



Lafayette County  
Children's Services Fund

Executive Director's Report

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Executive Director's Report

### **Objectives for the Month**

**Objective:** Management and planning

**Objective:** Accountability oversight of funded agencies

**Objective:** Community outreach

**Hours worked each week-** 40

**Holiday Hours-** 8

**Sick hours-** 8

**Vacation –**

**Office Hours-** Monday through Friday

“A community where all children of 19 years and less and their families of Lafayette County can reach their full potential in a supportive and nurturing environment.”- LCCSF long-term goal

Over the course of the past month the Executive Director continued to work towards the goals of the LCCSF Board identifying areas of consideration among the board, promoting LCCSF within the community and looking at the overall well-being and safety of the children of Lafayette County. Identifying objectives throughout the month help the Executive Director approach areas in which to work on behalf of the board. Those objectives were; Management and planning, accountability oversight of funded agencies, and community outreach. Throughout this past month the executive director attended the monthly meeting between the school districts and Compass Health, attended the mental health board meeting, met with the executive committee, supplied documentation for the LCCSF audit, traveled to Columbia for a funders conference, maintained contact with funded agencies who submitted RFP's and

are planning for their final reports, sent letters out for accounting bids for services, and maintained all of the day to day operations.

### **School District Meeting**

Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>, the executive director attended the monthly meeting between the school district representatives and Compass Health. The purpose of this meeting is to allow for clear and consistent communication between the service providers and the district representatives and to allow for the group to target potential issue and work towards resolve. As the school year nears its end, students prepare for summer break. Compass Health providers will be in the district during summer school to continue to provide services to those in the program. No complaints or issue were addressed and everyone reports that the year has been an overall success. At this point no students are on a waiting list and Nicky Bennet reported that they have used district money to help meet the need in Lexington.

The school districts also report that they are scheduled for the “defined to be different” assemblies in October of 2019. At this point all of the districts will be able to schedule for the assemblies in the fall.

### **Lafayette County Mental Health Board**

The Lafayette County Mental Health Board met on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lafayette County Health Department. This meeting allowed the group to discuss important topics such as; the groups purpose, target projects, roles of board members and discussion of strategic planning. Charlie Grom led the group with the challenge of asking ourselves why we are at the table, and what kind of impact do we want to have. The group reviewed bylaws created by Tiffany and will begin to iron out a mission, vision and values. The board has community partners that are working to impact mental health in our county. Some of the biggest areas of concern are the resources and connections available to those having a mental health crisis. For example, the individual that presents at the emergency department but does not meet the criteria to be inpatient. Once they are discharged, they are often left with nowhere to go and no services

in place. Another example, an individual with serious mental illness comes into contact with law enforcement. Options for this individual are not always a solution for the individual in crisis. Often, they are arrested and placed in jail where they are not given any medications and their condition worsens. Other times they may not be arrested but are left in the same circumstances and do not get the assistance they need. The direction of the mental health board is being established and the hope is that all systems within Lafayette county will begin to work cohesively.

### **Audit**

Documentation was provided to auditor, Randall Fiene for the LCCSF 2018 audit. Final information was provided on May 13<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Fiene reports that a draft of the audit report will be prepared and ready by Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>. He will allow review by the director prior to finalization and will also provide 10 copies for each board member. No complaints were received.

### **Funders Conference**

Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>, the executive director attended a funders conference in Columbia, Mo sponsored by Incarnate Word Foundation. The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for networking and to educate funders about the changes and challenges in child welfare. Several different foundations and county funds, from across the state, were represented at this conference. Speakers were; Mary Chant (Executive Director for the Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies), Frederic Simmens (Senior Director/Strategic Consultant for the Casey Family Programs, Denise Cross (President/CEO of Cornerstones of Care), and Michael P Meehan (Ph.D/Executive Director for Good Shepard Children and Family Services).

Beginning the conference, Mary Chant shared about the changes occurring with the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) became law in February 2018 and has the potential to dramatically improve child safety, reduce abuse and neglect, and strengthen

the capacity of families to more effectively meet the needs of their children. It is reported to be the most significant change to federal child welfare funding in more than a generation. For the past 38 years, the largest source of federal child welfare funding, known as Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, was limited primarily to placing and maintaining children in foster care after they had suffered maltreatment. Family First extends that funding stream to provide critical proven and promising prevention services to eligible families with the aim of improving safety and stability for children.

For decades, philanthropy has led in identifying and funding “what works” to help families and their children succeed and to inform policymakers. Building upon this research, Family First presents a wide range of options to government systems, policymakers, judicial partners, community organizations, foundations, faith-based institutions and a host of other entities to come together to be more effective in strengthening families.

Securing the well-being of vulnerable children is a community responsibility, requiring purposeful and intentional collaboration across the entire community. All five sectors that constitute a community have to be involved in creating solutions that address the needs of its children and families. These five sectors are;

1. Government, or public sector
2. Private, or business, sector
3. Nonprofit sector, including civic and faith-based organizations
4. Philanthropic sector, which includes foundations
5. General public sector – those whose lives we seek to improve and everyday concerned citizens

Family First is an important tool in building a 21<sup>st</sup> century child welfare system that is responsive to the needs of children and families: a system that includes more than just child protection agencies, but also other agencies, stakeholders and sectors, including philanthropy.

The driving philosophy underlying the five-sector model is one in which all five sectors capitalize on their leadership and make the most of their capacity to influence, invest resources and build the political and public will necessary to improve marginalized communities and the lives of the children and families living in those communities.

The primary change under the Family First Act will force child welfare agencies to shift its model of practice from one that is primarily child-centered to one that also focuses on the child's family and community. It will provide an opportunity to the entire community to work together under a shared ownership of the issues, with a shared responsibility for the solutions, toward a shared vision of stronger families and communities.

Potential action and funding areas to influence outcomes and strengthen practices:

- 1. Get to the table**
  - Build relationships with local child welfare systems leadership
- 2. Bring others to the table**
  - Leverage your relationships and bring others from the five sectors to the table
- 3. Champion research that supports the:**
  - Practice leader – research that is driven or evidence informed from practice
  - Research scientist – research that derives evidence to improve practice
- 4. Provide direct support for nonprofits or government**
  - Strategies for supporting scaling, demonstration or innovation of efforts within the practice area of the funder's interest
- 5. Support capacity building of nonprofits or governments**
  - Improve organizational long-term sustainability of results
- 6. Facilitate five-sector collaborations**
  - Invest in convenings and other strategies to improve five-sector community-driven collaboration and integrated functioning (philanthropy, nonprofit, government, business, citizens/residents)
- 7. Support leadership development for government, nonprofits, constituents**
  - Invest in leadership, supervisory and frontline human capacity development

### **Looking Forward**

Throughout the course of the next month the executive director will attend regular meetings with the mental health board and HCC's General Membership meeting, will take care of all of the day to day operations, will review the audit report and will continue to look for opportunities to be involved to share about LCCSF, and the impact of the fund. The county directors will meet in June to begin building a framework for outcomes. Funding proposals will be evaluated and discussed in June and decisions will be made by the June board meeting.

#### Dates to Remember:

05/22/2019 – Mental Health Board Meeting  
05/29/2019 – Last Meeting for the 18-19 school year (Compass Health and School Districts)  
05/24/2019 – Director out of the office  
05/27/2019 – Memorial Day – Director out of the office  
05/31/2019 – Invoices Due  
06/10/2019 – Executive Committee Meeting  
06/11/2019 – General Membership Meeting  
06/19/2019 – LCCSF Board Meeting  
06/21/2019 – County Directors Meeting - Columbia

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Harbour  
Executive Director