

## *Building Jay County's Future*

# Improved System of Care

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All of us face challenges in our lives. In Jay County, we want to make sure that an effective support system exists for families burdened by mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and other serious issues.

We will **help families grow stronger by offering an easy-to-navigate system of technical assistance and resources that promote safe, stable, nurturing, and thriving families.**

### *Background*

Families in need of services can face a confusing system for obtaining needed services. An effective system of care can help a family:

- Obtain concrete help in time of need including basic needs such as food, housing, and transportation
- Connect with the appropriate provider for their medical needs
- Receive services to deal with substance use disorder
- Access programs providing mental health services
- Get help dealing with domestic violence
- Understand the stages of their child's development
- Get information on how to become a better parent
- Understand the importance of prenatal care
- Learn and understand signs of normal and alarming pregnancy
- Understand the importance of regularly scheduled well child visits
- Understand the importance of immunizations

### *The Goals for Jay County*

In Jay County, we will enhance the current system which strives to ensure that **Jay County families of all types are affirmed and respected when they interact with partner organizations and can easily navigate the system of care.**

To achieve this goal, we will:

- Explore creation of a Family Resource Service Center based on successful models in Colorado and Pennsylvania. This may or may not include physical co-location of services.
- Recognize all families have strengths on which to build, support families to recognize and exercise their power, and promote access to resources available in the community.
- Consider the use of financial literacy courses to support families in managing and strengthening their family finances.
- Create a comprehensive “no wrong door” system of care using “warm hand-offs” to help families get the help they need.
- Train participating partner organizations in how to provide trauma informed, strengths-based care.

### *Measuring Our Success*

To measure our progress towards implementing a successful parenting skills program, we will use the following as our metrics:

- Number of individuals/families participating in Service Center programs that may be adopted.
- Number of substantiated DCS cases.
- Number of adults and children incarcerated in county jails.

### *How will this improve the quality of life in Jay County?*

As parents and other family caregivers become more confident and adept in leading their families, there will be fewer confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect and fewer victims of substance abuse. We will see improvement in Economic Self-Sufficiency and Health measures chosen to assess family stability based on factors to be determined after study of the Family Service models and in the five Protective Factors that are the foundation of the Strengthening Families approach. They include parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. Research studies show that when these Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes.<sup>i</sup>

## **A Note of Appreciation**

We wish to thank the following community leaders who served as members of our Steering Committee or on one of our task forces. Your contributions were greatly appreciated, and will help us to improve the quality of life for everyone in Jay County

- Chad Aker – President, Jay County Commissioners
- John Boggs – Mayor, City of Portland
- Carol Bradshaw - Forward STEPS Manager, Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana
- Michael Brewster – Jay County Coroner, Portland Police Department
- Amanda Bullion – Purdue Extension
- Ray Cooney – Editor, The Commercial Review
- PJ Corwin – Executive Director, Youth Service Bureau
- Jason Craig - Substance Misuse Prevention and Mental Health Promotion, Region 5 Regional Prevention Coordinator
- Gerry Cyranowski – Regional VP of Clinical Services, Meridian Health Services
- Randy Davis - Founder, A Better Life-Brianna’s Hope
- Chad Dodd - Principal, Jay County High School
- Dwane Ford – Sheriff, Jay County
- Julie Gregg – Principal, East Elementary School
- Jeremy Gulley – Superintendent, Jay County School Corporation
- Tammy Hanlin – Chair, The Portland Foundation
- Rusty Inman – Executive Director, John Jay Center for Learning
- Virgil Jones - Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition
- Rex Journey – Jay County Commissioner
- Allison Keen – Youth Educator, Purdue Extension
- Justin Littman – Family Case Manager Supervisor, Department of Child Services
- John Moore – Board Member, The Portland Foundation
- Krista Muhlenkamp – Board Member, The Portland Foundation
- Michele Owen – Executive Director, Family Alliance
- Chynna Ratliffe - Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition
- Kimbra Reynolds - Executive Director, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition
- Travis Richards - Executive Director, Jay County Development Corporation
- Jane Ann Runyon – Executive Director, United Way of Jay County
- Christy Shauver – Director of Community Development, Jay County Development Corporation
- Mitch Sutton – Police Chief, City of Portland
- Annie Van Horn – Director of Special Education, Jay School Corporation
- Jenni VanSkyock – Program Manager, IU Health Jay Hospital Outpatient Behavioral Health
- Jon Vanator - President, IU Health Jay Hospital
- Tashia Weaver – Family Resource Center Coordinator, Strengthening Indiana Families

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<sup>i</sup> Protective Factors Framework, Center for the Study of Social Policy, <https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/>