

City of Lawrence
Social Service Agency
Bi-annual Report
2013

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Casey Toomay, Budget Manger at ctoomay@lawrenceks.org. Reports on activities from January to June are due on July 15th. Cumulative reports on activities from January through December are due on February 15th.

Agency Name:

Reporting period:

January - June
(deadline July 15)

January - December
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

Heartland Community Health Center has used its City of Lawrence funding to help pay a grant match for its AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps health coaches perform various case management functions at HCHC, including meeting with all new patients to screen for substance abuse, referring at-risk patients to HCHC's clinical social worker, providing coaching on healthy behaviors and working with patients to connect them to other needed resources. They work in conjunction with the clinical social worker and all HCHC primary care providers to provide holistic health care to all HCHC patients- physical, mental, behavioral, social, and spiritual.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Because the City of Lawrence is helping to fund HCHC's AmeriCorps program, 100% of new patients are now screened for substance abuse.

Through referral from AmeriCorps members to HCHC's Behavioral Health Consultant, patients who are in need of substance abuse counseling can receive counseling within three visits. However, if more skillful, in-depth treatment is needed, HCHC coordinates referral to substance abuse agencies in Lawrence/Douglas County.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

We have been very pleased with the results of this project, as it has allowed for quicker identification of patients' needs and quicker referral to treatment, which results in far better outcomes. This "upstream" approach allows at-risk patients to access care even if they have not yet self-identified as needing counseling.

We also believe, though unquantifiable at this point, that this type of integrated approach to health care leads to a decreased stigma for people getting treatment for substance abuse and other behavioral health concerns. When treatment is given in the primary care setting, specialized treatment becomes normalized. Treatment becomes simply, "Going to the doctor."

Studies show that integrated health care improves the health experience for patients and they are often more satisfied with the care they get. We look forward to continuing the project with City of Lawrence funding throughout the rest of 2013.

4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

One of the largest barriers we face is being able to access affordable specialty resources for our patients. Though we can tell patients what they need to improve their health, the most difficult part of the job is coordinating a way for them to access the resource. This is the reason that case management is so important in our setting. Physicians cannot take the time to browse which pharmacy a particular medication is cheapest at, or to speak with a specialty physician across town about working out a payment plan or discount for a patient. This is the work of a case manager, and this is the barrier that the City of Lawrence is helping to break down.

5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

All \$10,956.50 that we have received has been expended.