

# Livingston County Children’s Network (LCCN)

## COMMUNITY SERVED<sup>1</sup>

Livingston is a rural county in Central Illinois, with a population of approximately 37,903 and a geographic area of 1,044.3 square miles.

- 25.0% (9,500<sup>2</sup>) under age 18
- 88.5% White, 5.4% Black, 4.4% Latino, 0.6% Asian
- 10.3% persons below FPL
- 37.3 persons/square mile

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Livingston County Children’s Network (LCCN) is comprised of entities committed to working together for the good of the county’s children. The LCCN’s four-tier public health model promotes the health of all citizens, identifies early those at-risk, and provides appropriate intervention to prevent the development of illness. Goals include:

- Increase system of care capacity
- Increase service accessibility
- Increase service coordination
- Decrease risk behavior rates, and frequency and severity of mental disorders

## CHILDREN SERVED

Approximately 93% of the children in Livingston County were screened by the end of 2014. Screening occurs in the medical, educational, and juvenile justice sectors.

## CHILDREN SCREENED



**Schools.** Screenings and social-emotional curriculum are universally implemented in all 27 elementary attendance centers. Ninth graders in all six high schools receive mental health screen-

ings, with two of these schools also screening higher grade levels. Eighty percent of all children with positive screens receive group or individual treatment in schools.

**Primary care.** Nearly all children have a medical home. Twelve of the 18 medical practices across the county administer mental health screenings. Eleven OSF Healthcare sites screened 96% of 0-5 year olds and 84% of 6-18 year olds.

**Juvenile justice.** LCCN provides screening, referral, and case management for high-need, court-involved, and at-risk youth and families. A Family Support Specialist (FSS) ensures mental health screening of children who enter the system, and connects them and their families to needed services.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Service coordination.** All entities in the county recognize a universal release of information form, and have communication protocols across sectors. Providers’ knowledge of each other and of the services available across sectors has increased.

**Treatment accessibility.** The community mental health center has placed therapists in natural settings to overcome treatment barriers. Services are available in rural primary care practices, churches, libraries, and homes.

**Supports for justice-involved youth.** LCCN has shifted the county’s discipline system from a punitive to a restorative justice model. Youth are responding positively to the emphasis on relationships and rehabilitation.

## Comprehensive assessments.

A team of cross-sector service providers conducts comprehensive, inter-disciplinary assessments for children with the highest needs and recommends appropriate services.

## LESSONS LEARNED

**Curriculum implementation.** It has been challenging to get all schools and teachers to implement an evidence-based social emotional curriculum.

A project manager with school-based experience works with the schools and individual champions to expand implementation and increase fidelity.

**Parenting support.** Implementing a universal, evidence-based parenting program proved too costly to sustain. LCCN instead connects community members to existing parenting resources and provides training to professionals in contact with parents.

**Provider support.** Sociopolitical changes and related stressors, such as budget cuts and new mandates, have increased the work scope and subsequent burden on direct service providers across all sectors. LCCN’s Leadership Team strives to support employees and collectively plan for sustainability.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Livingston County Special Services Unit
- Livingston County Mental Health Board
- Livingston County Board for the Care & Treatment of Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Regional Office of Education for DeWitt, Livingston, Logan, and McLean Counties
- A Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Service
- Livingston County Probation/Court Services
- Livingston County Commission on Children & Youth
- Institute for Human Resources
- OSF Healthcare Systems, Resource Link
- Livingston County Health Department

<sup>1</sup> United States Census, *State & County Quickfacts*, “Livingston County, Illinois.” Accessed August 5, 2015. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17105.html>

<sup>2</sup> A. Meyers, *LCCN Local Evaluation Report*. May 31, 2015.