2017 ANNUAL REPORT

TOGETHER WE SHINE

PLATTE COUNTY BOARD OF SERVICES
SHINE

On August 21, 2017 much of North America was in the path of a total eclipse of the sun. Not until April of 2024 will that happen again. This amazing experience was met with much anticipation and fascination by us here at PCBS. There is a song by musical artist Jason Mraz called “Shine”, telling the fable of how, once upon a time, the moon and the sun made a deal with the sky. One would light the day, the other, the night. However, the moon felt like a liar; it didn’t light the night sky, it reflected light from the sun. But the sun recognized the interdependence, and was grateful to the moon for its role, and continued to send its rays, never saying “you owe me”. The moon and the sun work together and share their unique qualities, much like people must do to create the best experience for all.

Everyone has talents and gifts that are valuable and unique to them. At PCBS we have staff talents for supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that allow them to achieve their goals in life. We also have talents for supporting our community to allow the experience in valuing all people. The people we support have their own unique talents to share. Some of those are easily acknowledged, such as a well-performed work task or a piece of art. Some are more subtle, such as the ability to help another see a situation in a new way, or to help notice something that might otherwise be missed. Then, too, some of us have a talent for celebration and honoring traditions and holidays and some know when you need a laugh or need a hug. The more aware we become of the talents of the people around us, the richer our personal experience can be. We realize that no person is everything, nor do we need to be. We have each other to lean on and that is what makes a community. It is the realization of wanting the same things: to be happy, healthy, valued and loved. In Mraz’ same song, “We ain’t that different, we huddle underneath the same stars.”

Within this year’s report, you will find a representation of ways in which PCBS shined on the Platte County community in 2017. There were broad reaching advocacy and awareness efforts to benefit everyone. There were also tailored services to benefit individuals. There were efforts that included our partners across the region, state and nation to benefit systems. PCBS worked hard to accomplish its mission of supporting people in achieving their chosen lifestyles and quality of life. We are grateful to the community for the continued opportunity, like the sun and moon, to shine on and for one another.

“I can do things you cannot. You can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things.” –Mother Teresa

Denise Cross
Executive Director
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PCBS MISSION STATEMENT

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.

PCBS VISION

Provide services promoting normal life patterns in which the rights and responsibilities of citizens with developmental disabilities are both respected and encouraged.
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

In 2017, PCBS revenue was $7,929,073. We received $3,181,537 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 2017 were $7,369,292.

We were pleased that during another 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 possible as a result of 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 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.
PROVIDED SERVICES

ADMISSIONS
Admission into service programs of Platte County Board of Services 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.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS
PCBS works to improve the lives of people through a variety of awareness and advocacy efforts. Self-Advocacy meetings are regularly held with a wide variety of topics. Topics have included public safety, disability awareness, and more. PCBS played host to Project STIR, which stands for Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility. This seven week class brought people with disabilities together to teach them effective self-advocacy skills. During March, PCBS also celebrates Developmental Disability Awareness Month. Community partners in advocacy and awareness efforts have included the local fire department, law enforcement, national self-advocacy groups, the Platte County Commission and more.

DAY HABILITATION
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.

RECREATION
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 activities.
The Recreation Department also supports the training of athletes who participate in sporting events such as skiing, snowshoeing, bowling, bocce ball, track and field, golf, swimming, softball and flag football.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING
Platte County Board of Services provides residential supports within the county for adults who have developmental disabilities. Residential services provide individuals with experiences that maximize independence and facilitate community involvement.

- **Group Living.** 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.** 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.

SERVICE COORDINATION
In 2017, residents of Platte County, regardless of age, who were 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 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 with residential supports, day services, employment, recreation/leisure activities or transportation to and from day services and employment. This service will no longer be provided by PCBS, however, it will be adapted to meet future county needs going forward.

TRANSPORTATION
Platte County Board of Services provides transportation to and from day habilitation programs, employment sites and agency activities for adults 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.
CONTRACTED SERVICES

ABILITY KC
Ability KC 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 that will help them transition into other community job opportunities. This program is accredited by CARF.

CHILDREN’S CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED
CCVI’s mission is 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. They are 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.

DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
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, physical, speech & language and special instruction, are available to those who qualify. This program is accredited by CARF and the National Association of 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.

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 believes in individualized support plans that cover the life span. When our staff can be a part of maintaining the fluidity of life’s ever-changing needs, that is a satisfying environment for everyone.

One benefit to individualized support is that it can be tailored or altered if those needs change. Sometimes people only require a bit of support, and sometimes something changes that causes needs to “ramp up” to a more intensive support. Quality supports should adjust with life and always strive to help the person maximize their desired level of independence, privacy and dignity. Ron Zimmerman’s story is one of many that PCBS has been able to share in.

Born in 1938, in an era of southern treats like moon pies, which he is quite fond of, Ron also likes another southern concoction, “RC” Royal Crown Cola. Much of his younger adult life was spent trying to find a living situation that offered him freedom and privacy, while helping him live a healthy and safe life. He was able to find this through PCBS. For a number of years, he lived in an apartment in Platte County. There he had supports that were tailored to his needs, including staff checking in on him on a regular basis, making sure that daily living things such as budgeting and shopping were being taken care of. Beyond that, Ron lived a very independent lifestyle.

The time came when Ron found he would benefit with a little extra support, a challenge for every one of us who experiences it, whether with themselves or others in our lives. He indicated that by having increased supports, he would be able to continue to live as he desired and yet be safe. Still with PCBS as a service provider, Ron moved into an ISL with two roommates. He has come to enjoy their company, and the flexibility of the ISL format has also allowed him to maintain his desired privacy and time to himself.

A passion with Ron that he has kept up with is listening to jazz music, both instrumental and vocal. He collects CDs and does a lot of his buying and selling at the Half Price Bookstore in Westport when his staff can take him. One favorite is Terry Gibbs, who is a vibraphonist and band leader, who has performed with notables like Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Alice Coltrane and Woody Herman. Another favorite is Jeri Southern, who was a jazz pianist and singer from the 1940s-50s.

Ron has been a long time employee at VSI in Liberty. He began working there April 20, 1980 and after 38 years, had his retirement date set for April 20, 2018. His main job has been working the line—preparing books for packaging to be shipped to various locations. As his retirement becomes official, PCBS supports will adjust again.

Ron did want people to know, though, before he even came to PCBS and started with VSI, he worked in the Kansas City community as a ticket taker in one of the downtown movie theatres. That remains a fond experience of his. Ron has elected to spend his golden years giving back to his community through volunteer work as supported by the PCBS Day Habilitation program. He will also maintain his active presence in the community through this program and enjoy socializing with friends.
AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

CARF
CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Institutes. PCBS has met their accreditation standards the last seven times, each for a three-year accreditation period. The survey team visits are onsite and identify an organization’s strengths and areas of improvement, ensuring that we adhere to quality standards of practice. PCBS was last accredited in the summer of 2017.

MACDDS
Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services. MACDDS is dedicated to the promotion of county initiatives for developmental disabilities. They are a centralized resource for best practices and legislative issues, including Senate Bill 40, meeting monthly in Columbia.

MARF
Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. MARF consists of two working divisions: Community Living and Employment. They advocate for Missourians with disabilities through public policies and strengthening member organizations.

NCC
PCBS is a member of the Northland Career Connections consortia, which is a group of agencies that work together to assist individuals that have developmental disabilities with employment. Agencies include: Easter Seals Midwest, Missouri Parents Act, The Farmer’s House, Park Hill High School, Park Hill South High School, Department of Mental Health, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Ability KC, Center for Human Services, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, The Whole Person and Greater Kansas City Business Leadership Network.

NORTHLAND REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PCBS is a member of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, which covers both Platte and Clay Counties. In their service directory, we are listed under “Social Services.”