

PROJECT NAME: Lafayette County Brighter Futures Program Evaluation Consultation
PROJECT LEAD: Nancy Twillman, M.S.T.-E, MSW, Kristin Kush, MA
TIMELINE: Feb. 2008- Jan. 31, 2009
CONTENT AREA: Child mental health services, rural mental health services, family mental health services
FUNDER: Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (evaluation)
Lafayette County Children's Services Fund (programming)
CLIENT: Lafayette County Brighter Futures Program
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
The Brighter Futures Consortium was an initiative of the six public school districts in Lafayette County, Missouri. While this evaluation was funded through the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, programming was funded by the Lafayette County Children's Services Fund. The Brighter Futures Consortium provided comprehensive, integrated mental health services to children and their families from the six school districts in Lafayette County: Concordia, Higginsville, Lexington, Odessa, Santa Fe and Wellington-Napoleon. Services were contracted for through licensed professionals to provide individual and group therapy, psychological evaluations, substance abuse counseling, parenting education, and in-service training for faculty and staff. Mental health services were provided to students in a familiar school setting, eliminating the funding, distance, transportation, and scheduling barriers that previously caused many of the students to not receive needed support.

OVERVIEW: RDI worked with the Brighter Futures 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: