

LE SUEUR COUNTY FAMILY SERVICES COLLABORATIVE

STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

COLLABORATIVE MISSION:

To improve the social, emotional, educational, and economic outcomes of children, adolescents, and their families by mitigating risk factors and enhancing protective factors.

2023 STATEWIDE PRIORITY:

Strengthen Resilience & Protective Factors of Families, Schools, & Communities.

VISION:

“Children and youth will thrive in their homes, schools, and communities with the support of multiple agencies working in collaboration to meet the unique needs of the whole family”

2023 LOCAL PRIORITY:

Improve the mental health of children, parents, and families in Le Sueur County by providing efficient and expanded access to mental health resources.

DATA & FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Data Highlights:

- 51% of Le Sueur County youth report one or more adverse childhood experiences, compared to the state average of 47%. (ACEs are common.)
- About half of adolescents experiencing any ACEs report more than one. (ACEs tend to cluster.)
- Le Sueur County’s prevalence of each ACE is equal to or higher than the state average, except for physical abuse. (ACEs apply to our youth.)
- Youth with higher ACES are much more likely to experience depression
- 49% of students have been bullied in the past month.
- 1 in 10 students are chronically absent from school.
- Protective factors in families, schools, and communities lessen the impact of ACEs

Focus Group Highlights:

- Over-burdened mental health system.
- Aspiration to improve school attendance.
- Desire to build resiliency in communities.
- Need for collaboration of groups across levels.

THE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

More Resilient Minnesota

Improve the health and resilience of current and future generations by raising awareness about Adverse Childhood Experiences, collecting community input about children's and families' needs, and develop plans to mitigate risk factors and enhance protective factors.

- **Phase 1:** Host 5 presentations on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) for professionals, parents, and community groups within Le Sueur County.
- **Phase 2:** Train 5 local champions who will then widely share ACEs and NEAR Science information and expand community leadership across diverse sectors and groups in our County.
- **Phase 3:** Conduct Community Resilience Conversations and/or 100 Cups of Coffee Interviews to engage at least 50 diverse community members to gather their input about community strengths, challenges, and possible next steps to promote greater community wellbeing.
- **Phase 4:** Develop Community Resilience Plans that outline next steps for decreasing risk factors and increasing protective factors in their communities and apply for micro grants to fund Initiatives developed in that plan.

Mental Health

Position the Collaborative to affect changes to and utilization of services provided in times of crisis, for treatment of mental illness, for early identification and intervention, and in the prevention of mental health symptoms.

- Restructure the Collaborative partnerships to include stakeholders in the area of mental health in order to bring about partnerships that strengthen the position of the Collaborative and each partner to implement changes to the local system of care that benefit children and families on Le Sueur County.
- Participate with United Way's Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Committee, focused on bringing solutions to area communities on youth prevention and mental health awareness.
- Create community and school specific plans to address the mental health needs of children, youth and families in each community and throughout the county.

School Attendance

Improve school attendance and graduation rates by providing resources and interventions to support students and families in prioritizing school attendance.

- Implement clear policies and procedures regarding school attendance, truancy and educational neglect.
- Develop a team dedicated to creating new solutions for school attendance concerns and improve school engagement for students and families.

Collaborative Organization

Clearly establish structure, committees, roles, goals, and processes.

- Establish the Collaborative bylaws and operating procedures, revise the Interagency Agreement, and further develop the Strategic Plan.

Improve connections between agencies and share resources to benefit the children and families of Le Sueur County.

- Increase communication and collaboration between Le Sueur Henderson Schools, Tri-City United Schools, Cleveland Schools, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Schools, Le Sueur County Human Services, Le Sueur County Public Health, Le Sueur County Court Services, Horizon Homes, Counseling Services of Southern Minnesota, Fernbrook Family Services, and other local organizations that serve children, youth, and families dealing with mental health concerns.
- Implement wraparound care planning teams to support families and increase communication and collaboration between Le Sueur County Human Services, Le Sueur County Public Health, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Valley Action Council, local schools, mental health organizations, local law enforcement, private practitioners, nonprofits, and other community stakeholders.
- Address issues of funding for programs listed within the Strategic Plan and develop sustainable funding sources and service contracts.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Governing Board: Board members have voting rights for legal and revenue authority. Oversees the Integrated Fund and secures funding. Establishes and oversees the Planning & Steering Committee.

Planning & Steering Committee: Establishes and oversees the Strategic Plan and the Community Workgroups.

Community Resiliency Planning Team: Supports the More Resilient Minnesota Initiative on ACEs.

Community Workgroups: Supports Mental Health and School Attendance Initiatives.

- Le Sueur - Henderson Community
- Cleveland Community
- Le Center, Montgomery, Lonsdale (Tri-City United) Community
- Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Community