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: The Sh	nelter, Inc.	
Reporting period:	x January - June	☐ January - December
	(deadline July 15)	(deadline February 15)

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

We use our City funds to pay for Family Services for children and families, many of whom have come through Intake, with the goal of preventing or minimizing involvement with the court system, either for an offense or for a family problem. For families meeting certain criteria for financial need, we have paid for such services as tutoring, drug/alcohol evaluations, monitoring, and treatment, and various other specific needs to enable children to remain out of the system, in school, and productive. Since 2008, not surprisingly, requests to maintain housing and utilities have been particularly important. Eligible families are identified not only through our staff, but also through other specified agencies in the community, such as Bert Nash (WRAP), the Housing Authority, DCF, infant/toddler programs, the schools, and others, all of those agencies being in a position to see children and families who are at high risk for being involved with the court.

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

In the first 6 months of 2013, we received a total of 126 requests for Family Services funds. We approved 107 of those requests. The requests we approved were submitted by a total of 97 families, some families having submitted more than one request. Of the 107 requests approved, 37 were for services related to issues such as mental health and drug and alcohol problems, and 70 were for issues related to housing and utilities. None were for the purchase of specific items in this most recent time period.

This work relates to our goals and objectives for this year as follows:

Goal 1: We will serve 215 families in 2013. As of June 30, we had served 97 families in the first six months of 2013. We believe that we will easily meet our goal of serving 215 families this year.

Goal 2: We will provide budgeting help to 95% of families served in 2012. As has been the case in the past, we are excluding from this outcome the families who have received only UA (urine analysis) services for their children. We continue to provide UA services for children we believe need them, without assessing the family's financial situation. In doing so, we have avoided potential resistance from families and made sure those children who need UA's get them. Excluding the 32 families who received only UA services in the first six months of 2013, we served 65 families. All of those 65 families received budgeting services. We are on target to achieve this goal for 2013.

Goal 3: At least 90% of families who have received Family Services funds will not have a child go through Juvenile Intake within 6 months after their case is closed. In order to monitor this goal, we looked at families we served with Family Services funds from July through December, 2012. We served 141 families in that time period. Out of that number, 5 families had a child come through Juvenile Intake within six months after their case was closed, leaving 136 families whose children had no Juvenile Intake contact in the subsequent six month period (136/141=96%). We are on target to meet this goal for 2013.

3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

We believe that we have reduced the risk of involvement with the court system for the children and families we have served with these funds.

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

We have had two barriers this year, the first being that we limit the amount of money spent per family in a year to \$200, as these funds are designed to meet an emergency need and/or be a bridge to other sources of on-going support through state and federal services. We have to deny some families because their need is often significantly beyond the limits we have set, and we don't believe that what we can provide will be sufficient to address their problem. In those cases, we refer the families to the agencies that are designed to meet their on-going needs. We can only hope that their needs are met.

The second barrier occurs because we have set a limitation that a family can be helped up to that \$200 amount only once a year. We have set that limitation because we want to serve as many families as we can, and we want families to see us as a resource for emergency needs rather than relying on us to regularly help with their financial situation. It is possible, however, for families to have more than one true emergency in a year, and the limitation we have set prevents us from helping in situations that would be appropriate if we had not already helped a family earlier in the year. Again, we refer those families to other agencies, with the hope that they can be helped elsewhere.

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

As of June 30, 2013, we had spent \$13,570.61. We anticipate that we will spend our full allocation by the end of 2013.