partner with Winfield Primary School to host a Family Fun Night. The date has been set for Thursday, January 29, 2026. The well-attended Family Fun Nights provide opportunities for ECTF and LCRB-funded providers to educate families about local resources and engage/build rapport with Winfield families and children to support program referrals. Planning for the 2026 event is underway.

One Night to End Homelessness

- Ms. Winchester shared that "One Night to End Homelessness" was a tremendous success. Held on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at Clonts Field, the event served as a fundraiser for Lincoln County's shelters for homeless youth and families, The Key and Bridge of Hope. With nearly three times as many attendees as their first year's event, the evening exceeded the fundraising goal of \$50,000, which will be shared between the two entities. One Night was entertaining, educational, and enlightening for those who attended.

LCRB Annual Report

- Ms. Winchester stated the LCRB's Annual Report is typically completed during the fall, and this year's report will be prepared, presented to Lincoln County Commissioners, and published on LCRB's website following the LCRB Legislative Summit.

Provider Briefs

- Providers are invited to sign up and present program briefs during upcoming LCRB meetings. Board members appreciate learning about updates and/or changes regarding funded programming, and these short presentations are wonderful opportunities to highlight client successes and clinical outcomes. Any provider wishing to present during an upcoming monthly meeting should reach out to the LCRB.

Committee Reports:

- A. Finance Committee: Jim Price shared timely news regarding regional adoption of use tax measures passed by Missouri voters as a way to counter lost revenues from online sales, support local brick-and-mortar businesses, and finance infrastructure needs imposed on communities through the transporting of purchased online goods.
- B. Personnel Committee: Kristin will connect with committee members to meet regarding personnel handbook and policy updates.
- C. Selection & Review Committee: Christine Heintzelman shared how helpful it is to LCRB members and, in particular, Selection & Review Committee members, to hear from funded agencies through the monthly provider brief opportunities. She encouraged providers to sign-up and share timely news from their organizations and LCRB-funded programs.

Comments for the Good:

- Dr. Elaine Henderson recently participated in a poverty simulation offered through NECAC. She shared that it was tremendously eye-opening, and she would encourage others to participate in this or a similar exercise. She went on to recommend reading of the *Paper Girl* by Beth Macy, a memoir about one girl's experience growing up in "a fractured America." Journalist Beth Macy is also the author of *Dopesick*.
- Alana Hickman from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Alaina Laxton, a foster and adoptive parent advocating for the establishment of a CASA program in Lincoln County, shared information about CASA and efforts to bring the program to the 45th Circuit. Trained CASA volunteers meet directly and regularly with youth in foster care. They serve as a voice for our kids in the foster system; a caring mentor and advocate for children and youth, as well as foster and biological parents when possible; and report to the courts their observances and critical insights. Ms. Hickman and Ms. Laxton have met with our local judges, Children's Division, the Juvenile Office, and others, to try and secure a letter of support from the court to proceed with their efforts to introduce CASA to Lincoln County.

- Marilyn Carter shared updates from D.A.R.T. Lincoln County:
 - **D.A.R.T. will not hold an October meeting** due to a Missouri CADCA conference scheduling conflict. **D.A.R.T. will meet on Thursday, November 20** (one week earlier due to Thanksgiving).
 - D.A.R.T. held its annual **Teen Summit on Thursday, October 23, 2025**, at NorthRoad Church. Attended by nearly 160 middle school students from around the county, the day's activities included six different break-out sessions related to underage alcohol, nicotine, and drug use; an inspiring presentation and concert by drummer Jeff Mozingo; a keynote address by Troy R-III's Dr. Johnathon White; a video re-enactment of a drug overdose call; and much more.
 - **D.A.R.T.** partnered with **Addiction is Real** as they brought their interactive trailer display to educate community members at **One Night to End Homelessness on Sat., Oct. 11**.
 - D.A.R.T. volunteers will be on hand to pass out treats during Trunk-or-Treats on both October 25 (at the Justice Center) and October 31 (at Fast Lane).
 - Volunteers will collect unused prescription medications across the county (Winfield, Elsberry, and Troy locations) as part of **Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 25**.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m. by Melba Houston. *(M.S.P.: Beckman, Price)*

Next Meeting: The next Lincoln County Resource Board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 26, 2025, via Zoom and in-person at the Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Community Room**.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Cheri Winchester, Executive Director