2016 Annual Report: Enriching Lives, Improving Our Communities and Celebrating Success
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A Year of Change Still Brings Support for Platte County Residents

It seems overstated but what a year of changes. Long-term Executive Director Janice Tilman retired mid-year, introducing me as her replacement. In getting to know PCBS, Platte County and Kansas City in general, I have found the community to be warm and welcoming and one that takes pride in the quality of life of its citizens. That is evidenced through the strong community support PCBS receives, which allows it to provide excellent services that truly help accomplish the mission for which it was formed.

We are proud to support all people to live, work and play in their communities. In 2016, services were provided to 450+ Platte County citizens with developmental disabilities. Services provided cover the life span, starting with early intervention therapies for very young children. Adult services include residential, vocational/day services, recreation, transportation and more. Additional services that come into play for the later life years include consultations to help people be able to age in place. As a newcomer to PCBS, some events occurring in 2016 that stand out include an all-county picnic and holiday party. Both events allowed over 400 people to come together and celebrate diversity within our community and the richness it brings to life.

The past couple of years have found the industry responding to several broad changes. The Home and Community Based Rule, as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), has offered an opportunity to reflect on the nature of services provided. Services must be person-centered and individualized. PCBS supports these concepts and continues to work with its partners to make adjustments if needed to help people live their best lives. Platte County, along with many other counties in Missouri, worked to respond to a ruling by CMS regarding potential conflict of interest between Medicaid-waivered services and case management. This has been a challenge, as PCBS has great pride in the quality of both. As of the end of 2016, PCBS is close to a solution that is believed will have as little impact on people supported as possible.

The future of PCBS and the services it touches is bright. As we move into a new system that resolves the conflict of interest in 2017, it will allow us to continue to improve the supports we provide. This will, of course, help us to continue to reach our mission of developing, coordinating and implementing services, which support individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving their chosen lifestyles through maximizing their levels of independence and quality of life. It is a great and humble honor to be able to work toward that goal with the wonderful people we are so fortunate to have come into our lives.

Sincerely,

Denise Cross, Executive Director

Executive Director Denise Cross (left) joined Janice Tilman at the latter’s retirement reception.
Provided Services

Service Coordination
478 Persons Served

Citizens of Platte County, regardless of age, who are deemed eligible in the State of Missouri as a person with a developmental disability, are eligible for service coordination provided by Platte County Board of Services. Service coordinators assist these citizens in accessing a wide range of services and supports, including therapies, behavioral support, community integration, home modifications for accessibility, respite and durable medical equipment, to name a few. For adults, the service coordinator can also help if the citizen needs residential supports, day services, employment, recreation/leisure activities or transportation to and from day services and employment.

Residential

Platte County Board of Services provides residential supports within the County for adult citizens who have developmental disabilities. Residential services provide individuals with experiences that maximize independence and facilitate community integration.

Group Living
7 group homes, 40 people supported

The Group Living Program provides individualized residential supports in agency-owned homes and includes 24-hour oversight of persons served. The homes are integrated into various neighborhoods throughout the County.

Supported Living
21 people supported

The Supported Living Program provides individualized residential supports in a person’s own home or apartment at the level of support that matches his/her needs.

Day Habilitation
44 people supported

The Day Habilitation Program provides services that enable adults who have developmental disabilities to develop more independent lifestyles and maximize their relationships in the community. Services are tailored to individual needs and choices and are provided in both group and individual formats. Services are provided at the Day Habilitation Program site and in the community. Participants may also volunteer their time through Meals on Wheels, Harvesters, the Arc Thrift Store, Gladstone Animal Shelter, Hamilton Heights Park and other locations that may become available.

Transportation
151 people supported

Platte County Board of Services provides transportation to and from workshops, day habilitation programs, community employment sites and agency activities for adult citizens of the County who have developmental disabilities. The individuals receiving services may be living independently with their families or in the Residential Program. As part of the Day Habilitation and Residential programs, transportation is available during program times for community integration, medical appointments and other activities.

Recreation
166 people supported

The Recreation Program offers a wide variety of activities designed to develop and enhance the social and leisure skills of individuals with developmental disabilities. Dances, game nights, movies, arts and crafts and outings to local sporting events are but a few examples of regularly scheduled events. The Recreation Department also supports athletes who participate in Special Olympics events such as skiing, snowshoeing, bowling, track and field, golf, swimming, softball and flag football.

Admissions

Admission into service programs of Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled is based upon the individual needs of citizens of Platte County who have developmental disabilities as determined by the Kansas City Regional Office. Individuals shall be considered for services without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, age, ancestry or political affiliation. Platte County Board of Services promotes accessibility for all persons served. If it is determined that services cannot be provided to an individual because of service limitations of the agency or if the individual does not meet the agency’s admission criteria, a referral to another, more appropriate, resource shall be made.

PCBS programs include a diverse and effective range of services, from recreation to residential services that all serve residents of Platte County with developmental disabilities.
Contracted Services

Children's Center for the Visually Impaired

CCVI has the mission to prepare children with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities, to function at their highest potential in the sighted world. CCVI offers specialized instruction for children who are blind or visually impaired. CCVI is dually accredited by the National Council for Agencies Serving People with Blindness or Visual Impairment and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The College Experience for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

CEADD at Maple Woods Community College provides classes on campus to adults with developmental disabilities. Each session provides a varied curriculum ranging from basic skills, life enrichment and vocational training to cultural arts, sciences and practical living.

The Down Syndrome Guild

DSG Platte County Board of Services contracts with DSG to provide Northland Buddies, an activity program for children with Down syndrome; STARS, an after-school program for middle school children with Down syndrome; a picnic for persons with Down syndrome and their families; and educational seminars for professionals working with people with Down syndrome.

Easter Seals Midwest

While inclusive of all children, ESMW provides staff and curriculum designed to meet the special needs of children with developmental disabilities ages birth to five. Therapy services (including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy and special instruction) are available to those who qualify. This program is accredited by CARF and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

The Farmers' House

The Farmers' House provides a community-integrated, hands-on work environment that provides practical vocational skills to youth and adults with developmental disabilities. These skills are learned by operating a cash register, making change, stocking shelves, interacting with customers, planning, tending and harvesting the market garden and much more.

Northland Early Education Center

NEEC provides an Early Education Program structured to care for children with developmental disabilities from birth to five years of age in an integrated program. The center provides these children with the opportunity to learn and develop to their maximum potential. Special therapies (including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language therapy and special instruction) are available to those who qualify. This program is accredited by CARF and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Northland Therapeutic Riding Center

The goal of Northland Therapeutic Riding Center (NTRC) is to improve the quality of life of persons with special needs and create a sense of hope in their future. NTRC uses equine-oriented activities to positively impact the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well being of those it supports.

Platte County Connections

PCC secures resources that support Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled in maximizing the quality of life of Platte County residents who have a developmental disability and their families. Connections also funds in-home respite for persons with developmental disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Institute

RIKC provides employment and rehabilitation services to adults with developmental disabilities who, at the time of admission, are unable to work in the competitive labor market due to limited skill and/or work experience. Workers may gain experience through Rehabilitation Institute Industries that will help them transition into other community job opportunities. This program is accredited by CARF.

School Districts

School districts provide transportation for high school students in their Special Education program to visit job sites and service providers in order to learn about jobs and services available to them as they transition from school to work and adult services.

Vocational Services, Inc.

VSI provides employment and training opportunities to citizens with developmental disabilities. VSI workshops contract with private enterprises for services that consumers are able to perform, such as cleaning, sorting and packaging. Through Supported Employment, VSI also provides job development and supported employment for individuals who work in community settings. VSI is CARF accredited.
PCBS collaborates with an outstanding group of other service organizations to provide specialized services, from employment to special education. As with services that PCBS provides directly, the focus is on providing the most comprehensive and high-quality opportunities possible for residents of Platte County.
Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled has the distinction of having received seven Three-Year Accreditation Awards from CARF, an international accrediting commission. These accreditation outcomes represent the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded.

Accreditation ensures quality in key areas for Platte County taxpayers, consumers of PCBS and their families.

These assurances include:

- Monitoring systems to ensure those services are in the best interests of consumers.
- Consumer-focused, international, state-of-the-art standards of performance for programs and services.
- Accreditation standards that have been developed locally with input and involvement of consumers.
- Active involvement of individuals who are served and their families in the decision-making process.

Accredited services provided by Platte County Board of Services:

- Group Living
- Supported Living
- Day Habilitation
- Service Coordination
- Supported Employment
In 2016, PCBS revenue was $7,938,064. We received $3,073,094 in county tax levy funds. The remainder of the revenue was made up of billable services to Medicaid/Medicaid Waivers, grants, donations and interest. Expenditures in 2016 were $7,526,155.

We were pleased that during this year of transition, we were able to keep expenses below revenues. We look forward to bringing more and ever-improving services to the citizens of Platte County in the future.

The varied services offered to citizens are dependent upon revenues generated by generous taxpayers.

Tax levy dollars helped provide quality residential services that ranged from group living to individualized in-home services. Transportation is particularly challenging for many with a developmental disability. PCBS is proud to offer personalized transportation to and from jobs, programs, appointments, leisure events and more.

More than one-third of the levy goes into transportation services. Thirteen percent of tax dollars were spent to assist people with developmental disabilities to find and maintain employment. Employment services funded for Platte County citizens include vocational training, sheltered workshop employment and competitive community employment.

The remainder of the levy dollars went to recreational services, early intervention services and other related support services.

Complete financials are available upon request.
One Family’s Story: A Platte County Success

Kathy and Mike Martinez are somewhat rare for parents of a child with a developmental disability.

An “Army family,” they had moved 14 times as their son, Andy, was growing. When Mike retired and they decided to settle in one location, they had extensive experience with numerous service organizations and the freedom of being able to select their location.

“I had been wondering for years where we would end up with Andy,” Kathy Martinez recalls now. “We needed somewhere with a very good adult program.”

The family launched a campaign to find the best possible location, interviewing individuals and agencies nationwide. They recalled liking Greater Kansas City when Mike was stationed at Fort Leavenworth. They also began hearing about Platte County and its services for people with developmental disabilities. One comment stayed with her.

“One person told me, ‘If you want to go someplace with excellent services, go to Platte County,’” she recalled.

Focusing her search, she liked what she discovered. “I found out that Platte County not only served adults, but their recreation department was active in Special Olympics, which Andy really enjoyed. There was more, however.

“I still called several agencies, but Platte County gave me the best answers,” she recalled. “I found that they covered the whole thing – everything.”

When they moved here in 2006, the family was pleased to find the reports were not exaggerated. “They helped him get a job. They had activities for him, so he made friends. It was like the sun came out for him. He just blossomed, and his confidence went up.”

Not surprisingly, the family cannot endorse Platte County Board of Services enough. “When you move for a program and then find out it’s everything you hoped for, that’s really special,” Kathy concludes. “I can’t say enough about them.”

Andy Martinez was a medal winner in three sports in the 2017 Winter Special Olympics held in Austria. Andy’s parents Kathy and Mike Martinez moved to Platte County at the end of Mike’s military career specifically due to reports of outstanding services for people with developmental disabilities.
Mission Statement

The mission of Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled is to develop, coordinate and implement services which support individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving their chosen lifestyles through maximizing their levels of independence and quality of life.

Vision Statement

Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled provides services promoting normal life patterns in which the rights and responsibilities of citizens with developmental disabilities are both respected and encouraged.