

*Beltrami Area Service Collaborative*

*2016 Annual Report*



*A Recognized State of Minnesota Combined  
Family Service and Children's Mental Health Collaborative*

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## **BASC Mission Statement**

**Working together, we can help each family reach its potential through the collaboration of our resources and services.**

## **Vision**

**BASC will strive to maximize the health, education and wellbeing of all families.**

## **BASC Core Values**

- **to be as inclusive and representative of our county/communities as possible**
- **to develop programs with a commitment to cultural inclusion and sensitivity**
- **to be willing to improve on, or change existing systems to better serve the people of our county/communities**
- **to neither replace nor duplicate existing agencies but rather recreate relationships among them**
- **to have a commitment to cooperate rather than compete with each other for limited resources**
- **to integrate services and resources to the degree possible**
- **to develop projects based on collaboratively established values and priorities**
- **to govern ourselves in a way that promotes accountability**
- **to value and respect those we exist to serve**
- **to facilitate a family approach to service development and delivery**
- **to maintain a commitment to a continuum of prevention and intervention services**

## **BASC Priority Areas**

### **1. Behavioral Health**

Based on the belief that mental health and chemical abuse problems are at the root of many challenges our children and youth face, BASC will support research or evidence-based children's mental health and alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and intervention programs that address family systems, and maximize available reimbursement for services.

### **2. Educational Success**

Based on the belief that a high school diploma is essential for successful transition to adulthood, BASC will support research or evidence-based programs that help children come to school ready to learn, stay in school and graduate.

### **3. Maternal/Child Health**

Based on the belief that early investment in children's health is an effective prevention strategy for reducing both personal and family hardship as well as community costs, BASC will support research or evidence-based programs that enhance maternal, infant, and early childhood health (Birth-5).

*We rise by lifting others*

## **A History of Collaboratives in Minnesota**

The historical development of the Collaborative movement dates back more than two decades. In 1991, Governor Arne Carlson created the Action for Children Commission. This statewide task force, which included representation from nonprofit organizations, children's advocacy groups, the business community, and government, was asked to create a vision for Minnesota children and families. As part of its charge, the Commission agreed to recommend needed changes in service delivery systems.

As a result of the Commission's final report, "Kids Can't Wait," initiatives were planned. Governor Carlson created the Children's Cabinet at the Executive Branch level. Minnesota was also selected as one of five states to compete for funding from the Pew Charitable Trust, enabling communities to consider how to provide more support for families by reconfiguring and integrating service delivery systems. To initiate some of the collaborative planning that would be required in this competitive grant process, the state selected three communities as pilot sites: St. Paul, Cass County, and Becker County. Working with state agency representatives, these communities became engaged in an intensive and comprehensive planning process.

In 1993, the Minnesota Legislature provided funding to enable the state to reach more communities with these initiatives. These grant funds were intended to serve as incentives for communities to collaborate on behalf of children and families.

Three major sources of grant funds supported the implementation of the collaborative initiatives across Minnesota: Family Services and Community-Based Collaborative funds, Children's Mental Health Collaborative funds, and funds provided by the Pew Charitable Trust Children's Initiative. Implementation grants have helped establish Family Service, Children's Mental Health, or joint Family Service/Children's Mental Health Collaboratives in all but four Minnesota counties.

Communities receiving these monies are expected to plan and implement changes in their local systems to better service children and families. They are also required to establish measurable outcomes. Major stakeholders reflect a wide variety of private non-profit agencies, school districts, county governments, and community action agencies.

## **The Evolution of BASC**

BASC was established in 1994 with a Family Service Collaborative Implementation grant from the State of Minnesota. In 1998, BASC legally became a Joint Powers entity with an impressive list of engaged partners including: public school districts within Beltrami County (Bemidji, Blackduck and Kelliher), Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center, Beltrami County, Sanford Health, Bi-County CAP, Minnesota Department of Corrections, and the Bemidji Area Council of Nonprofits. Other partners added later include: Red Lake Public Schools, United Way of Bemidji Area and Bemidji Inter-District Council.

Representatives from these entities serve on the BASC Governing Board.

BASC is designated as both as an integrated Family Service and Children's Mental Health Collaborative.

Beltrami County has its share of challenging issues to overcome including one of the highest poverty rates in Minnesota. Service availability can be scarce and resources to address complex poverty-related issues are tight due to the county's low tax base and lack of charitable foundations that support outstate programs.

## Local Collaborative Time Study

One of the major sources of funding for Collaboratives is the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS). LCTS is a process of claiming federal revenue through Title IV-E (Adoption and Foster Care) and Title XIX (Medical Assistance). Selected public school, corrections and public health staff members are randomly sampled five times each quarter. The results of this random time study combined with Beltrami County's federal MA and IV-E rates and the

cost reports completed form the basis of the federal claim made through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. By state statute, the revenue generated by LCTS must be deposited in the Collaborative's integrated fund and is intended to be spent on prevention and early intervention services. The Board of BASC is solely responsible for the distribution of these funds.

### BASC Governing Board Members 2016

<b>Richard Anderson, <i>Acting Chair</i></b>	Beltrami County Board of Commissioners
<b>Brenda Story, <i>Vice Chair</i></b>	Bemidji Regional Interdistrict Council
<b>Trish Hansen, <i>Exec. Committee</i></b>	Minnesota Department of Corrections
<b>Tim Lutz</b>	Kelliher School District
<b>Barb Moran</b>	Bi-County Community Action Program
<b>Stephanie Hubbard</b>	Bemidji Public School District
<b>Vicky Korynta</b>	Sanford Bemidji
<b>Denae Alamano</b>	United Way of the Bemidji Area
<b>Dustin Hinckley</b>	Red Lake School District
<b>Tanya Adams</b>	Children's Mental Health Representative
<b>Jeff Lind</b>	Beltrami County Social Services
<b>Josh Grover</b>	Blackduck Public School District
<b>Bill Faver</b>	North Homes

## 2016 Program and Project Investments

BASC establishes and supports programs that are aligned with three Board-established priority areas: Maternal/Child Health, Children's Mental Health, and Educational Success. The agency's integrated fund revenue sources include grants, Local Collaborative Time Study funds, county funding, contracts, and partner contributions. The key to success has been the partners' visionary leadership and shared values.

### **BASC Direct Service Programs**

Projects in 2016 for which BASC employed staff or held contracts with individuals to complete all or a portion of the programming include the following.

#### ➤ **Truancy Programming**

BASC has a long history of providing services that are designed to improve student attendance. Outlined below are the 2016 activities.

**Truancy Screening Team** This marked the third year that a Beltrami County Screening Team met to review referrals of students ages 12–17 whose absences have reached a level where court action might be appropriate. The process begins with schools submitting to the County Attorney's office a Petition to File with Beltrami County Courts. The Assistant County Attorney brings forth those Petitions to the Screening Team. Screening Team members include Beltrami County Social Services staff and administration; the Assistant County Attorney; and the BASC executive director, truancy and intervention staff members. During the 2016-17 school year, 56 cases were screened. The home address of the student determines which county or tribal authority will address the truancy. When a student resides in Cass County Hubbard County, Clearwater County, Red Lake or Leech Lake Reservation, the petition is forwarded to the respective entity. For each case where the student resides in Beltrami County, a determination is made by the Assistant County Attorney (with input from the Screening Team and the school) as to the most effective, appropriate intervention. Options include a petition to the Beltrami County Court, alternative response case management (outside court through BASC direct services), or a response by Beltrami County Social Services. In some cases, the youth is already named in an open Social Service case and opening a court cases would be inappropriate and a poor use of scarce resources. Thus, the truancy concern is added to the open case.

**PASS K-12 Meetings** Three times during the school year, BASC facilitates a PASS K-12 meeting. Attendees include school administrators and staff; Indian Education staff; school attendance liaisons; County Intake, Child Protection and Children's Mental Health representatives; homeless program liaisons and others. During the meetings, participants share information about their attendance initiatives, trends, and barriers. The County Attorney's office provides guidance to refine school reporting of active efforts in the Request to Petition and clarification of Court procedures.

**Truancy Tracking** The BASC-supported Bemidji Middle School Truancy Tracker provides mentoring, tutoring, mentoring and other necessary means of support to youths in Grades 6–8 to help identify and address issues contributing to truancy. The Tracker facilitates an Attendance Review Team at BMS where staff and administration discuss students with attendance issues and determine what support or intervention is needed.

The timeframe for data collection and reporting for this project is the school year. In 2016-17, 730 students were identified as having five or more absences in a quarter (including excused and unexcused). The BMS Truancy Tracker monitored 25 students on a guardian-signed truancy contract. Those students receive support from the Truancy Tracker, who also maintains regular contact with the guardian.

### **Re-Engagement Case Management**

In 2016, BASC received Community Crime Prevention (CCP) funding through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to add Re-Engagement Case Management. BASC employs one full-time staff member to conduct the activities under this grant.

Re-Engagement case management has two objectives: 1) Reduce Court involvement for truant youths and families by increasing family engagement and utilizing effective case management, and 2) Reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions and court involvement related to student conduct and conflicts.

The Re-Engagement Case Management Program takes referrals from two teams: Truancy Screening Team and Weekly Student Support Teams at Bemidji High School (Grades 9-12), Voyageurs Expeditionary Charter School (Grades 6-12) and Blackduck Public Schools (Grades K-12). Bemidji High School also includes an in-house alternative program called Lumberjack High School. Participation in Re-Engagement Case Management is voluntary, but families are cautioned that if they choose not to participate and the attendance concerns are not addressed, the school may file a Request for Petition with the County Attorney.

In order to reduce court involvement for truant youth, a case plan is developed with the family. The case manager meets with the student at least weekly, advises and refers to any needed services, advocates for educational needs of the youth (possible class schedule changes, for instance), helps student and family devise strategies for overcoming barriers, and provides incentives for students to achieve goals.

In 2016, 26 students participated in Re-Engagement Case Management. Only five of those students were filed on for Court action. Many of these students took a StrengthsQuest assessment and met with a Strengths Coach to learn more about their individual top five strengths—how they already use them and how they might employ those strengths to thrive. The RCM provided referrals for mental health services, chemical dependence services, Family Group Decision Making, summer school, and after-school programming.

In addition to case management services, this position worked with the school communities to develop an Attendance Campaign. Local students were featured in the Being Present video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnYpi-gAwl0>—an original, well-received PSA that was professionally created and played on local radio, at the movie theater and on television. Student artists at Red Lake High School, Bemidji High School, Voyageurs Expeditionary School and all elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at District 31 created their personal art around the theme of “Being Present.” This artwork was displayed at elementary schools and a showcase was held at the Headwaters School of Music and the Arts featuring the work of the secondary school students. In addition, a Being Present Facebook page was created and is managed by the Re-Engagement Case Manager, who shares advice about attendance and encourages engagement by posting about school events.

The grant that funds this position will end January 2018, but BASC may have an opportunity to re-apply for funds, given the outcomes that the program has experienced.

**Truancy Case Management**      BASC employs one full-time Truancy Case Manager, who is housed in the BASC main office and provides case management to youth who are involved in the court system due to truancy.

During the calendar year 2016, there were 24 cases open for Truancy Case Management. Cases continue to be very complex with multiple factors leading to the truancy. Because of that complexity, the case manager spends a great deal of time consulting with Child Protection, Probation, mental health providers, chemical dependency treatment providers and school personnel.

**Number of Truancy Case Management Clients per Area School:**

Bemidji High School	12
Bemidji Middle School	5
Trek North	0
Voyageurs	2
ByLaw	1
Cass Lake – Bena	1
Blackduck High School	0
Home School	1
AEC	2

**Other Services Accessed:**

Outpatient CD Treatment	7
Inpatient CD Treatment	2
Stay at Evergreen	0
Stay at NMJC	7
35 Day Evaluation	2
Residential Treatment Program	0
On Probation	6
Screened with Pre-Placement Team	6
Children’s Mental Health CM	4
CTSS	2
Individual Therapy	15
Satellite Home Program	1



The table below shows attendance outcomes for ten cases that were open for a significant period during 2016. These are files that are now closed. The pre-petition percentage indicates the percent of class periods of unexcused absence for the four weeks prior to the CHIPS petition being filed. The post- intervention percentage indicates the percent of class periods of unexcused absence for the final four weeks of the case being open.

**Attendance Improvement**

<b>CASE #</b>	<b>PRE-PETITION % ABSENT</b>	<b>POST-INTERVENTION % ABSENT</b>
Case 1	17%	8%
Case 2	34%	6%
Case 3	19%	0%
Case 4	63%	0%
Case 5	10%	0%
Case 6	15%	0%
Case 7	19%	0%
Case 8	39%	24%
Case 9	10%	4%
Case 10	33%	0%

➤ **Intervention Programming**

The BASC Delinquency Intervention Program collaborates with the Beltrami County Attorney’s Office, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Beltrami County Health and Human Services, schools in Beltrami County and local service providers to reduce the rates of recidivism and advancement of young people in the juvenile justice system by providing restoratively focused interventions for youths engaging in harmful behaviors. The program is primarily funded through a Title II Juvenile Justice grant from the State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety awarded in October 2014, renewed in October 2015, and again in October 2016. The current grant cycle ends October 2017, and a new Request for Proposals is likely to be released during the summer months of 2017.

**BASC employs a full-time Intervention Specialist to deliver these services:**

- Restorative Practices: Restorative Group Conferencing, Victim-Offender Mediation, Peacemaking Circles and Conflict Mediation
- RESCU (Restoration, Education, Skills, Change and You) Pre-adjudication Diversion Program
- Chemical Awareness Program
- Traffic Refresher Course
- Panel for Academic and Social Success K-12 (facilitation)
- Dually Involved Youth alternative case management and collaborative conference facilitation
- Family Group Decision Making session planning and facilitation
- Truancy alternative case management
- Sexting Diversion (Officially launched in 2017)

The Intervention Program received an average of 50 referrals for diversion programming per quarter. Recidivism rates for program participants were examined for the July 1 – September 30, 2016 reporting period. Per the program work plan, success was to be considered when the six-month recidivism rate was 15% or less, and the 12 month rate was 25% or less. Results are promising. The BASC Intervention Program work plan established a 12-month recidivism rate of 25% or less as the program goal. Only 15.25% of the clients re-offended within 12 months.

## ➤ **Students First**

Students First is a community effort to help youth reach their full potential by pursuing their goals with support from caring adults. During the school year, youth participants meet with Students First Strengths Educators to participate in activities that focus on each individual's strengths. The students create Success Plans that will evolve as they move from 6th to 12th grade. Each student is paired with a volunteer Success Coach from the community to support them in reaching personal, academic, post-secondary and career goals.

The community group Bemidji Leads envisioned the Students First program in 2009 and made its development and implementation a top priority. A community advisory team made up of charter and district school administration, teachers, counselors, parents, county government, business, and youth-serving organizations developed the Students First Operations Plan through an unprecedented collaborative process led by BASC and Headwaters Regional Development Commission (HRDC). Funds contributed by Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Blandin Foundation, George W. Neilson Foundation, District 31, and Kelliher Public Schools have been instrumental in the development, implementation and ongoing support of this program.

In 2016 (the program's sixth year), BASC again contracted with three professional consultants to carry out the Students First program. Participating students attend Bemidji Middle School, Bemidji High School and Kelliher Public Schools. The "Kelliher Model" is a hybrid version of the program where the school recruits and communicates directly with Adult Coaches and 30 Peer Partners, while Students First consultants deliver programming and evaluation. In 2016, funding was provided by Northwest Minnesota Foundation to supplement the program contributions paid by Bemidji and Kelliher School Districts. An evaluation of the program's outcomes in its first three years was completed in 2014 and is available to the public. The results are promising. Evaluation is ongoing and will inform program development.

During the 2016-2017 academic year:

- 443 students in grades 6–12 participated in Students First
- 83 Strengths and Coaching Sessions were facilitated by Strengths Educators who contract with BASC
- 382 Coaches and Peer Partners volunteered
- Five end-of the year events were held
- Cohort 1 graduated from Bemidji High School with almost all participants accepted into the military or a two- or four-year college option.
- Held numerous Coach Volunteer Orientation sessions in groups and one-on-one settings
- Held several Strengths Training Sessions for Coaches who "packed the room." Post-training Coach surveys indicate the perceived high quality/high value of these sessions.
- Provided participants with Letters of Recommendation written by their Coaches

- Engaged all Bemidji Middle School teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals in a well-received Strengths Training Session. Another to follow in the Fall of 2017. Increases engagement of teachers in the program.
- Administered surveys to coaches, teachers and student participants to shape future programming

Students First continues to look at funding opportunities and modifications to keep the program strong and sustainable. It is with these goals in mind that we move into the 2017-2018 academic year.

### ➤ **Project Connect at Bemidji High School**

Project Connect is a program funded by the former organization called Bemidji Area Prevention Alliance (BAPA). Project Connect uses multiple strategies to reduce risk factors and build protective factors for students. BASC serves as the program planning coordinator, facilitator of partner meetings, contracting entity and financial manager.

Since its inception in 2010, Project Connect has successfully established a weekly homeroom program for more than 1,400 students at Bemidji High School (BHS) and Lumberjack High School (LHS). Students are assigned to a teacher/advisor when they enter the high school as freshman, and they keep that same advisor throughout their high school career. All licensed staff and administrators in the building assist as advisors for students and meet with their group once a week. This arrangement is designed to build student connection to adults and to fellow students in their homeroom. Connectedness and engagement in school has been shown to boost resilience in teens.

Project Connect funding was also directed toward:

- Freshman Orientation
- Incentives for positive behavior and improved attendance
- Attendance monitoring and student support
- Homeroom coordination
- PowerPoint projectors for homeroom presentations
- Attendance Campaign video production

### ➤ **Family Group Decision Making**

In 2014 BASC assisted Beltrami County Social Services in applying for a Minnesota Department of Human Services grant for Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). The funding was granted for a two-year period, then extended for one more year. Clearwater County and Red Lake Children and Family Services may access the funds also. Beltrami County is the applicant agency and program manager. BASC coordinates referrals and evaluation.

During 2016, 16 sessions were held. All but one session was referred by Beltrami County. Ninety-six percent of the participants indicated that “others should try this program” with one respondent commenting “Wonderful experience that families should go through.” BASC provided summary reports to the Minnesota Department of Human Services that included follow-up surveys from case workers 30 and 90 days after the FGDM.

## ➤ **E-Health Project**

In September 2015, Beltrami County PACT launched an 18-month E-health Project funded by a \$201,000 grant awarded by the Minnesota Department of Health. BASC is the grant administrator on behalf of the 12 behavioral health agencies that make up Beltrami County PACT, an informal collaboration. The grant was extended for an additional 9 months with no increase in the original funding appropriation.

This ambitious project is aimed increasing electronic health information exchange both among behavioral health providers and with other system partners in a HIPAA-compliant manner to improve client outcomes. Partners meet twice monthly to work toward this goal.

In 2016, PACT extended its project outreach to partner agencies including Beltrami public health and social services divisions County (and other counties in the region), schools, Sanford Health, probation and others. Meaningful, vital client information can now be securely exchanged in a paperless fashion between these entities (with proper releases) through a system called Direct Secure Messaging (DSM). In collaboration with project partners, PACT is exploring development of electronic referral protocols, in-patient Admission Discharge and Transfer (ADT) alerts for agencies working with a shared client/patient, and participation in a Health Information Exchange (HIE). Health care is changing; and our providers are showing openness to new ways of collaboration for better outcomes.

## **Contracted Projects**

BASC utilizes integrated funds to support projects that are aligned with one or more of the organization's focus areas. These projects are carried out by BASC partners. Fiscal reports and narrative output and outcome reports are required from all contracted project partners.

### **Contracted Project Descriptions and Allocations**

- **Crisis Beds/Shelter** **\$20,000**  
Provides 24-hour residential stays for children who are in crisis for a variety of reasons (child protection, family trauma, running away, mental health issues). The services include individual and group support, school services, case management, family crisis intervention and shelter. Staff assists youth and families with parent/child communication, relationship issues, setting consistent standards for behavior at home, and more. *Provider:* Evergreen Youth & Family Services
  
- **Children's Therapeutic Supports and Services** **\$52,500**  
Provides mental health support services to children under the age of 18 with SED diagnosis within the school setting at District 31 and Blackduck Schools. Staffing for CTSS consists of mental health professionals, practitioners and behavioral aides who meet state requirements for licensing, education/experience and continuing education. *Provider:* Stellher Human Services
  
- **Family-Based Services** **\$25,700**  
Two agencies provide evidence-based programming designed to address family issues that can lead to poor functioning in and beyond the family unit. *Providers:* Evergreen Youth & Family Services, Stellher Human Services

- **Med Management Consultation** **\$1,500**  
 Psychiatric/Medication Management consultation provided to the Bemidji Interdisciplinary Review Team (IRT) on a monthly basis. *Provider:* Miriam Tell, CNP
- **School Interventionists – Kelliher and Blackduck Public Schools** **\$17,100**  
 Provide emotional and educational support through direct intervention so that students can improve classroom and academic performance. Target youth who are struggling in the classroom environment. *Providers:* Kelliher Public Schools, Stellher Human Services (Blackduck)
- **School-Linked Mental Health Services** **\$27,450**  
 Provides access to mental health services at Bemidji District 31, TrekNorth Junior and Senior High, Voyageurs Expeditionary School, Schoolcraft Learning Community, Blackduck and Kelliher Schools. A five-year grant from the State of Minnesota covers various expenses not funded through third party billing. BASC funding supplements the grant. *Providers:* Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center, North Homes and Stellher Human Services.
- **Suicide Prevention Program** **\$30,250**  
 Provides prevention level services to youth in Beltrami County. *Provider:* Evergreen Youth & Family Services
- **Uninsured Professional Services** **\$6,000**  
 Provides professional level mental health services to uninsured and underinsured children. *Providers:* Upper Mississippi Mental Health, Stellher Human Services

### **Respite Funding**

Beltrami County Social Services contracts with BASC to manage State of Minnesota respite grant. In turn, BASC receives a 10% administrative fee from the County. The 2016 Beltrami County respite grant award was \$30,000. The award amount is set through a formula rather than a competitive application process.

The grant provides respite to families/guardians dealing with intense behavior and mental health issues in their homes. Participating youth must be diagnosed as SED and working with Rule 79 Case Management. Services include overnight stays at foster care licensed homes or Evergreen Shelter, summer camps, recreation for families, participation or lessons in athletic or artist activities. *Providers:* Various

Respite grant funds are also used by Summer CTSS programs in Beltrami County. The program must meet treatment goals related to social skills, community skills, etc., through a structured group discussion/learning activity and then move clients into the community to practice the new skills. Summer CTSS was funded in Bemidji and Red Lake. *Providers:* Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center and North Homes

## **A Sampling of Other BASC Endeavors in 2016**

- Coordinating LCTS and Multi-County LCTS
- Updating BASC Fiscal Policy
- Addition of Direct Secure Messaging capabilities across service sectors
- Facilitating School Linked Mental Health Partners monthly meeting
- Facilitating Interdisciplinary Review Team in Red Lake and Bemidji (three meetings total per month)
- Facilitating quarterly Children's Mental Health Advisory Committee meetings
- Serving on Thrive Advisory Team (maternal and child health collaborative group)
- Participating in the area's Crisis Advisory Team
- Leading program development, enhancement and fund-seeking efforts with partners
- BASC program grant writing, evaluation and reporting to fund sources
- Disseminating training, program, research and other information to partners
- Developing and updating BASC website
- Upholding financial duties related to BASC-funded projects
- Developing and coordinating contracts and contracting process
- Monitoring and communicating community needs to various systems that might address those needs
- Meeting with other Collaborative leaders across the State of Minnesota