

**LAFAYETTE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING**

MINUTES: Wednesday February 21st, 2018 at Lafayette County Health Department, Lower Level, Lexington, MO.

Commissioners:

Craig Williams
Harold Hoeflander
Tracy Dyer

**Board of
Directors:**

Board Chair
Tahnami Gittinger
Odessa

Vice Chair
Chip Langman
Lexington

Treasurer
Aaron Dye
Lexington

Secretary
Laura Scott
Odessa

Mark Heins
Concordia

Mary Borgman
Wellington

**Amanda
Christopherson**
Waverly

Cheri McDaniel
Higginsville

Brian Alexander
Higginsville

Executive Director:
Tiffany Dehn

Tahnami called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and everyone introduced themselves.

The following board members were present for tonight's meeting: Laura Scott, Aaron Dye, Chip Langman, Tahnami Gittinger, Mary Borgman, Mark Heins, Amanda Christopherson, and Brian Alexander. Absent – Cheri McDaniel

Guests: Alissa Karnes, Lucas Taylor, Lori Drenon, Aaron Knipmeyer, Nicky Bennett, Leslie Basye, Nancy Peters, Amanda Struchtemeyer

Executive Director- Tiffany Dehn

Commissioner Liaison- Craig Williams

Purpose of Meeting:

Due to the reports made at last month's board meeting, regarding Pathways School Based Service, the Executive Committee organized a Special Meeting in which school district representatives and Pathways/Compass Health would be able to openly communicate. The Executive Director created and mailed out invitations to each school district inviting them to come. Tahnami began the open discussion by sharing the approach the LCCSF BOD is going to be taking; a very interactive supportive role. Laura began the discussion by sharing that through the response of the school district representatives that there were 3 to 4 issues that were consistent. Those issues being 1) Communication 2) Collaboration 3) Accountability (Questions about who actually is accountable) 4) Input. Nancy from Santa Fe school district started by sharing that the therapist at their school has been doing a great job and everything is running smoothly. She has had to ask many times for updates and was recently given notes that are outlining the goals of the students. Nancy also spent some time talking about her perception to what some of the issues are. The main concern, and issue to work out, is merging a "business" system with a "school" system. They are two different models. Nancy also shared that the school districts have been accustomed to working the Brighter Future therapists and the provider choice was a valued asset to them. However, Nancy felt that it was a matter of implementing the Pathways model and changing some of the ways they have always done things to make it work better for everyone. Aaron also shared that he did see the issues with merging a clinical setting and implementing it into a school system. His concerns were surrounding the accountability of the different therapists in his district. For the most part 3 out of the 4 therapists were consistent in their work. They had only really had trouble with one of the therapists not being in the school when he was supposed to be. Aaron encouraged a supervisory approach from the LCCSF Board and Pathways/Compass Health. All of the representatives took the time to share in their common concerns but made sure to highlight that they are all grateful for the services that are being provided to the students and that the newest therapist that had started in January had already handled a very hard situation and has been doing great work. The LCCSF Board took opportunity to address some questions to the school district representatives and Pathways representatives. In response to a

comment regarding provider choice and specialists, Chip asked if either Pathways or the school districts were utilizing the other funded agencies for services related to autism. Also, the question was asked

about everyone coming to a collaboration meeting once a month and if it was possible to bring everyone together. Everyone commented that they would be in favor of meeting together on a monthly basis. Chip also questioned where the LCCSF Board had dropped the ball on the issues. It was reported that everyone in the room wanted the same things, for the well-being and safety of our children, it was just a difficult thing to implement a new program. Lucas and Alissa spent time sharing that Pathways has the desire to deliver the collaboration that is ideal for everyone, they are on board with being a consistent unifying force in the school setting. Lucas shared that the perception that there should be a “provider choice” is not necessarily a strength of the model in the proposal but that the strength of their program is permanence. They will work to deliver on the desires of the families and school social workers for provider choice at all possible times. Alissa commented that the more windshield time there is for a therapist, the less time they have to be seeing more kids that are in need of services. Discussion about there being only four therapists for the entire county also took place. The funding through LCCSF was complimented by the Health Care Foundation funding for school-based services. Alissa talked with the board about the funding and shared that it is a more expensive endeavor than the \$100,000 that was set aside this past year and that the board would need to be thinking about that this next funding cycle. Laura took time to ask Lori about the Odessa school district and why they were not participating with school-based services from Pathways. Lori reports that the needs really are met with the hired district staff, and that they are very fortunate to have counselors, social workers and LPC’s in the schools. What the district is in need of is for the Specialties, like autism or severe specific issues that are not commonly treated.

At the end of the discussion all parties involved voiced that they were grateful for the invitation to come to this special meeting and that they had felt the meeting was productive. LCCSF Board members, the Executive Director, Pathways representatives, and school district representatives will be in communication about meeting together on a monthly basis. The LCCSF Board will hear back from the school reps after their meeting next week.

The meeting ended at 7:05

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Dehn
Executive Director

Reviewed by,
Laura Scott
Secretary

Mark your calendar for the upcoming LCCS meetings:

Reminder: _____

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Wednesday, June 20, 2018