

LCRB Monthly news & updates

February 2026 | Putting Kids First in Lincoln County

Upcoming Events

[LCRB March meeting](#), *Note date change to Tues., March 31 at 8:30 a.m., Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, Troy

Lincoln County System of Care, Wed., April 8 at 11 a.m., Powell Conference Room, [Troy R-III Central Office](#)



LCRB Recognized

The LCRB was nominated for the 2026 Community Council Community Builders Award. Award recipients will be announced at the banquet scheduled for March 26.

The award nomination reads, in part:

"What makes the LCRB exceptional is not only its funding model, but its intentional, relationship-driven approach to collaboration across systems.

This collaborative framework has allowed Lincoln County to respond proactively to complex issues such as trauma, abuse, neglect, mental health needs, and youth homelessness.

By coordinating care rather than working in silos, the LCRB maximizes impact and ensures resources are used efficiently and equitably."

We thank the Community Council for this opportunity, are humbled by the recognition and nomination, and honored to serve Lincoln County kids and families working to Put Kids First ... always.

Convening for Kids

The System of Care (SOC) Lincoln County, facilitated by the LCRB, gathered school district leadership, LCRB-funded and community agencies, the Juvenile Office, Children's Division and others to address chronic absenteeism and truancy.

SOC members filled the Troy R-III Powell Conference room, sharing best practices and exploring programs and services designed to enhance school engagement and attendance.

Strong school attendance affects a multitude of community indicators, from student achievement and graduation rates to future workforce readiness. Chronic absenteeism impacts district funding, performance reports and accreditation, and student social-emotional development.

Thank you to the February presenters, which included:

- Holly Dimitriou, **Lincoln County's Youth Behavioral Health Liaison**
- Danielle Bealmear, **Compass Health Network CPRC Director**, which includes Lincoln County's Community Support Specialists
- **Troy R-III School District:** Laura Parn reported on the attendance committee's work to create systems that classify student needs and interventions based on a tiered approach.



- **Elsberry R-II School District:** Jason Miller shared how the district is exploring ways to extend the Mental Health Support Room to better reach and engage parents and caregivers.
- **Winfield R-IV:** Jessica Nguyen shared outcomes from the middle school's new mentor and character development initiatives, targeting at-risk students.
- **Silex R-I:** Mary Ellen Adkins with the **Juvenile Office** reported on her work with the district and its truant students to address underlying issues and promote attendance.

CA/N Plan: From Research and Recommendations to Implementation



In 2024, the LCRB launched the CA/N (Child Abuse & Neglect) Plan in partnership with our local multi-disciplinary team.

After investing a year into research and analysis, led by Dr. Cynthia Gandolfo, followed by the development of recommendations, referred to as "Together for Kids: A Unified Response to Child Abuse and Neglect," now we prepare to implement the plan's data-driven strategies to:

- Reduce the prevalence of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases
- Enhance and standardize the community response
- Strengthen inter-agency collaboration
- Break the cycle of abuse by addressing root causes



The State of Missouri is investing nearly \$100,000 for Lincoln County to pilot its CA/N Plan recommendations, which are built on best practices and designed for scalability.

On Feb. 24, the LCRB and its funded providers the Crisis Nursery and The Child Advocacy Center reconvened with MDT members and Children's Division's state leadership team, including Director Sara Smith, to launch the implementation phase of the plan.

By employing the county's first Trauma Intervention Specialist and Case Navigator, under The Child Advocacy Center, our Lincoln County MDT will now have the lens of a therapeutic partner to help guide interventions and protect our child victims from further trauma and abuse. This state-funded specialist will work to identify, support, and advocate for the victim and his/her trauma state and healing progression--ensuring the child's health and wellbeing remain paramount throughout the child welfare and, in some cases, legal processes.

The LCRB and its partners are working toward a May 1 launch date. The LCRB expresses its gratitude to our MDT partners; our state leaders, especially Sen. Travis Fitzwater who advocated for the investment; and LCRB-funded providers. Putting Kids First in Lincoln County begins by ensuring that our children and youth are safe and healthy--free from incidents of neglect and abuse that rob kids of their innocence, sense of safety, and health.

www.lincolncountykids.org

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