



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

Superintendent Chris Cowart
Honorary Advisory Member
School Board of Levy County

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

May 1, 2024

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 include additional grants to serve the Bronson, Cedar Key, and Yankeetown areas. Although we currently serve these areas, we would like to expand services. We believe over the next year we will acquire additional funding, bringing these areas to similar levels we have achieved 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 700 youth each day, and over the course of a year, 85-90% 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 150 or more contract workers (*teachers, assistants, custodians, drivers, etc.*), of which we typically employ at least 35-45 each and every workday, ensuring that all funding we bring into Levy County, stays in our great county!

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.

For the 2024-25 budget year we are not requesting an increase but are requesting \$28,875 (2023 funding level).

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
Judson Hancock, Prevention Specialist
Lillian Morgan, Project Assistant
Doris McLeod, Data Analyst
Cheryl Davis, Program Specialist
Evan Morgan, Project Assistant
Lucas Giffen, Project Assistant
Ben Swilley, Prevention Specialist



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

P.O. Box 201
Williston, FL 32696
(352) 328-3540
(352) 328-3541 fax
www.levyprevention.org