



Lafayette County
Children's Services Fund

Executive Director's Report

November 14th, 2018

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Objectives for the Month

Objective: Management – Funding proposals

Objective: Accountability oversight of funded agencies

Objective: Outreach

Hours worked each week- 40

Holiday Hours- 8 Hr

Sick hours- 4 Hr

Vacation –

Office Hours- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 am to 5 pm. Lunch break 12 to 1pm.

“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 – Funding Proposals, Accountability oversight of funded agencies, and Outreach. Throughout this past month the Executive Director met with representatives from Lexington, Higginsville, Wellington

and Odessa school districts, attended the directors meeting in Columbia, Mo., participated in a conference call with Social Finance regarding the Pay for Success program, provided oversight of the funding proposals that were due November 2nd, maintained all of the day to day operations, and prepared for LCCSF Executive Committee meeting and board meeting.

School District Listening Sessions

Lexington

Monday October 22nd the Executive Director attended a meeting with Nicky Bennett at the Lexington Highschool. The purpose of meeting with the Lexington school representative was to listen about what is going well within the district, what is not going well, to hear about any needs students or staff have, and to discuss areas for growth and development.

Nicky shared that school has been off to a good start this year and that the Signs of Suicide program will begin in November. They are looking forward to the scheduling of the bullying assembly and have been working toward resilience with their students. Many students struggle with overcoming obstacles and with social emotional skills. Especially in the Early Childhood center where a good portion of time is spent teaching children problem solving skills. In older students, a big struggle is immediate gratification. Our society today is so focused on instant gratification so implementing goals for long term success is not a natural process for kids.

Nicky reports that they continue to look for growth and development in teaching students about healthy relationships. Many children do not know what a health relationship looks like and how

to meet their needs while meeting the needs of those they have relationships with (mother, father, friends, siblings, and significant others). Training opportunities are always welcome among staff members. There are few opportunities for local trainings for teachers and staff members.

Recently, Nicky attended a human trafficking meeting and discussed how human trafficking has happened close to home. This is an area that further training would be welcomed.

LCC1

Tuesday October 23rd, the Executive Director attended a meeting with Aaron Knipmeyer and Amanda Struchtemeyer at the Higginsville/Lafayette County C-1 School District. The purpose of meeting with school representatives was to hear about what is happening in the district with students and staff, listen about what is going well/what is not, discuss areas for growth and development and hear about any needs the students and staff have.

Aaron and Amanda report that they have an overwhelming need for mental health services and are utilizing a waiting list. They are hopeful that Concordia may be able to allot some of their time with Compass Health providers to use at LCC1. They shared an example of the need for more preventative/interventive services that are needed. A young student, who had a traumatic past, has struggled leaving a parent in the mornings. The problem with separation from the parent has grown severe enough that the student is in with the school counselor and/or office staff. Outbursts and emotional tantrums prohibit the student from participating in a classroom setting. Disconnect between home and school has been noted and the parent struggles with transportation and maintaining good boundaries for her child to succeed. Prevention programs

would help this parent learn how to manage her child and help the child to be able to obtain the services that are in need.

The Bridges out of Poverty workshop was discussed and anticipated by Amanda. She enjoys Ruby Payne's work and would enjoy attending a local workshop/training opportunity.

Wellington-Napoleon

Thursday November 1st, the Executive Director attended a meeting with the Wellington-Napoleon school district Superintendent, Mindy Hampton. The purpose of this meeting was to hear about the needs of students/staff, discuss what is going well/what is not, and talk about areas for growth and development.

Mindy reports that the district is implementing the sensory room techniques in the classroom, which is helping more students to be aware of how they are feeling. Children are able to cope with dysregulation better and are succeeding better in the classroom. Education is improving.

Mindy shared about a program called JEG. This program would help at-risk students develop life skills, job skills, and social emotional skills after graduation. Lafayette county does not have a program like this that helps at-risk kids succeed in life. The alternative programs offer education opportunities for students that are at risk for not graduating but does not teach them critical skills to succeed in life. Mindy shared that this may be a good opportunity to implement

this program in the county because there are federal grants available to help with the cost. The program would serve 35-45 students.

Odessa

Tuesday November 5th, the Executive Director met with Lori Drenon and two of the districts school counselors at the Odessa Highschool. This listening session brought about important information for the ED to share with the LCCSF board.

The school representatives shared about the Signs of Suicide program being done in accordance with their trauma informed trainings. In the younger grades, the SOS assessment and education are done over a number of days. This is done to eliminate an excessive need of school district staff required to assist with the students that are at risk. The older students do the SOS program at the same time. This program/assessment has required the school district to outsource therapy services utilizing The Center for Counseling and Training, for those students that are at-risk. The funds that were awarded by LCCSF will continue to help the students that are at risk and have a higher level of need than the staff can meet.

Education and training continue to bring about a heightened awareness of what mental health disorders look like among children. This has caused staff and educators to be responsible to seek help for the students that need it. Meaning, more students are recognized as needing help.

Training and workshop opportunities, that are local, are welcomed. The Executive Director shared of the Bridges out of Poverty Workshop that will be offered in October 2019.

Directors Meeting

Friday October 26th, the Executive Director attended the state-wide county Directors meeting in Columbia, Mo. The purpose of this meeting is to collaborate with other county funds, discuss data and strategic planning, learn about programs and activities taking place, and share information useful for smooth processes among the board of directors.

Reserve policies were discussed. As Jackson county is still in the process of ironing out policies, Rob asked each of the directors what their county's reserve policy is. Many of the counties maintain a 15 - 20% reserve. The larger counties have monthly invoices paid out and have months of high expenses such as; insurance policies to be paid and tifs due. Also, revenue fluctuates and having a reserve account allows for the board to cover their financial obligations.

Grants management systems were discussed. The larger funds utilize electronic management systems such as; Apricot, Social Solutions, and ETO. The smaller funds pay for survey monkey subscriptions to gather data while the smallest of funds utilize google docs. Some of the management systems cost upwards of \$250,000.

The Executive Director discussed the Pay for Success Federal Grant opportunity. Many of the directors were unaware of this opportunity and discussed the excessive amount of work federal grants require. In times past, Boone county was asked to be an investor for this model and declined. The Executive Director provided some education about this opportunity and that it was to be done as a reimbursement to governments that applied to improve societal outcomes.

Emily, St Louis County, shared about the Children's Funding Project and the role they have with collecting data and information with regard to Children's Cabinets and Children's Services Funds. Information in regard to children's mental health week (1st week of May 2019) will be coming out for the directors to be involved with.

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for January.

Funding Cycle 1

Three (3) agencies submitted full proposals by November 2nd. Those agencies are CASA, Great Circle and HCC. The Executive Director read through each proposal and provided insights to the board of directors for thought. Requested amount for funding cycle 1 is \$268,720.26. The board is currently contracted to pay remaining funds out that are approximately \$262,000 until June 30th 2019. LCCSF annual revenue is still on track and estimated to be \$310,000.

Looking Forward

Throughout the course of this next month, the Executive Director will be reaching out to Concordia and Santa Fe school districts to schedule a listening session. The Executive Director also plans to present a report to the county commission as well as maintain day to day operations. Planning is under-way for the Bridges out of Poverty workshop and contacts will be made for partnership.

Dates To Remember

11/14/2018 – ESMW Autism Conference

11/14/2018 – LCCSF Board Meeting

11/20/2018 – Mental Health Board meeting

11/21/2018 – 11/26/2018 – ED out of office for Thanksgiving Holiday

12/11/2018 – HCC General Membership meeting

12/18/2019 – Mental Health Board meeting

12/19/2018 – LCCSF Board Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Harbour