

YSS Liaison Report – October 2018

Liaisons: Dave Morris, Evonne Fitzgerald, Mary Beth Golemo, Caroline Quinn

All liaisons met with YSS staff on 10/30/18 to go over updates and review funding requests and priorities for FY 19/20. YSS staff had a well-organized agenda and presenting were CEO Andrew Allen, along with Associate VP of Strategy and Operations Belinda Meis, Associate VP's of Programs Jason Haglund and Terri Johanson, Branch Director Gerri Bugg, Program Director Julia Webb, and Clinical Director Kathy Dinges.

Need for Program: YSS provides a number of valuable programs and services to Story County youth and their families. Their services are divided into four areas: Treatment, Prevention, Child Welfare, and Transition. They use a community-based approach, have comprehensive expertise in their staff of 400 state-wide, and they are a leader in building collaborative networks. Their current priorities are:

- 1- **Public Education and Prevention.** The goal is to decrease early onset of use of tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana through comprehensive prevention programming. 3,061 participants were served during 2017-2018. For many school districts served in Story County this is the only drug and alcohol education that youth receive. The Proposed FY 19/20 request is \$148,500 higher than Adopted FY 18/19, but \$48,500 of this previously came direct from the county (Juvenile Court Services).
- 2- **Mentoring.** The goal is to improve positive attitude, self-esteem, academics, and positive relationship skills. This program is primarily school based and services are provided to elementary and middle school students. Where appropriate high school students are matched as mentors. 174 mentoring matches were made in Story County during the 2017-18 school year and 100 are now waiting for a mentor. It is difficult to recruit males and adult mentors in rural areas. The Proposed FY 19/20 request is \$56,545 higher than Adopted FY 18/19, but \$22,000 of this previously came direct from the county (JCS).
- 3- **Emergency Shelter (Rosedale).** The goal is to provide emergency shelter stays for Story County youth in crisis if it's determined they can no longer stay in their home. Once identified, youth are admitted to shelter and given transportation to school, engaged in rec and group programming, provided nutritious meals and snacks, and efforts made to reunify them with their parent/guardian. On discharge surveys 95% of the youth responded that they felt more safe than at admission. The Proposed FY 19/20 request is \$108,390 higher than Adopted FY 18/19, but \$85,000 of this previously came direct from the county (JCS). The entire additional request is of Story County under ASSET, and this will reserve 2 beds for Story County youth who are not system involved.

Other programs requesting ASSET help include Community Youth Development, Employment Assistance for Youth, Kids Club, Summer Enrichment, Family Development, Child Safety, Transitional Living Program, Storks Nest, Mental Health Eval., Nursing Care Coordination, Crisis Intervention, Substance Abuse Treatment, and Outpatient Treatment & Health Maintenance. YSS would like to see some increase in

funding from ISU Student Gov't for the last 2 programs of substance abuse and mental health due to the amount of students served.

Program Strengths: YSS strengths include an active board and a qualified and effective CEO. Dave Morris and Mary Beth Golemo attended the 9/25/18 board meeting. Board members provide governance, are financially accountable, and actively participate in the policy decisions, strategic planning, and long term goals of the agency. YSS is active in responding to community needs and pursuing preventative measures for problems it identifies. Its awareness of concerns facing youth is a major asset. It has proven to be highly adaptable to the funding and public policy changes in the social service area.

Program Weaknesses: While YSS's diversity of funding is strength, the financial uncertainty of state and federal sources of income is always a major concern. The privatization of Medicaid in Iowa has caused some payment collection problems.

Financial Outlook: The YSS financial request from ASSET to support 16 programs for FY 19/20 is up \$524,561 over what was awarded for the current budget year of 18/19. However, \$286,000 of this previously came direct from the county (JCS). The increase is due to some needed program expansions and some grant losses. The total ASSET request from YSS for FY 19/20 is \$1,142,890 in a proposed total budget amount of \$21,093,607, of which \$3,483,723 applies to Story County. This past year has been difficult, with a fire at the 712 Burnett house in Ames and a tornado affecting their Marshalltown facility. Their health insurance premium went up by \$250,000, they have lost a grant, and they are still experiencing problems collecting Medicaid accounts receivable due to the privatization of Medicaid in Iowa. Their preliminary budget request shows a loss of \$3,200,739 for the most recent fiscal year (17/18), but CEO Allen states that it is actually less than that and will be corrected.

Internal Management: YSS has a very knowledgeable and experienced management team. CEO Andrew Allen has an extensive YSS volunteer background, other business experience, and is innovative with a high energy level. YSS has an active board of directors that is not only supportive but evaluates and analyzes programs, staff, and future direction of the agency. They have replaced both their controller and CFO who left during the past year. They do strategic planning with quarterly, 1 year, 3 year, and 5 year goals. YSS takes service data collection very seriously, has many metrics by which they track client performance and outcomes, and these metrics reflect favorable performance or outcomes.

General Assessment: YSS is a well-organized social service agency meeting the needs of the youth and their families in Story County. YSS staff and board members truly care about the organization and the youth in our community. Each year YSS challenges ASSET funders to grow support to increase delivery of these important and needed services to our community, many of which are only provided by YSS. It is very beneficial to our community and for the youth served to have YSS in Story County.