



LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE BOARD

Putting Kids First in Lincoln County

"Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another." – Alfred Adler

2023 Needs Assessment: A Closer Look

Prepared by Dr. Cynthia Berry

The LCRB 2023 Needs Assessment offers a global view of our county's demographics and trends; considers the LCRB funding statute and associated funded programs; and identifies areas of progress and need within our system of care.



This month, the LCRB highlights our partner agencies' perspectives regarding current gaps in Lincoln County's youth-based behavioral health services. Key themes that emerged include:

1. Need for More Qualified Staff: Several comments emphasized the need for more qualified staff in the county to respond to the increased behavioral health/mental health needs of young people. More qualified staff was mentioned as a critical factor in addressing service gaps.

2. Increased and Overwhelming Behavioral/Mental Health Needs: Agencies noted that the behavioral/mental health needs of youth have grown significantly in recent years. Factors contributing to elevated levels of need include staff shortages in the mental health field, a higher volume of students in need (which is a continued aftereffect of the pandemic), and the need for more classroom support to facilitate interventions.

To read or download the full report, click the following link:
[LCRB's 2023 Needs Assessment.](#)

Family. Fun. And, Mental Health.

Winfield Primary School opened its doors

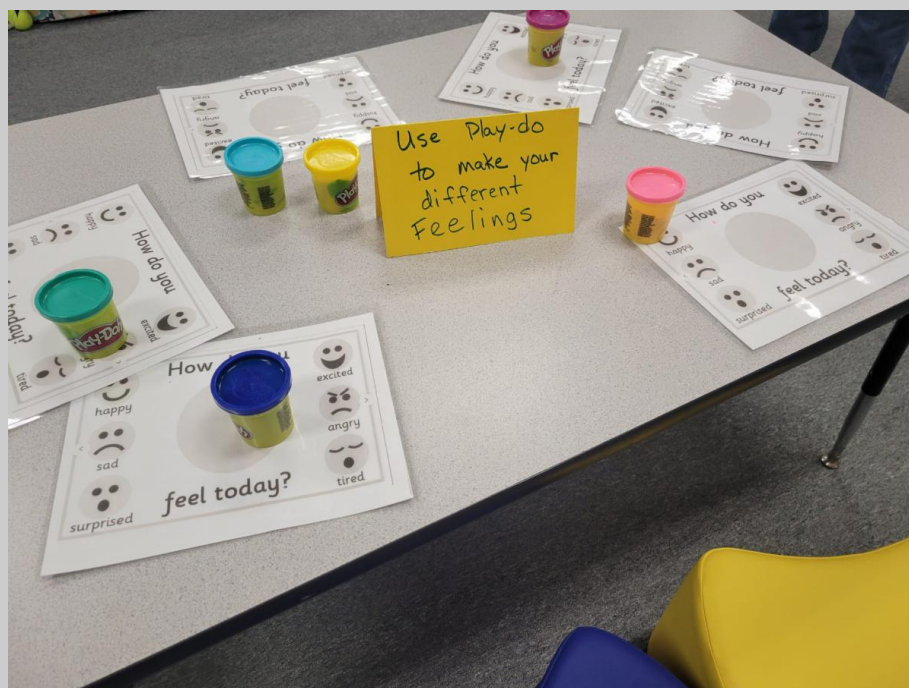
to a night filled with family fun. Behind the bounce houses, crafts and other interactive activities, stood our Lincoln County Early Childhood Task Force, the LCRB and several LCRB-funded providers (Nurses for Newborns, the Crisis Nursery, Saint Louis Counseling, Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service, F.A.C.T., Compass Health Network, The Child Advocacy Center, Youth In Need and Gateway Human Trafficking).



Despite a cold January downpour, nearly 200 hundred families and students filled Winfield Primary for the school's second Family Fun Night. The LCRB and its funded providers engaged with parents and caregivers, from sharing information about local resources designed to strengthen families to providing break-out sessions where safety, social skills and developmental milestones could be discussed in greater detail.

While surrounded by families laughing and playing together, one dad and his two children approached the LCRB resource table. As we explained the role of the LCRB, the dad took a moment to say, "Thank you for all you do and for giving up your night to be here with us."

Families and providers alike left Winfield Primary filled with hope and happiness, knowing our collective efforts will afford more opportunities for family fun as needs are met and resources shared.





Outcomes for Lincoln County Kids

LCRB Mid-Contract-Cycle Reports

The LCRB surveys our funded providers twice each contract cycle to gather data regarding the number of children, youth and families served, and to assess programmatic achievement of clinical objectives.



At the 6-month mark of our 2023-24 contract cycle, LCRB-funded providers reported serving 1,809 children and youth with direct services, such as counseling, mentoring, and case management. Direct-service programs also served 307 families.

During this same time period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2023, 7,416 Lincoln County kids participated in LCRB-funded prevention programs. These prevention programs also educated 916 parents, adults and teachers.

Despite the significant reach of LCRB-funded programs and services, as of Dec. 31, 2023, there remained a wait list for services among 107 Lincoln County kids, demonstrating the incredible need for mental health supports.

In addition to the numbers of Lincoln County residents served, our providers also shared HIPAA-compliant success stories, like the following story from the LCRB-funded Compass Health Network Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Program:

Student A was referred by Troy Buchanan High School teachers due to the student's first infraction. While in the program, the student got a part-time job, saved for a car, got a driver's license, and joined the business club at school, all

while staying away from THC. At the time of discharge, Student A had selected a college to attend and expressed an interest in majoring in business. Compass Health staff spoke to the student's mom on the phone after discharge. The mom expressed her gratitude to the staff for the guidance and support given.

D.A.R.T. Targets SUD Prevention Strategies at D.C. Conference

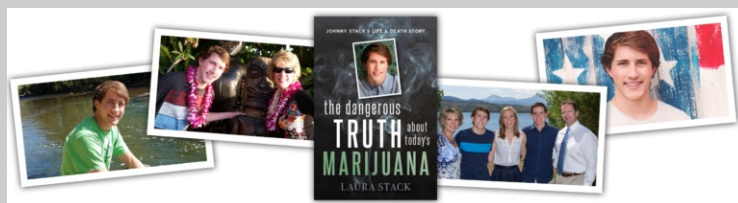
D.A.R.T. Community Coalition Project Director Marilyn Carter and Hally Wells, LCRB administrative assistant and D.A.R.T. volunteer, traveled to Washington D.C. for the 34th Leadership Forum and SAMHSA'S 20th Prevention Day, the premier and largest training conference for community-based substance abuse prevention professionals, coalition leaders, and prevention and addiction researchers.



Held Jan. 29 through Feb. 1, 2024, the conference focused on multiple facets of prevention education, including: trends in youth substance abuse; new drugs and delivery devices available in communities; prevention and treatment programs; legislation related to substance abuse; vaping disposal concerns; and more.

At the Washington D. C. forum, Laura Stack, author of *The Dangerous Truth About Today's Marijuana: Johnny Stack's Life and*

Death Story, shared their family's story. She and her husband lost their son to suicide after he developed cannabis-induced psychosis from his addiction to marijuana.



A Colorado native, Johnny was introduced to marijuana at the age of 14. He began using marijuana and “dabbing,” a means of ingesting high-potency forms of marijuana. (According to Stack, no longer are young people using “grass” and “papers;” instead, they use products with names like: wax, shatter, oil, budder, dab pens, and rigs.)

Stack shared research and scientific findings that present alarming truths about modern marijuana. Unlike the marijuana of the 1970's and 1980's, which contained less than 10% THC, today's high-potency marijuana products have up to 80% THC. Cannabis-induced psychosis can trigger schizoaffective disorder or other mental illness, such as depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, and schizophrenia. Furthermore, these conditions may persist even after marijuana use has been discontinued.

For thirty years before losing her son, Laura Stack was a widely known speaker and author of eight books on time management topics. Formerly known as The Productivity Pro®, Laura now speaks to students across the country about the dangerous effects of marijuana. She is the Founder & CEO of Johnny's Ambassadors Youth THC Prevention.

LCRB Meetings

Join the LCRB tomorrow (Wed., Feb. 28) for our monthly meeting, **featuring a Zoom presentation by the Missouri Budget Project regarding the state of Missouri sales tax.**

The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at the [Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Community Room in Troy](#), with a Zoom option for virtual attendance.

Visit our [website and its meetings page](#) for more information and instructions.



All LCRB meetings, unless otherwise posted on the LCRB website, are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at Cuivre River Electric Cooperative (Troy), Community Room. **Please note our new meeting time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE BOARD | [Website](#)



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