

LAFAYETTE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUND PROJECT SCOPE – GRIEF COUNSELING DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

June 29, 2016

OVERVIEW

1. Proposal Background and Description

On April 5, 2005, the citizens of Lafayette County passed a 1/8 of a cent sales tax measure, which created a Children's Services Fund for children and youth nineteen years of age or less in Lafayette County. The Lafayette County Children's Services Fund Board (LCCSF Board) has been appointed by the County Commission and entrusted to oversee this Fund. The Fund is created pursuant to RSMo §67.1775, RSMo §210.861, and the ballot language presented to the voters on April 5, 2005. RSMo §210.861 specifies the types of services that may be funded by the LCCSF Board. These policies have been adopted to provide guidance and structure to the Board in making decisions about funding programs and services consistent with its mission and the public trust. By statute, funds may be invested to address the following needs:

- Up to thirty days of temporary shelter for abused, neglected, runaway, homeless or emotionally disturbed youth
- Respite care services
- Unmarried parent services
- Outpatient chemical dependency and psychiatric treatment programs
- Counseling and related services as a part of transitional living programs
- Home-based and community-based family intervention programs
- Prevention programs which promote healthy lifestyles among children and youth and strengthen families
- Crisis intervention services, inclusive of telephone hotlines
- Individual, group, or family professional counseling and therapy services
- Psychological evaluations
- Mental health screenings.

Revenues collected and deposited in the community children's services fund **may not** be expended for inpatient medical, psychiatric, and chemical dependency services, or for transportation services.

2. Purpose of the Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to budget \$10,000.00 for discretionary funding for the purpose of grief/crisis counseling services in Lafayette County. These funds can be used county

wide by school districts, local agencies, and currently funded partners that qualify as a public or not-for-profit agency licensed or certified where appropriate to provide these services.

3. Definition of Grief – Specific to this Proposal

Grief is an individual's reaction to an experience of trauma or loss. For this specific proposal, the definition of grief will refer to:

1. Divorce
2. Loss of a close loved one, parent, or guardian (this may include service or companion animals)
3. Community tragedy or natural disaster
4. Other events may be considered trauma or loss at Board discretion

4. Duration

Due to the limited amount of funds, the number of encounters for an individual child may be limited to eight (8) one-hour sessions.

5. LCCSFB Payer of Last Resort

This fund will be a payer of last resort and may only be utilized if all other sources of funding have been maximized. Funds will be dispersed at the discretion of the LCCSF Executive Committee, not to exceed the total amount of \$10,000.00 annually. When funds are approved, the Executive Director will submit, to the Accountant, the invoice and payment will be processed within 30 days. The use of funds will be reported at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

To the greatest extent possible, agencies and providers requesting grief funds are required to maximize funding from all other sources first. Other funding sources may include, but are not limited to: commercial, federal and state insurers, other federal and state funds, city funds and funding from schools, courts, not-for-profit organizations, private organizations and other direct support.

The public or not-for-profit agency requesting grief counseling funds shall furnish to the LCCSF Board information as to its efforts to obtain other sources of funding. The agency shall only request reimbursement for services not reimbursable by any other source. The agency shall provide documentation and assurance to the LCCSF Board that requests for reimbursement from the LCCSF are not a duplication of reimbursement from any other source of funding. To reiterate, LCCSF is a payer of last resort.

6. Invoice and Payment Protocol

The public or not-for-profit agency requesting funds for the purpose of grief counseling must follow a request protocol and complete the Grief Counseling Invoice and Agency Questionnaire and submit to the Executive Director. The Grief Counseling Invoice must include: the name of the service provider; unit measurement; unit rate per measurement (cost of provider X unit of measurement); number of units provided during the time period submitting the invoice for; and number of children counseled and reason for counseling. The LCCSF Board will pay the invoice within thirty days of receipt of a fully completed and correct invoice.

- Professional or consultant hourly reimbursement for the provision of education or treatment is limited to the current Medicaid standard rate for home therapy plus 4% for a unit of 45 minutes.
 - Medicaid standard rates may be found at:

<http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/education/behavioral-health/behavioral-health-manual.pdf>

7. Specific Criteria for Grief Counseling Services

Children who need grief counseling services must meet certain criteria. The following criteria need to be considered or utilized prior to requesting funds from LCCSF:

1. After a loss event, grief reactions may take many different forms. This is when grief counseling would be most effective.
2. Children must first utilize in-school counselors when available.
3. All other sources, including Medicaid eligibility, have been utilized.
4. Children must be referred to a public or not-for-profit agency for more intensive services.
 - a. Referrals to the public or not-for-profit agency may come from a relative or school personnel.

Adopted and approved by the Board on:

Date

Board Chair