



## Executive Director's Report

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

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#### **Objectives for the Month**

**Objective:** Management Guidance

**Objective:** Accountability oversight of funded agencies

**Objective:** Infrastructure Organization

**Hours worked each week-** 40

**Holiday Hours-**

**Sick hours-**

**Vacation – 35hrs**

**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 guidance, accountability oversight of funded agencies, and infrastructure organization. Throughout this past month the executive director structured

meetings and grants course days, maintained day to day operations, met with the executive committee, met with the mental health board, and prepared for the LCCSF board meeting.

### **Grantsmanship Course and Board Workshops**

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> the Grantsmanship course was conducted by Sand Dollar Learning Systems. Throughout the week course participants structured a generic grant proposal and learned about the importance of each section in the grant writing process. Mr. Robinson identified many areas in which participants needed to consider when structuring their work. At the end of the course a database was used to locate potential funding sources for projects that had been identified. Some of the positive comments received regarding the grantsmanship class were:

“The Children's Fund went above and beyond in offering this course. There were basic and advanced grant writing skills included in this course and it exceeded my expectations. The presenter was unorthodox in his training style, but he spoke from a place of experience”

“great information--wish we would have had more people from our local non-profits”

“Although the knowledge gained was not what I anticipated, I came away from the class with ideas for local as well as regional partnerships. I have already presented one concept to our Mayor which was approved for further development today, as well as revised another project that is important but had become stagnant. I think as revised the second project will no longer face opposition from our Board. I cannot thank you enough for offering this course. It will not only benefit the City but I truly believe that County-wide partnerships will be formed”

While many course participants were thrilled with the outcomes of this class, we must identify that the presenter was tough on those who attended. His approach was strict however his insights were valuable. Not everyone who attended was pleased with presentation.

Mr. Robinson also approached the LCCSF board with the same type of insight and sternness, with regard to funding decisions. It would be appropriate to say that all of the board members have gained a heightened awareness of what type of responsibility they hold for the decisions that are made about the well-being and safety of children. Through what has been learned we should remain hopeful that any change that benefits the children is positive progress!

### **Agency Service Reports**

July 31<sup>st</sup> agencies responded to LCCSF with reports of the work they had done for the first half of 2019. Some of the reports received were mid-service reports while many of the reports were year-end reports; which outlined progress made toward goals and objectives set forth through the initial funding proposals (RFP's).

Between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, **572** Lafayette county children and youth received services through our contracted, funded partners. CASA, House of Hope, Santa Fe R-X school, A Chance to Grow, Easterseals Midwest, Wellington-Napoleon R-IX, Compass Health and FosterAdopt Connect delivered valuable services to the children during this time frame. All of these agencies contribute to the well-being and safety of Lafayette county children and youth. In addition to the children, 151 parents/guardians also received services through the programming offered to strengthen families. 10,843 Units (hours of service) were delivered during this time frame and all agencies reported successes through program delivery. Agencies also identify areas in which their goals may not have been met. In most cases in which goals are not met, problems arise in which not much can be done to avoid the issue. For example, a lack of referral for services or scheduling conflicts.

### Success Stories

“Easterseals Midwest completed the parent training program with a 4 year old girl and her family that reside in Odessa. The family wanted to target expressive language skills throughout the program as well as tantruming behavior. Throughout the program, the parents were equipped with the tools and strategies effective for their daughter who has autism in order to better support her in all natural settings. She made a lot of progress in her expressive language throughout the program. When services started she was very vocal but difficult to understand. Toward the end of the program, she was saying close to 30 words very clearly and even saying them without prompting, which was a huge milestone from where she was initially! She has even started to read some words independently. Throughout the program, the young girl’s protesting for un-preferred activities decreased. At the beginning of the parent training program, she would cry, scream, grab, and throw herself on the floor. By the end of the program she was completing activities with little to no protesting. If she did protest she would minimally verbalize the protest but she was no longer throwing herself on the floor or crying or screaming. She was handling un-preferred activities much better and pushing through to complete the activities with her parents encouraging her and running the sessions on their own.”

"We had a kindergarten student who had a very rough first month of school with what appeared to be a lot of very violent aggression. I asked Devin for suggestions and she began working with this student a little bit to see what she thought. During her sessions, Devin discovered that this student's fight or flight reflex was on hyper-drive! This was a huge discovery and helped us to better understand what was happening and what we could do to prevent aggressive acts toward other children. We also tried a compression vest with this child and regularly scheduled therapy times throughout the day. It has been an amazing transformation for this student. I am so thankful we had Devin and her expertise to help guide us to the

correct diagnosis. Without her assistance, I am positive this student would have been misdiagnosed with behavior issues and sent down a very different path."

"The following provides just a few statements of success from participating students. A full listing can be provided to the LCCSF upon request. 1) "I quit cutting....therapy helps me get anger and even sadness out." 2) "I seem to feel less depressed and more happy. To talk about what has happened lately helps me and my blood sugar levels." 3) This quote came from a parent. "The convenience of the therapist meeting with the patient at school is extremely helpful to parents and promotes consistent and frequent therapy sessions. Our therapist is especially conscientious and caring. She make sure she understands my child's needs and addresses issues in a professional and knowledgeable manner."

"The following is a short account of the experiences of a BI program client served in Lafayette County during the 2018-2019 project period. The client's name has been changed to "A":

"A started BI services August 24, 2018. Since he began working with a BI, A has made major improvements in many different areas and aspects of his life. A was adopted by a single mother and prior to BI services he displayed many behaviors that caused distress and a potential for disruption in the adoption and home. A would have outbursts a few times a week, sometimes a few times a day, which were unsafe to himself and to his mother. He needed constant supervision and direction to have a successful day, which was few and far between

Since A began BI services he has shown great strides in his ability to regulate his emotions and have a more positive outlook on his life. A's confidence in himself and his awareness of himself has greatly improved. He is aware of his emotions and when things are becoming more difficult for himself.

Although he still has difficulties with accepting when to use coping skills and manage his outbursts, his overall aggression has decreased. Instead of daily or weekly outbursts, A has now decreased his outbursts to maybe one time per month. A has shown an ability to be a leader with other kids and has made his first real friend in the past three months. He has been able to attend an overnight camp this summer to which they asked him to return and be a volunteer counselor in training. This is something that would have seemed impossible prior to having services and support.

Although A still has trouble with aggression, he has improved his relationship with his mom and becomes remorseful when something does happen. A is able to repair his relationships and take accountability for his actions. A has worked hard with the support of a BI to improve his skills enough to not need constant supervision. A has taken pride in what he can accomplish and even created his own dog walking business this summer, giving him tools to be more responsible. Again, this is something that would have been unheard of prior to BI services. A has grown during his time working with the BI program in more ways than one. This growth has prevented a disruption in the adoption and home and has made the thought extinct at this point. He and his mom have both learned skills and have worked together to be a success."

FosterAdopt Connect sincerely appreciates the support of the Lafayette County Children's Services Fund, and would be happy to provide any additional information or clarifications as needed.”

### **Mental Health Board**

The Lafayette County Mental Health Board continues with collaborations to improve the mental health issues within the county. Collaborations with HCC, Compass Health, the hospital, sheriff's department and others are fostering productive communication and movement is occurring! Implementing some structural changes are priority and the board continues to look at the mission and vision for what the goals should be.

### **Looking Forward**

The Children's Services Fund county directors will meet on August 29<sup>th</sup> in Columbia, Mo. At this meeting the directors will discuss a framework for identifying common goals for our communities. Being able to track the success of the services provided through the fund is priority. In addition to the directors meeting regular monthly meetings will continue to take place. September 27<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for agencies interest in applying through Funding Cycle 1, to submit their letter of intent. Anyone with interest in applying should reach out to the Executive Director for more information.

Dates to Remember:

08/27/2019 – LCMHB Meeting  
08/29/2019 – Directors Meeting  
09/02/2019 – Labor Day (office closed)  
09/18/2019 – LCCSF Board Meeting  
09/27/2019 – Letters of Intent due for Funding Cycle 1

Respectfully submitted,  
Tiffany Harbour  
Executive Director