



Executive Director's Report

December 19th, 2018

Executive Director's Report

Objectives for the Month

Objective: Management – Funded Agency proposals / collaboration

Objective: Accountability oversight of funded agencies

Objective: Outreach

Hours worked each week- 40

Holiday Hours- 16

Sick hours- 24

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 – Funding Proposals, Accountability oversight of funded agencies, and Outreach. Throughout this past month the Executive Director attended the Easter Seals Midwest conference, met with funded

agencies, attended the mental health board meeting, met with Grace Advertisement, attended the HCC General Membership meeting, met with Santa Fe high school counselor, maintained all of the day to day operations, and prepared for LCCSF Executive Committee meeting and board meeting.

ESMW Conference

Wednesday November 14, 2018 the Executive Director attended the Easter Seals Midwest autism conference in Kansas City, Mo. The purpose of attending this conference was to further the education regarding autism and services used for behavioral impact.

Keynote speaker, Amy Buie, discussed "Strategies for Bringing out the best in children: Promoting Positive Behavior in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder". Amy took time to talk about the education she has both earned in the field as well as learned through first-hand experience of raising a son with ADHD and Bipolar disorders. She discussed Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). "ABA focuses on objectively defined, observable behaviors of social significance; it seeks to improve the behavior under study while demonstrating a reliable relationship between the procedures employed and the behavioral improvement; and it uses the method of science - description, quantification and analysis."

The goal of ABA - It's not whether it's right or wrong but rather effective or ineffective. In other words, if the behavior is not changing it is ineffective! ABA is not something that is done at the table with kids with autism. Nor is it a list of strategies to pick from, or a way to reward kids to comply by giving them stuff. ABA is the science of behavior with many component parts. It involves a set of principles NOT a list of strategies or interventions. It describes how human behavior is governed.

Emotional disorders were identified as: Autism spectrum disorders, oppositional defiant disorders (ODD), Disruptive Mood Dysregulated Disorder (DM), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Bipolar and mood disorders, and ADHD. Amy was clear that a diagnosis does not matter! A label is circular and not very helpful and leads us to one option, medication. Medications do not change behavior. What it is about is the function of the behavior. The function is the interaction between the behavior and environment. What is the behavior showing?

Functions of behavior -

Attention - Engaging in a behavior in an attempt to gain access to attention, either positive or negative from an individual or group. Example - Student frequently taps their pencil loudly on their desk and is told to stop by teachers and peers.

Escape - Engaging in a behavior in an attempt to escape and undesirable environment, activity, or person. Example - Student is asked to complete a worksheet, student hits staff and drops to the floor, student is removed from room.

Tangible - Engaging in a behavior in an attempt to gain access to a preferred item or activity.

Example - Student asks to play on ipad and is told "no" and begins having a tantrum and is given the ipad.

Automatic - Engaging in a behavior that is in and of itself reinforcing. Example - student repeatedly flips light off and on.

Pain Attenuation - Engaging in a behavior directed at oneself in an effort to alleviate pain.

Example - Student has an earache, student hits side of their head/face, pain is relieved momentarily.

Amy explained how ABA breaks down the structure of the behavior and the consequence by explaining ABC Analysis. ABC Analysis: Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence. Example: Antecedent - Teacher presents work / Behavior - Student has aggressive tantrum / Consequence- student sent to office.

Reinforcement is an effect not a thing. The reinforcement or consequence maintains or increases the behavior. Both positive and negative reinforcements increase behavior. It is necessary to determine the potential function of the behavior and identify reinforcers.

Reinforcement vs Bribery -

Reinforcement and bribery are not the same thing. Bribery is the giving of a reward to an individual to stop an inappropriate or misbehavior. Positive reinforcement is the giving of something desired after the appropriate behavior.

The goal of ABA is to learn about the individual and their behavior. Questioning why is this pattern occurring and interceding with the ABC Analysis. Through these techniques many children/students are learning new ways to cope and are becoming more successful in their school settings and relationships.

Mental Health Board Meeting

Tuesday November 20th, the Executive Director attended the Mental Health board meeting for Lafayette County. The purpose of attending this meeting is to represent the LCCSF and children's services sector of the county, collaborate with other professionals in the county, and work toward implementation of community projects that will improve life for our residents.

The focus of the mental health board has been to employ a position to assist those with serious mental illness, reducing recidivism and connecting those in need of services with service providers. Phase one goal is to "capture mental health patients that are going to Lafayette Regional Health Center ER and connect them with a Community Health Worker (CWH) for additional services. Phase two goal is to "capture mental health inmates that are being released from the Lafayette County jail and connect them with a CWH for services. This project is being spear-headed by HCC. Plans to access funding through an opioid response grant and other funding sources such as REACH and the Health Forward Foundation are underway. The target population for this project has been identified as those accessing mental health services through the ER, individuals on probation and parole, and the jail.

Santa Fe School District

Wednesday December 5th, the Executive Director met with Jenny Hobbs, Santa Fe school counselor. The purpose of meeting was to discuss the district and hear about any areas for growth and development, listen about what is going well, and identify any mental health trends.

Jenny shared with the Executive Director about the Santa Fe district and what was going well.

Last year they were encountering many students who were in crisis. Referrals were up and Jenny approached the problem by shifting the focus from reacting to proacting. Rather than focus on what students should not be doing, or should be avoiding, she has changed the thinking to what students can do. She has been teaching students to act kindly and has been focusing on resilience skills. This seems to be having a positive impact on the students and Jenny reports that the crisis are not as intense as last year. Overall, this year has been a much more positive year for the students in Santa Fe school district.

Bridges out of Poverty Workshop

Earlier in the month of December, our contact with Aha Process contacted the Executive Director to discuss a change that had occurred with the consultant that had been chosen. He was no longer available and a new consultant would need to be chosen. The ED brought options to the Executive Committee and a few selections were made. After contacting Aha Process, the consultant that was available for October 2nd, 2019 was Jim.

Additionally, the Executive Director reached out to different agencies to inquire about co-sponsorship of the workshop. She made contact with the health department, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency and REACH Foundation. On Thursday December 13th, the Executive Director met with Carla Gibson, from REACH, to discuss the workshop and the need for training in Lafayette county. Carla shared that REACH would be willing to co-sponsor the workshop as well as work toward bringing more trainings to the county.

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday December 10th, the Executive Director attended the Executive Committee meeting. Some of the topics discussed were; board self-evaluations, funded agency needs, updates on the poverty workshop planning, and the draft 2019 budget. Insurance renewal paperwork was received by the ED. Due to specific permissions needed, the ED was not able to request a geographical breakdown of the sales tax revenue for Lafayette county. However, revenue appears to be reaching the anticipated total of the 2018 budget. A potential consultant, Mike Robinson, attended the committee meeting to discuss potential training opportunities for the LCCSF board. Some of the topics he could cover were regarding grantsmanship (public and private), understanding in-kind / match funding opportunities, and review of standard criteria for

evaluation of efficacy of a proposal. The LCCSF board will discuss this during the January board meeting.

Looking Forward

The Executive Director reached out to schedule the report to the county commission this month. Due to year end planning and work, the timing that suited best was for the beginning of January. After the holidays the ED will reach back out to schedule this report to the commission.

December 31st ends the calendar year funding cycle. January 1st begins a new year, with new contracts for funded agencies. We expect mid-service and year-end reports to be submitted to the ED by Thursday January 31st, 2019. Agencies can find reporting templates on the LCCSF website. If there are any questions, the Executive Director can be reached via email or by phone.

The 2019 budget will continue to be modified so that the board has a clearer picture of the 2019 anticipated expenses.

Due to the holiday's, the Executive Director will not be in the office December 24th through January 3rd. She will have access to email and phone.

Dates To Remember

12/24/2018 – 01/03/2019 – ED out of office
12/31/2018 – End of calendar year funding cycle
01/01/2019 – Beginning of calendar year funding cycle
01/07/2019 – Executive Committee mtg
01/15/2019 – Mental Health Board mtg
01/16/2019 – LCCSF Board mtg
01/25/2019 – Directors mtg (Boone county)
01/31/2019 – Reports due

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Harbour