

## **YSS LIAISON REPORT**

Liaisons: Lisa McCoy, Michelle Fullerton, Lucy Dougherty and Mary Beth Golemo

### **Need for Program (target population, numbers increasing or decreasing. Priorities established by ASSET funders which programming addresses)**

The YSS Mission is “To create hope and opportunity by putting kids first.” YSS serves children and families in Story and several other counties. Their core values are COMMITMENT, COLLABORATION, COMPASSION, INNOVATION, INTEGRITY and CAN DO SPIRIT. YSS services are provided in four areas: Treatment, Prevention, Child Welfare and Transition.

Clients (cases) served - 5249 cases in 2018-19.

This includes 3150 new clients and 2099 continuing cases.

Numbers are expected to increase in 2020-21 to 5510 total clients/cases.

Prevention numbers are counted separately as these numbers are based on contact.

42,744 people were reached via Prevention programs in 2018-19. However, this number is expected to be less (proposed contact number of 14,486) due to the loss of the Teens Against Human Trafficking grant.

ASSET Priorities that are addressed include:

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Sheltering

Youth Programs

Public Education and Awareness

### **Program Strengths**

- YSS is a respected organization that began 43 years ago. It opened the first emergency shelter for youth in Iowa.
- Management staff retention is very good and provides consistent leadership. Note that staff has received no raises for two years. Two dreams exist: a 3% raise in the coming year for all staff; and second, the hope of an alignment of salary schedules.
- Scope of services and services that change with and address community needs
- Collaboration with community partners via coalitions, Board representation, Community Advisory Boards and more. YSS is a positive partner in our community.

### **Program Weakness (Constraints)**

- State and Federal funding being reduced; this impacts YSS’s ability to reinforce programs and staff.
- YSS can be put into a reactive mode due to changing rules and regulations beyond their control. This can also impact their financial picture.
- As shared, YSS is blessed with management staff continuity. It can, however, be challenging to find, develop and retain their work force. The scope of some positions can be difficult with these

staff members needing self-care training and support. Staff can also be lost to graduation and other opportunities that pay better.

## **Financial Outlook (Current funding concerns; plan to address shrinking resources)**

Cost of doing business continues to increase while state and federal monies are being reduced. Likewise, Iowa Total Care owes \$200,000 to YSS; these needed monies are delayed in coming to YSS. Also, grant opportunities are shrinking especially for Prevention programs.

Administration is 11% of expenses in the YSS operating budget, which is inline and fiscally sound.

\$5 million is generated from fees for services\*

\$1 million comes from fundraising

\$12 million comes from grants\*

\*ASSET dollars are part of both fees and grants

ASSET request for next year includes three areas...Employment Assistance, Transitional Living and a new Service Coordination role. If dollars cannot be received for all of these three areas, the Service Coordination function is the most important. This is a new pre-program intervention screening and coordination of service once the individual is an admitted client. Trained staff spends time screening the youth and their parents/guardians regarding the overall current problems (behaviors, substance use, legal difficulties, recent trauma, disabilities, school attendance, family issues, etc.) Information about any other service providers involved, family demographics, financial information and third party payer information is processed. In short, the purpose of this new "wrap around" service is to increase access to mental health services by providing intervention screenings and coordination of services utilizing meetings, phone calls and other necessary ancillary support.

## **Internal Management Practices (Management of the agency, role of the Board, etc.)**

Lucy Dougherty and Mary Beth Golemo attended the September 24 YSS Board meeting. The meeting had an impressive agenda and was effectively facilitated by former Board chair Suzy Shierholz.

The professionalism of the agency staff and board are impressive. Use of their Vision Traction Organizer (V/TO) enables them to remain accountable and goal minded. The use of committees and Community Advisory Boards allows for varied input, participation and community ownership in programs and services.

Board members bring a variety of experiences and perspectives to the table and decision-making, representing business management, law enforcement, government, higher education, social services and more.

## **General Assessments**

Our site visit with all liaisons in attendance was held October 17. Liaisons met with Andrew Allen, Belinda Meis and Amanda Briggs. Gerri Bugg, Hope Metheny and Andrea Dickerson were also in attendance and provided information on the program dollars being requested for FY 2020-21.