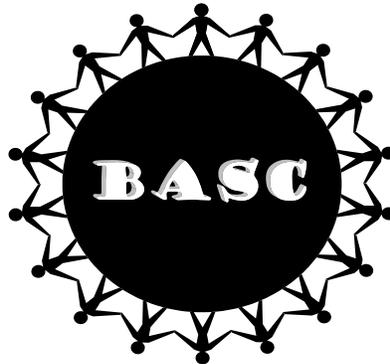


Beltrami Area Service Collaborative

2017 Annual Report



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

Community Service Center
616 America Avenue NW, Suite 160
Bemidji, MN 56601
Telephone: (218) 333-8190
www.beltrami.org

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).

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 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 BASC Governing Board is solely responsible for the distribution of these funds.

BASC Governing Board Members 2017

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

2017 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 2017 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 fourth 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.

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.

SUMMARY OF PETITION REQUESTS:

- 61 petition requests were screened (4 re-staffed for a total of 65)
- 18 cases went to Court
- 12 cases went to Alternative Response Case Management (diversion)
- 10 cases went to social services
- 2 youth were already on supervised probation with a court order to attend school
- 16 cases were not within our jurisdiction (Red Lake, Leech Lake, other counties)
- 1 youth was already 17 years old
- 6 cases needed more active efforts or more information on the petition request (4 of these were not re-submitted with the needed information or efforts)

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. In 2017, PASS K-12 meetings had 23 attendees in January, 28 in April and 21 in November.

Truancy Tracking

The BASC-supported Bemidji Middle School (BMS) Truancy Tracker provides tutoring, mentoring and other 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 Attendance Review Team is the sole source of referrals for the Truancy Tracker.

A total of 51 families voluntarily participated in the Truancy Tracker Program during the 2017-18 school year. This is up from 25 families last year. Six of the 51 students drastically improved their attendance and as a result, their cases were closed. Twenty-three of these students improved attendance continued to work with the Tracker through the end of the school year. Unfortunately, 22 of the 51 families choose not to address issues or work on improving their attendance. As a result, the Bemidji Middle School filed Truancy Petitions with the Beltrami County Attorney's Office.

The many underlying issues that families and students are facing include addiction, chemical dependency, mental health struggles, poverty, and lots of undiagnosed trauma experienced in early childhood.

The tracker works with the family as a whole, helping them identify goals they would like to achieve and then decide on what steps they are willing and able to take in order to make their goals a reality. When necessary, the Tracker addresses issues that students and families are avoiding but need to confront.

Success Story from the Truancy Tracker This year I have several success stories; however, one stands out in my mind more than the others. This student was in 6th grade. During September, October and November, she missed anywhere from seven to ten days a month. Once this family accepted the tracker program, I was able to talk her mother and father about this student's anxiety and how it affected her. After working closely with them, I was able to open them up to the idea of getting her the help that she needed.

The student started to meet with a therapist twice a week. I also set up an incentive program where she would earn a \$5 Target gift card once she attended ten consecutive days of school. We did this for two months. After working in therapy and working for the incentive, this particular student felt like school was going much, much better, and she did not feel like she really needed the incentive program anymore. For the month of February she missed one day of school. In March she missed two days of school. During April she missed two days of school due to illness, and for the month of May she has not missed a single day! Although I am very glad that she is attending school regularly, I recognize that the success was due to the fact that she and her family got the outside support that was needed for them to reach their individual and family goals.

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. A two-year *renewal* grant was awarded to fund this program for another two years from January 2018 until January 2020. BASC employs one full-time staff member to take on the activities and objectives of this project.

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. 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.

The Re-Engagement Case Manager accepts referrals from two teams: Beltrami County Truancy Screening Team and Weekly Student Support Team at Bemidji High School (Grades 9-12). In addition, the Re-Engagement Case Manager serves as a contact and consultant for the Voyageurs Expeditionary Charter School (Grades 6-12) and Blackduck Public Schools (Grades K-12) in regards to truancy, active efforts, and advice. Services to students enrolled at those schools are provided as requested.

The Re-Engagement Case Manager develops a case plan with the family, then 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 the student and family devise strategies for overcoming barriers, and provides incentives for students to achieve goals.

In 2017, 50 students were referred to the Re-Engagement Case Manager; 14 families accepted services from the Re-Engagement Case Manager. Out of the 14 students who actively worked with the case manager, 0 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 case manager provided referrals for mental health services, chemical dependency 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 community members, teachers, principals, and superintendents were the voices of this year's Public Service Announcement with pictures of local students in the background. An original, well-received PSA that was professionally created and played on local radio, at the movie theater and on television (go to https://youtu.be/qLP4up6L_ZI to view). The PSA was also played on the radio during the Red Lake basketball games and on the Lumberjack Sports radio channel. Elementary 5th grade students at District 31 created their personal art around the theme of "Being Present." This artwork was displayed at elementary schools during conferences. In addition, the Re-Engagement Case Manager created and manages a "Being Present" Facebook page where advice about attendance and posts about school events seek to encourage family engagement in education.

Through BASC's CCP grant, "Mini" Attendance Incentive Grants were offered to schools to help them with their own attendance incentive programs. Thirteen schools submitted applications to BASC and received grants in amounts varying from \$200 to \$1,000. Schools applied for the grant funds, attended PASS K-12 meetings to update everyone on how their incentive program is working/not working, and

submitted a final outcomes report at the end of the school year. All of the schools showed improvement in attendance rates. Incentive programs consisted of “nudge” letters to parents, gift cards, games, field trips, a prize box, alarm clocks for students, pizza parties, cookie/ice cream coupons, school pride shirts, and more. This is very unique because each school was able to cater to their school population and families. Schools are excited that BASC will once again be offering these mini-grants through the Re-Engagement program for the upcoming school year, and they are strategizing how to improve their incentive programs.

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. The truancy case manager has also handled some of the Truancy Alternative Response Case Management cases based on caseload sizes.

During the 2017/2018 school year, there were 30 cases open for Truancy Case Management. Some of those cases were carried over from the previous school year. Due to the complexity of the cases, the truancy case manager works closely with school officials, county social services, probation, the county attorney’s office, mental health providers, and chemical dependency treatment providers to work toward removing the barriers causing the youths poor school attendance. Many of the youth are experiencing severe anxiety, depression, or other mental health diagnosis that are affecting their ability to attend school. One Bemidji Middle School student was recommended to receive homebound schooling for the remainder of the school year due to severe anxiety. Of the 30 youth the truancy case manager worked with during the 2017/2018 school year, there were only six who were not required to complete a diagnostic assessment and participate in ongoing mental health services. Additional challenges the youth and families face include homelessness, lack of transportation, parent’s mental and chemical health, and poverty.

As the 2017-2018 school year ends, there are a large number of cases that will remain open over the summer as attendance has not improved or mental health and chemical health services need to be established and followed through with by the family. Many youth will also be attending summer school.

A Story from the Truancy Case Manager One very positive success story is from a Bemidji Middle School student. This student comes from a family who has experienced a great deal of loss and tragedy. They have faced many barriers including no transportation, homelessness, mental health diagnosis, and many others. Just before the truancy case began, the family located housing. This stabilization for the family started them on the right track. This family was great about staying in contact with the school and the case manager, even if it was to provide information of things the family was struggling with or that the student would not be in school. Over the course of the truancy case, the family was able to purchase a vehicle on their own, the student began receiving school linked mental health services, and attendance improved significantly. By the end of the case, the student was receiving all A’s and B’s in her classes. School personnel were noticing a positive change in her mood and demeanor. As the case closed, the youth shared with the case manager that she is gay. The mother was very supportive of her and the case manager was able to provide the family some additional support and resources within the community. After the case closed, the mother continued to contact the case manager for a few months to check in and ask for information or ideas on resources.

Number of Truancy Case Management Clients per Area School:

Bemidji High School	11
Bemidji Middle School	10
Trek North	2
Voyageurs	0
ByLaw	1
Cass Lake – Bena	2
Blackduck High School	1
Home School	0
AEC	2
Northhome	1

The table below shows attendance outcomes for six cases that were open for a significant period of time. 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

CASE #	PRE-PETITION % ABSENT	POST-INTERVENTION % ABSENT
Case 1	40%	18%
Case 2	16%	0%
Case 3	20%	0%
Case 4	16%	0%
Case 5	24%	11%
Case 6	100%	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 (with funding originating from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention). This grant was originally awarded in October 2014 and has been renewed twice. The current two-year grant cycle ends December 31, 2019.

The goals of the grant include:

Goal 1: Reduce the rate of recidivism and advancement into the Criminal Justice System for petty misdemeanor, status, and delinquency level offenses.

Goal 2: Reduce court involvement for truant youths and families by increasing family engagement and utilizing effective case management.

Goal 3: Reduce court involvement for minority youths committing petty-misdemeanor and/or delinquency level offenses, and/or engaging in truancy.

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 January 1 – March 31, 2017 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. During this reporting period, the twelve-month recidivism rate for youth participating in an alternative response to court (RESCU; Traffic Refresher; and/or ARCM) is 16.45% (13/79).

The Beltrami County Dually-Involved Youth Project serves Beltrami County youth between the ages of ten and seventeen who have allegedly committed a delinquency level offense (whether or not they are presently on probation for a former offense) *and* have an open Beltrami County and/or Tribal social services case. The youth is identified through communication initiated by the County Attorney’s office with social services.

As a part of the Dually Involved Project, youth that are involved in both social services and juvenile justice system are eligible to participate in a collaborative conference, if ordered by the Court. The purpose of the collaborative conference is to discuss the current risks, needs, and strengths of the youth and family in order to develop a list of recommendations for the Court to consider as the youth’s probation requirements and to identify dual case management roles and responsibilities in order to avoid confusion for all participants.

In 2017, 14 collaborative conferences for dually involved youth were held. The recommendations that were agreed upon by all parties were received well and were considered in Court.

➤ **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 2017 (the program's seventh 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 Adult Coaches and 30 Peer Partners, while Students First consultants deliver programming and communication with mentors. Program evaluation is ongoing and will inform program development.

During the 2017-2018 academic year:

- 481 students in grades 6–12 participated in Students First
- 86 Strengths and Coaching Sessions were facilitated by Strengths Educators who contract with BASC
- 361 Coaches and Peer Partners volunteered
- 75% of participating 10th, 11th & 12th grade students opted to stay in Students First when choice was made in September 2017. Approximately 90% of 9th grade students opted to stay in the program when choice was made in May 2018.
- Bemidji High School utilized Students First to facilitate StrengthsQuest assessments for every "mainstream" 9th grade student. Students First also provided monthly supplemental Strengths activities to be used in 9th grade homerooms throughout the year.
- Engaged all Bemidji Middle School teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals in a well-received Strengths Training Session (the second of two). Increases engagement of teachers in the program.
- Engaged all Bemidji High School 9th grade Homeroom Advisors (teachers and support staff) in a Strengths Training session. This training prepared Advisors to lead Strengths activity sessions in homeroom.
- Held numerous Coach Volunteer Orientation sessions in groups and one-on-one settings
- Held several Strengths Training Sessions for Coaches who "packed the room"
- Cohort 2 graduated from Bemidji High School with almost all participants accepted into the military or a two- or four-year college option
- Eight end-of the year events were held

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 2018-2019 academic year.

Some of our graduating seniors and their Success Coaches at our Year-End Senior Event:



➤ **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.

In its inaugural year of 2010, Project Connect 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 focuses on enhancing the success of the homeroom program, encouraging student attendance, and supporting endeavors that help students engage at BHS.

In 2017, Project Connect funding was also directed toward:

- Freshman Orientation
- Freshman Retreat
- Incentives for positive behavior and improved attendance
- Homeroom coordination
- Chemical Health Education sessions for students identified by school staff

➤ **Family Group Decision Making**

BASC assists Beltrami County Social Services with applying for the Minnesota Department of Human Services grant for Family Group Decision Making (FGDM). Beltrami County is the applicant agency and program manager, and BASC coordinates referrals and evaluation. In 2017, Clearwater County and Red Lake Children and Family Services were eligible to access the funds also. Only Beltrami County tapped into the grant during 2017.

Family Group Decision Making is a strengths-based process whereby an extended family (including non-family members who are supportive) gathers to address an issue or problem. The issue might be creating a safety plan in a home where there is a history of substance abuse, agreeing upon a visitation schedule between estranged parents, or finding a permanent home for a child who can no longer live with his or her biological parents. Here is how the FGDM process works. After speaking with the family, referrals are made by county case managers to an independent, neutral FGDM coordinator and facilitator. That coordinator speaks with extended family members who will participate, explaining the process and listening to their concerns. On the day of the session, a meal is shared by all participants. Professionals who work with the family share what they see as family strengths and concerns they have regarding the issue at hand. The family discusses options for addressing the issue and independently creates a plan that they present to their case manager. It is an empowering and skill-building process that usually ends with all parties signing on to the family's plan. The county case manager follows up with the family to see if the plan is working, and can refer them for another FGDM session if needed.

During 2017:

- Eight FGDM sessions were held
- All sessions ended with participants signing off on a family-created plan to address the issue that brought them to the meeting
- 25 percent of the families participating were Native American
- For five of the eight sessions, the father participated in the session. Two of the others were cases where the father had parental rights terminated previously.
- 98 percent of the participants would recommend FGDM to others
- 98 percent said their family was treated well during the session and that their case manager cares about them.

A sample of the comments shared by family participants on the evaluation forms:

- "I was extremely apprehensive about a meeting which I knew would bring up sensitive issues, but the structure provided REALLY facilitated the most peaceful setting possible."
- "We planned, talked and it was really enlightening on things."
- "I'm very grateful for this meeting, and I'm hoping the lines of communication will not only continue—but progress and improve."

Outcomes:

BASC surveys the case managers at 30 and 90 days following the FGDM session. A sampling of their comments:

- "FGDM allowed the child to remain in the home with his parents."
- "The new supports that were proposed in the plan have been implemented."
- At 30 days: "The case was in out-of-home placement, but the children have returned to the mother's care on trial home visit." Then at 90 days: "The trial home visit was ended after 2 months due to mother's noncompliance. The plan was working."
- "The process worked because the family had a safe/structured time and place to talk."
- "Children returned home on a trial visit. Custody was later returned to their mother and eventually the case was closed with reunification."

One of the deeply concerning and costly trends for Beltrami County has been the rise in out of home placements. County case managers provided a recent update on outcomes for the families who participated in FGDM in 2017 as it relates to out of home placement. As of June 1, 2018:

- Two families – no out of home placement was needed
- Five families – children were in out of home placement at the time of FGDM; reunification has been successful for each of the five families
- One family – children were in out of home placement at the time of FGDM; case is unfortunately moving to permanency

➤ **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 was 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 was 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 met twice monthly to work toward this goal until the grant ended in October 2017.

To the credit of the PACT behavioral health agencies, Direct Secure Messaging has been adopted by behavioral health agencies, schools, county social services departments and tribal agencies as a highly secure method of exchanging HIPAA (private health information exchange statute) and FERPA (private education data exchange statute) information about shared clients/students. Sanford Health sends electronic referrals to behavioral health providers using DSM, allowing those with an electronic health record system to relatively seamlessly attach that referral to the patient’s record. Attempts to successfully send information from community-based agencies into the Sanford health system’s EPIC medical records system were hindered by technological challenges. Achieving that would allow community-based mental health agencies to “close the loop” to notify Sanford electronically when a referred patient makes an initial appointment as well as to provide diagnostic and other assessments back to Sanford.

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 for Special Education Students** **\$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. While the funding goes directly to the school districts, community-based agencies provide the services. *Providers:* Stellher Human Services (Blackduck Schools), North Homes Children & Family Services (District 31)

- **Family-Based Services** **\$29,000**
Two agencies provide evidence-based programming designed to address family issues that can lead to poor functioning in and beyond the family unit. Evergreen offers parent coaching at their shelter site, open to all. Stellher Human Services employs an in-home CTSS worker to work with referred families. *Providers:* Evergreen Youth & Family Services, Stellher Human Services

- **Med Management Consultation** **\$1,200**
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** **\$19,100**
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** **\$21,870**
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** **\$4,000**
Provides professional level mental health services to uninsured and underinsured children. *Providers:* Upper Mississippi Mental Health, Stellher Human Services, North Homes Children & Family Services

Respite Funding

Beltrami County Social Services contracts with BASC to manage State of Minnesota respite grant. In turn, BASC receives a 10 percent administrative fee from the County. The 2017 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 Red Lake Family & Children's Services.

A Sampling of Other BASC Endeavors in 2017

- Coordinating LCTS and Multi-County LCTS
- Addition of Direct Secure Messaging capabilities across service sectors
- Facilitating School Linked Mental Health Partners monthly meeting during school year
- Facilitating Interdisciplinary Review Team in Red Lake and Bemidji (three meetings total per month)
- Facilitating quarterly Children's Mental Health Advisory Council 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