

PROJECT NAME: Lafayette County Brighter Futures Family Component Program Evaluation Consultation

PROJECT LEAD: Nancy Twillman, M.S.T.-E, MSW, Kristin Kush, MA

TIMELINE: July, 2008 - Sept. 30, 2009

CONTENT AREA: Mental Health, Rural Mental Health, Family Mental Health, Coalition Functioning

FUNDER: Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City

CLIENT: Lafayette County Brighter Futures Consortium

AUDIENCE: Lafayette County Brighter Futures Program, Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Lafayette County Children's Services Fund, Mental Health Providers

METHODOLOGY: Mixed Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative), Technical Assistance

Prior to the Brighter Future Family Component programming, the consortium provided mental health services to students in Lafayette County, Missouri during the regular school day to eliminate the multiple obstacles and barriers that currently cause many rural students to not receive needed support. The addition of this family programming allowed the extension of services by licensed professionals including licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, psychologists, registered play therapists, and certified substance abuse counselors to parents and families. Services to parents and/or families included: family therapy, psychological evaluations, substance abuse counseling, and parent education and skills training.

Services to parents and families were also provided during the regular school day within the six public school districts of Lafayette County. Accommodations were made for evening and weekend appointments to best serve the families' needs

OVERVIEW: RDI worked with the Brighter Futures Family program to evaluate their services through: establishing a participatory environment for the review and design of evaluation methods; establishing an ongoing process by which the consortium identified, documented, and shared successes and barriers encountered in their efforts for cooperative coordination of services; working with the consortium to refine outcome indicators and measure effectiveness of the programming; working with each of the school districts to identify how outcome data were collected; designing and conducting additional data collection methods as needed; developing a process for aggregating data into a central management information system; assessing the collaborative and administrative functioning of the consortium; measuring whether specific management objectives are achieved, modified or abandoned; documenting barriers or difficulties along with actions taken to address them; measuring consortium members' perceptions regarding decision making procedures, inclusiveness, problem identification, goal achievement, abandonment or modification, the level of stakeholder participation and satisfaction, and sustainability; and providing written and verbal evaluation reports to the consortium executive board on a semi-annual basis.

LINKS: <http://www.brighterfutures.us/>