

REPORT FORM
Clay County LCTS Grant

Name of Project: Truancy Intervention Program

Risk Factor (s) Being Addressed: Preventing Out of Home Placement

Priority Need (s) Being Addressed: Attendance and Truancy Issues in School

Name of Focus Group That Identified the Need: Prevention and Early Intervention

Name of Agency Managing LCTS Grant: The Village Family Service Center

Name of Person Preparing the Report: Alex Ishaug

Today's Date: June 25, 2007

Dates of Report: March 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007

PART I
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF CHILDREN SERVED

Numbers This quarter by Gender

Male: 569
Female: 547
Total: 1116

Numbers Year to Date by Gender

Male: 723
Female: 675
Total: 1398

Numbers This Quarter by Race

Native American: 89
Asian: 6
Hispanic: 215
Black: 56
White: 750
Total: 1116

Numbers Year to Date by Race

Native American: 123
Asian: 16
Hispanic: 284
Black: 73
White: 902
Total: 1398

Numbers This Quarter Grade Level

K-5: 512
6-8: 166
9-12: 438
Total: 1116

Numbers Year to Date Grade Level

K-5: 616
6-8: 262
9-12: 520
Total: 1398

PART II

Outcomes

The Truancy Intervention Program was designed to provide early intervention by identifying students who exhibit signs of truancy or attendance issues. The project will provide services, which will enhance attendance monitoring and improve contact with parents/guardians. Meetings with the students and their families are conducted and an intervention plan is developed to address the identified issues and risk factors. Referrals may be made for additional services or educational adjustments. The goals of this early intervention include increasing student attendance, maintaining or decreasing the number of referrals to the juvenile justice system and increasing the number of students referred for mental and chemical health assessments or other types of intervention.

Two measurable objectives will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of this program during the school year. The first objective is to maintain the current rate of all absences (excused and unexcused) for all students in Clay County. In the past this program has monitored only unexcused absences. Average days missed in the Moorhead elementary schools per month were 2.37 for the quarter. This is a slight decrease from both second quarter this year and last year's third quarter. The average for the Greater County elementary schools was 1.57 days missed per month. The days missed is about the same as both last year and last quarter. The total number of elementary students has decreased by about 150 students from last year at this time.

The Greater County high schools averaged 18.77 periods on 3.80 days, which is an increase from last quarter and last year. Moorhead High students average 22.76 periods on 5.46 days missed. This is an increase in periods missed and a decrease in days missed. Horizon students missed 26.75 periods on 4.86 days per month this quarter, which is about the same as last year and last quarter. Red River Area Learning Center students showed a decrease from last year and last quarter with 25.63 periods on 6.37 days missed.

The second objective is to maintain the number of court referrals for truancy. An average of 34 truancy petitions have been filed over the past five years with TIP. For this reporting period there have been 34 court referrals made and 68 for the year. Last year during the third quarter 23 referrals were made. Within the TIP workgroup there has been discussion about what "numbers filed on" means. We are finding that more students have multiple issues going on and that they are choosing to not address them until court ordered by a CHIPs (which occurs when filed on). Therefore, filing does not always indicate failure. Through conversations with other counties, the same is true for them, so this problem is not unique to Clay County.

In tracking the students that have gone to court for truancy it was found that 70% have a decrease in the amount of unexcused absences in the first month after court. For those that can be tracked at three months after court all but one student continued to have a decrease in absences.

PART III

- A. Briefly describe any difficulties or problems you have had in implementing the project.**
- B. Explain how the service/program has been collaborating with community partners.**
- C. Attach copies of any press clippings, brochures, letters, survey results, etc. which relate to the project's activities during this quarter.**

A. Staff turnover made it difficult to connect with students and families at the elementary level for the first half of the year. Once all staff were on board the numbers and contacts increased.

B. The Truancy Program collaborates with school personnel and administration on a daily basis. We also work with social services, probation, law enforcement and mental and chemical health agencies in the community.

C. Attached are the results of surveys sent out to principals, teachers/school staff and students. No parents returned surveys.

PART IV

Additional Comments

Minnesota State Statutes define two types of truants: continuing and habitual. Continuing truants are defined as students who miss three or more unexcused days for elementary-age and three or more unexcused periods on three or more different days for students 12 years of age and older. Of the elementary students within Clay County that were referred to the Truancy Intervention Program, 32% met the definition of a continuing truant. This is a 16% decrease from last year. For junior high and high school-age students 36% meet this definition, which is a 3 % decrease from last year. Habitual truants are defined as missing seven or more unexcused days as elementary students or seven or more unexcused periods on seven different days in high school or junior high. 18% of elementary-age students and 62% of junior high and high school students worked with meet the Minnesota definition of a habitual truant this year. A student must meet the criteria of a habitual truant in order for a CHIPs to be filed with social services. The other requirement for a CHIPs is that any student who is 11 1/2 years of age or older and is in need of a CHIPs must have been invited to the County Attorney Mediation Program (CAMP) within Clay County. The meeting is held monthly by the Clay County Attorney's office. This year TIP staff invited 102 students to CAMP.

During the 2006-2007 school year the program began to use the YOQ (Youth Outcome Questionnaire) as a way of accessing the effect of our involvement on students. The YOQ is a self-report questionnaire that measures overall well being in adolescents. The

questionnaire is given twice to students in the school year. The first time at the beginning of TIP involvement and then again at the end of the school year. The hope is that overall scores will decrease from the first report to the second. In the small sample of students that filled out both questionnaires this year the scores did decrease or stay the same in all but one student. During the 2007-2008 school year we hope to have a larger number of students that respond. A larger response will give more validity to the measurement.

Other Information of Note

- The staff in the truancy program made referrals to community service providers for over 160 students this year. Referrals were made to mental health and chemical health services, in-home therapy, public health, Clay County Social Services, and the homeless project, as well as school social workers and counselors.
- Of the 1398 students worked with this year 583 had three or fewer contacts. This means that one conversation with a student, family or the school, or one letter home regarding attendance was made and no further problems with attendance occurred in most of those 583 cases. A small percent of those 583 moved away or transferred schools.
- Contact Information for the Year:

	<u>GC</u>	<u>Asp</u>	<u>Hopk</u>	<u>SGR</u>	<u>MHS</u>	<u>HMS</u>	<u>RRALC</u>	<u>Total</u>
Written	195	146	142	45	282	162	79	1051
Phone	352	577	619	74	433	241	722	3018
Student	268	26	65	4	3775	533	869	5540
Family	75	106	125	27	188	143	130	794
School	1349	511	524	545	1154	547	1243	5873
Services	97	59	28	71	284	133	563	1235
Total	2335	1424	1503	766	6116	1759	3606	17,511

This chart shows the number of contacts for each school in each area. As indicated, the elementary level schools focus on more family and phone contacts while the upper grade levels focus on student contacts. The total number of contacts is down from last year, but the number of students worked with is down and we have one fewer staff working as well. (GC represents the Greater County Schools)

**PART V
Financial Report**

Category	Approved Budget	Accrued Expenditures This Quarter	Accrued Cumulative Expenditures Year to Date	Do Not Use This Space	Do Not Use This Space
1. Salaries	149,597	42,497	124,421		
2. Fringe Benefits	44,879	7375	19,894		
3. Contracted Services	16,718	4581	12,485		
4. Equipment	3000	0	0		
5. Copying/Printing	0	0	0		
6. Telephone/Postage	2500	510	1020		
7. Travel	5000	1755	4694		
8. Supplies and Materials	750	216	587		
9. Other	3250	370	916		
TOTAL	225,694	57,304	164,017		

Contracted service total is administrative costs. The “other” category includes training (\$2500) and advertising (\$750).