



#### Coalition Directors

**Jonathan M Lewis**  
Chief Operating Officer  
LCPC

**Crystal Seley**  
Chairman  
Mission Family Williston

**W.O. "Brett" Beauchamp III**  
Secretary  
Undersheriff, Levy Sheriff's Office

**Robert Wells**  
Treasurer  
Retired Military

**Sheriff Robert B. McCallum**  
Honorary Board Member  
Levy County Sheriff's Office

**Mr. Jeff Edison**  
Honorary Board Member  
Education

**Chief Dennis Strow**  
Honorary Board Member  
Retired Law Enforcement

#### Coalition Coordinators

**Deedee Merando**  
Coalition Development

**Joelle Higgins**  
Youth Services

**Sarah-Michelle Swartz**  
Youth Development

**Samantha Dean**  
Community Health Projects

**Octavious Lee**  
Project Quality Assurance

**Trace Touchton**  
Community Projects

June 1, 2025

Levy County Board of County Commissioners  
355 South Court Street  
Bronson, FL 32621

Dear Commissioners:

First, thank you for your continued support of the Coalition. The funding provided by the Commission is vital to our operations and we cannot thank you enough. We also want to express our sincere gratitude for allowing us to be a part of the Opioid Settlement Funds...these funds will be put to great use in Levy County, and we look forward to sharing some of our good work with you in the near future.

The Coalition is continuing to seek additional outside funding (funding from sources outside of Levy County), to maintain current services and programs. As promised, we increased outside funding to serve Bronson, Cedar Key and Yankeetown during our last budget year. We have maintained and, in some cases, even increased programming in Chiefland and Williston.

#### Programming Currently In Place

Currently the Coalition has afterschool and summer programs in all five Levy county communities. We conducted social norming campaigns across the county such as Friday Night Done Right and Natural High, programs designed to encourage youth to spend their free-time free of drugs and bad decisions. We have mentoring programs available in all five levy communities as well, pairing a youth with a mentor who sees them at least once per week. Other items include RX Drop Off's, Responsible Vendor Training, and various other items aiming to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors for youth. We serve approximately 850 youth each day, and over the course of a year, 90% of all students in Levy County.

#### Serving Our Youth, Their Families and Community At Large

The Coalition continues to serve youth and families in all five Levy Communities and 100% of our funding is reinvested into these communities. Through our services provided to our youth population (*and their families*), we subsequently employ 175 or more contract workers (*teachers, assistants, student workers, custodians, drivers, etc.*), of which we typically employee at least 40-50 each and every workday, ensuring that all funding we bring into Levy County, stays in our great county! We also employed over 30 student workers, providing them with an opportunity to gain knowledge and learn many of the "soft skills" required to be successful in the workforce.

#### We Need the Commission

The funding provided to the Coalition by the Commission is a lifeline that assists us with required program expenses that may not fit into a grant budget. It is truly a great blessing and we do not take it for granted. While we are immensely grateful for the Opioid Settlement Funding, the Opioid Settlement Funding has a very narrow focus and does not allow for "out of the box expenses". The Commissions yearly allocation to LCPC is very needed and often covers expenses that are required to conduct business, but not covered under grants.

We did not request any increase during the 2023-24 or 2024-25 budget year. We are requesting \$29,308 for the 2025-26 budget year, a 1.5% increase from the 2024-25 \$28,875 allocation.

We will be grateful for any funding provided by the Commission. Thank you for your time regarding this request. We sincerely appreciate all the Commission has done to support the youth of Levy County.

Respectfully,

**Jonathan M Lewis**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Levy County Prevention Coalition

#### Coalition Staff

For a complete staff list, visit our website

Randol Weir, Executive Project Assistant  
Tameka Porter, Youth Development Specialist

Doris McLeod, Data Analyst

James Sykes, Prevention Specialist

Chase Eschbach, Prevention Specialist

Ivette Bautista, Prevention Specialist

#### Project Assistants

Lucas Giffen; Sierra McLeod; Ronald Wallace

Payton Hoover; Yuli Jarmillo; Natalia Centeno

Chloe Moore; Joharis Guido; Avery Lewis

#### Coalition Partners:

CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc.;  
Department of Children & Families;  
FL Dept. of Juvenile Justice;  
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Admin;  
Levy County Sheriff's Office;  
School Board of Levy County;  
Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco;  
City of Williston;  
FL Dept. of Education



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