

## Community That Cares (CTC)

### COMMUNITY SERVED<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>

Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties are four rural counties in Northern Illinois, with a population of approximately 158,411 and a geographic area of 2,612.5 square miles.

- 22% (35,467) under age 18
- 87.4% White, 2.2% Black, 8.7% Latino, 0.6% Asian
- 11.6% persons below FPL
- 60 persons/square mile

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

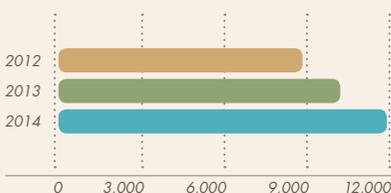
CTC is dedicated to creating an effective and efficient system of care for children and their families to reach their optimal level of development, health, and wellness. CTC values community education, suicide prevention awareness, social/emotional education and wellness, and stigma reduction. Goals include:

- Enhanced screening efforts
- Enhanced outreach and care coordination
- Comprehensive assessment and effective treatment
- Increased promotion of positive mental health and prevention initiatives and programming
- Accountable governance structure with increased community ownership

### CHILDREN SERVED

CTC has screened approximately 34% of the children in its service area, primarily through the schools. CTC also offers family support programs.

### CHILDREN SCREENED



**Schools.** 42 of the 87 schools in the four counties offer social/emotional screenings. A school work group helps schools screen and complete social/emotional report cards to determine the impact of their efforts.

**Primary care.** Family Care Coordinators (FCC) connect families to primary care, with many PCPs participating.

**Probation departments.** Each county's probation department supports CTC within its community. Lee and Ogle county probation participate in the CTC steering committee.

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Family Care coordination.** FCCs interact with children and families on a regular basis, creating and strengthening relationships to better understand their needs. More than 500 families have been helped by FCCs.

**Parent support.** Over 500 families have participated in more than 61 Parent Cafés, which are self-sustained parent support groups. CTC also promotes family-focused events.

**Pediatric developmental center.** CTC partners collectively secured a \$1.5 million federal grant to open a local center where children can receive comprehensive screenings, psychiatric assessments, autism services, infant mental health services, and other needed services.

**Infant mental health services.** CTC added Early Childhood clinicians who provide direct services for children ages 0-5. More than 165 families have used these services, including home-based, attachment-focused interventions.

### LESSONS LEARNED

**School engagement.** A peer coach helps address schools' concerns regarding the extra time, costs, and workload required to implement screenings. He also provides staff training and support.

**Primary care engagement.** It has been challenging to fully engage all 62 primary care providers in the CTC service area. A local physician serves as a peer coach to help more physicians conduct and submit screening data.

**Organizational and staffing structure.** CTC's large geographic reach, increasing volumes of data, and variability in screening tools across providers have made it difficult to track and monitor its efforts throughout the four county region. CTC's staffing and organizational structure were modified to help manage these challenges of size, volume, and diversity.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Over 100 individuals, faith-based organizations, primary care providers, businesses, schools, and child-serving agencies participate in CTC, including:

DCFS

County Health Departments

Lee and Ogle County Probation Departments

Early Steps Right Steps

Florissa/Krieder Services

Rock Falls, Sterling, Oregon,

Ashton/Franklin Center, Morrison,

Eastland, and Dixon School Districts

All Our Kids Network

Lutheran Social Services

Children and Family Connections

Sauk Valley Chamber of Commerce

<sup>1</sup> United States Census, *State & County Quickfacts*, "Carroll County, Illinois." Accessed August 5, 2015. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17015.html>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., "Lee County, Illinois." 17/17103.html

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., "Ogle County, Illinois." 17/17141.html

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., "Whiteside County, Illinois." 17/17195.html