



Submitted by Tiffany Dehn, Coordinator

January 2017

## **Report to County Commissioners**

The mission of the Lafayette County Children's Services Fund is to provide quality services to protect the mental wellbeing and safety of children and youth 19 and under, while strengthening families. With this mission in mind, the Board of Directors provides funding to Brighter Futures Consortium, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Health Care Collaborative of Rural Missouri (HCC), Easter Seals Midwest (ESMW), House of Hope, Inc., and Compass Health (Pathways Community Health). All of these agencies bring unique and much needed services to the children in our community.

The Lafayette County Children's Services Fund (LCCSF) has been busy working with the community and our funded partners providing mental health services to children and youth 19 and under, and their families in Lafayette County. Within the last few months, LCCSF has approved funding requests for Compass Health (Pathways), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and House of Hope, Inc. for the 2017 funding year. The board revised and approved changes to the policies and procedures and bylaws. A new invoice was created and approved for usage by the agencies submitting monthly invoices as well as additional reporting requirements, for all, for the purposes of data tracking.

## **Funding Approvals**

Easter Seals Midwest and Brighter Futures were approved for funding, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle (fiscal year funding), in May with funding beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2017. December 12, 2016 LCCSFB voted and approved funding requests from Compass Health (Pathways), CASA and House of Hope Inc.

### Easter Seals Midwest

May 9, 2016 the LCCSF Board of Directors approved ESMW funding request in the amount of \$31,538.00 for autism services. The board has shifted to the use of a “Purchase of Service” model. ESMW submits a monthly invoice for payment of services. This funding cycle began July 1, 2016 and will end June 30, 2017. ESMW will submit a mid-service report January 31, 2017 and annual service report July 31, 2017.

### Brighter Futures Consortium

May 9, 2016 the LCCSF Board of Directors approved a partial amount of Brighter Futures funding request and funded \$162,000.00 for continued services within the school districts of Lafayette county. Brighter Futures is also submitting monthly invoices in accordance with the “Purchase of Service” model. They will submit a mid-service report January 31, 2017 and annual service report July 31, 2017.

### Compass Health

September 2016 LCCSF received an application on behalf of Compass Health/Pathways requesting \$85,444.00 for continued partnership. Included in the funding proposal was an allocation of \$23,500 (\$3,500 advertising costs) for the implementation of a new-to-our area program called “TxtAboutIt” (Pilot program). The board did not vote to approve this specific program as they were looking for additional information and had many questions. However, \$60,944.00 was granted and approved for Pathway’s continued services in Lafayette county. This funding cycle will begin January 1, 2017 and will end December 31, 2017.

Compass Health (Pathways) returned to the January 9, 2017 board meeting and presented additional information and answered many questions about the texting program. This program will not be available for proposal and a vote until the next funding cycle.

#### CASA

September 2016 LCCSF received an application on behalf of CASA requesting \$59,752 for continued partnership and services within Lafayette county. This funding request was granted and approved in full at the December 12, 2016 board meeting. This funding cycle began January 1, 2017 and will end December 31, 2017.

#### House of Hope Inc.

September 2016 LCCSF received an application on behalf of HOH requesting \$24,550.73 for continued funding of the project SAFE program. This request for funding was granted and approved in full at the Dec 12, 2016 board meeting. This funding cycle began January 1, 2017 and will end December 31, 2017.

### **Success Stories**

#### CASA

“An example of the power, impact and efficacy of the CASA relationship is illustrated in the story of Paul. He has been a foster child for 4 years, 3 months and 17 days. He is 15 years, 10 months old. He came into care (under age 11) due to self-harming. His biological mother refused to access mental health services for him. During an altercation with his mother, Paul had bite marks on his forehead. Mother showed a great lack of concern for his well-being. She, too, exhibited the need for mental health services. Over the years, Paul’s CASA volunteer has developed a most amazing, supportive relationship with him. She has visited him monthly in all

10 placements where he has received the mental health treatment he needs. She has participated in Family Support Team meetings on his behalf, constantly monitoring the services ordered given by the government. She has monitored the receipt of services by biological mother, so as to remedy the situation which removed Paul from his home originally. She has submitted succinct, reports to the Court regarding Paul's best interest, chocked full of relevant facts gleaned from her observations and home visits. She encouraged and visited Paul when it came time for a trial home placement with his biological mother. When that failed, Paul's CASA was the constant in his life. A CASA volunteer has the serious responsibility to speak for the child/teen and speak to the Best Interests of the child. Paul hit a crossroads in his young life, when he decided he no longer wanted contact with his biological mother. Hats off to his tenacious CASA volunteer, who listened, researched and spoke on his behalf in court. Hooray for the Court, who also listened to the CASA recommendations. An unusual order was granted, ceasing all visitation by mother with Paul. In what seemed to be a heartbeat, Paul's behaviors improved immensely. His progress was so pronounced, he was removed from institutional care and placed in a foster home. This was a dream come true for Paul. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Quite frankly, Paul's CASA volunteer and all those involved with his situation would never have DREAMED what happened this year in open court for him. On the day of his regularly scheduled hearing, Paul's foster mother accompanied him to court, along with his CASA volunteer. Foster mother spoke loud and clear that it would be her distinct pleasure to ADOPT almost 16-year-old, Paul. (A rare occurrence for foster children this age!) I wish you could have seen the twinkle in his eye and the smile on Paul's face. If only you could have been there to see quiet and shy Paul, turn to his CASA volunteer, give her an unsolicited hug in open court and say, "I love YOU, Peggy!" Rules of confidentiality prohibit me

from sharing the million- dollar photo I took of Paul with his CASA volunteer that happy day in court. But, I know this moment is etched in our memories forever. Now, the entire team of Children's Division, Juvenile Officers, Guardian Ad Litem and CASA join Paul in looking forward to his forever happy home.” – success story submitted by Robin McGinnity Connelly

#### House of Hope, Inc.

“One of the positive outcomes for 2016 from the Supervised Visitation Room would be from a client who entered the room with an extremely negative attitude. His objective appeared to be both domineering and confrontational. I ended his first visit after observing his actions for 30 min. During the 30 minutes I requested he calm down or the visit would be terminated for that day. He had gotten himself worked up due to his 7month old wanting to be held. Said he would be contacting his Attorney to put a stop to him being spoiled. Talking about court/attorney situations are not allowed during visitation. I ended the visit when he aggressively picked his son up from the floor by holding him by the waste causing his baby's back to bend uncomfortably. I exited the children. The visitor stayed with the Officer. Once the children were gone I had a meeting with the visitor explaining why his actions and words were not ok. Upon arrival of the next visit his attitude had completely changed. He was respectful and followed the rules. I believe I kept the baby and 2 other children safe while controlling the situation without incident. The father and I continued to have a mutual agreement from that day forward to treat each other with respect. Father's visits were soon suspended due to actions outside of Supervised Visitation.

For a success story, I facilitated some visits for a Mom and her 4 children after the Mom had been MIA for 3 years. They had 5 successful and productive visits which were court ordered

through Lafayette County Court. Mom attended each one and was attentive to her children. By the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> visit all the children reported to the Judge they were comfortable with seeing Mom at her house. They started out with Saturdays, and moved onto overnights. The children visit Mom every other weekend and are developing a strong relationship.” - success stories submitted by Sherry Vanvleck project S.A.F.E. program

### Brighter Futures Consortium

“Student was referred to Brighter Futures when he was in 6th grade.

Client presented with:

Unsuccessful in the traditional classroom setting and spends most of his time in the recovery room.

Aggressive behaviors: Throwing chairs, attempting to hurt other students, and teachers

Frequent Out of and In school suspension

Crying

Withdrawing socially

Student does have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Student worked with mental health provider 1:1 and attended a Social Skills Group paid for by Health Care Foundation of Greater KC both sponsored by Brighter Futures

Over his middle and high school career and with the support offered by Brighter Futures this student was able to be successful he made close friends, he played both football and basketball,

belonged to a number of different school based clubs, worked, and was able to graduate High School with an A average.

Upon graduation the family relocated to North Carolina so student could attend college.

With the support of Brighter Futures, LCCSF, HCF, Kelly Sears, and the school district this student went from not being able to sit in a traditional classroom to graduating high school with an A average and is now attending college.” – Success story submitted by Sherri Chandra Outreach Coordinator

#### Compass Health (Pathways)

“When I first saw this young man he was 12 y/o and his parents were going through a difficult divorce. 12 year old with a history of behavior problems and was about to fail the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. When he came to the apt pt’s mother and father were concerned pt was having anger and behavior problems because of their divorce. Based on the history, additional evaluations by pt’s current teachers and past teachers and parents, pt was diagnosed with ADHD and an Adjustment reaction with disturbance of emotions and conduct. Parents agreed to family counseling and worked at improved co-parenting skills. Pt was started on a medication to address ADHD symptoms. His grades improved and he did not fail the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He is now 14 y/o and doing very well in high school. Pt’s behaviors have improved in the home and in school. His parents continue to work on co-parenting. His mother related the only issue now is his “teenage” attitude, unfortunately I don’t have a pill for that disorder!” – success story submitted by Alissa Karnes on behalf of Compass Health/Pathways

## Easter Seals Midwest

“Prior to beginning the in-home parent training, 16 year old John had difficulty with personal hygiene. John’s mother wanted him to be more independent and responsible for completing his daily hygiene tasks. His parents voiced their concerns with the Autism Specialist and decided to create a personal hygiene-based goal for the teenager to achieve. From the in-home parent-training program, the parents learned new ways to help John achieve his goal. The autism specialist created “John’s Morning Routine Checklist” with visuals in hopes that John would independently complete his daily hygiene tasks (brushing teeth, brushing hair, putting on clean clothes, washing face). The provider and parents used their knowledge from the autism-specific workshops to implement positive reinforcement to motivate John to complete his list. John mentioned his favorite thing to do is visit his grandparents, so the parents strategized and set up a positive reinforcement system so when John completes his checklist for five consecutive days then he will be rewarded with a trip to his grandparents house. With the help of the checklist and prompting, John is becoming more independent and he is getting closer and closer to achieving his goal.

Our Autism Specialist has met with Gary a few times now and working with him has been very fun and pleasant. Gary has done a great job of concentrating on what he is doing, even if it is something that is a little more difficult for him. Gary does a great job of letting others know his wants. He has done a great job in letting his Autism Specialist know what he would like to do during his free choice time. Gary has seemed to warm up to the Autism Specialist nicely and quickly.” – success story submitted by Casey Melancon on behalf of ESMW autism services

## **Updates to the Policies, Procedures and Bylaws**

December 12, 2016 the board approved suggested updates to the policies, procedures and bylaws. These updates included mandatory additional reporting requirements such as; demographic information, services provided, referrals received, and total numbers of individuals served. Agencies using the “Purchase of Service” model are required to submit billing for services on the board approved invoice form or otherwise approved form with exact information. The LCCSF Coordinator also reserves the right for unannounced site visits to conduct oversight of payment for monthly invoice charges. The purpose of the changes made are to help set forth clear expectations (for all), to create accountability between funded organizations and money being spent, to gather further data that will allow to identify what specific populations are being served (demographics), identify whether the services provided are in fact reaching the need, to learn what mental health trends are happening within Lafayette county, to ensure effective collaboration within the organizations, and to identify where most of the funds are being spent. Overall, further data will allow Lafayette County Children’s Services Fund to show the public where their tax money is going and how it is positively impacting our children.

## **A Year in Review**

This past year has been eventful for Lafayette County Children’s Services Fund. In November 2016, a new Coordinator was hired to help to fulfill the goals set forth by the board. Policies, procedures and bylaws were updated and a new invoice was created and approved for use. The organization, Kid’s Count, reached out to the Coordinator and requested a survey be completed giving them important information about Lafayette county’s Children’s Services Fund. The information provided in this survey will be written in an article that will be posted to

their website and given to the counties CSF's that participated. Each county will be outlined in the article and this information will be given to us as well as presented to legislators in Jefferson City highlighting the benefit the funds have had on the children of Missouri! What a great way to show our communities that Missouri cares about our children!

February 2016 the board met for their first workshop on the Theory of Change. This workshop was guided by consultant Gwen Martin, who is the founder of Evalytics, LLC. The Board of Directors Theory of Change was created to guide the work in providing resources and funding to local agencies for children, youth, and their families in Lafayette County. Gwen Martin helped the board to create an action plan for funding and to identify the populations that need help. Some of the desired results discussed at the workshops were: to develop relationships, to help provide unity among county organizations, healthier children in our community, more oversight of the tax dollars spent, less waste/best use of the tax dollar, outcomes seen, more collaboration among county organizations, more benefit to children, and to be a role model to the community. The board walked away with a more focused plan and common goal to reach as many children as possible with the funds received.

### **Coming in 2017**

We are grateful to have the ability to serve the children of our county through partnerships with local agencies. There has been much progress in 2016 and we have a lot in store for the New Year! The board has shown interest and support of the Coordinator for the development of a funding policy. A funding policy will outline how the funds are to be spent, outline the goals and beneficiaries, and provide a guideline for funding. In addition to

implementation of a funding policy we are looking towards collaboration with local agencies to gather data that will highlight the specific needs among the children in our community. The newly approved invoice will also allow the Coordinator to gather data on a month to month basis in hopes of providing a clear picture of the population being served. We are excited for all the growth and change happening with the LCCSF board and strive to make Lafayette county a better place for our children.



All board meetings are open to the public in accordance with the Missouri Sunshine Law. Minutes and all public records from the meetings are available online at [www.lccsf.org](http://www.lccsf.org) or for review at the LCCSF office. Please call the Coordinator at (816)654-4477 to arrange an appointment and/or make a request to receive copies of information if needed. All who may be interested are invited and encouraged to attend the Board meetings. It is suggested that persons interested in attending the meetings to contact the LCCSF office to confirm specific meeting places and times.

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