

2016-2017 Officers and Executive Committee

Gary H. Griffin
Chairman

Katie Haas
Vice Chairman

Gregory J. Blurton
Treasurer

Jonathan L. Romine
Secretary

Jon C. Cecil
Immediate Past Chair

Marshall T. Bower, Esq.
President & CEO

Greg Adkins, Ed.D.
Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.
Richard G. Lewis, II, Ph.D.
Harlan Parrish*
Steve Pontius
Robbie Roepstorff*

Board Members

Keith Banasiak
John Patrick Boland
Amanda L. Brock, Esq.
Barbara Calabro, Ph.D.
Mark J. Castellano
Brent Crawford
Justin Damiano
Christine Davis, Ed.D.
Kyle DeCicco
Terry Eberle
Thomas Fewster, Jr.
Thomas H. Giles
Commissioner Brian Hamman
John Hayes
Mayor Randy Henderson
Jeffrey L. Kunberger
Michele Laboda, D.M.D.
Mark Loren
Cindy McCurry-Ross
Stacey Mercado
Joe Mitchell
Thomas A. Mueller
Cole Peacock
Sheriff Mike Scott
Steven K. Teuber
Peter Tuffo
Mark Weber
Howard L. Wheeler, Jr.

Emeritus

Richard Ackert*
Chris Bundschu*
Eva Freeman*
Charles K. Idelson*
Gerald Laboda, D.M.D.*
Kenneth A. O'Donnell*
Steve Personette*
Steven C. Shimp*
E. Bruce Strayhorn*
Linda K. Taylor*
Gary V. Trippe*

*Past Board Chairman

The Foundation for Lee County Schools, Inc. is a not-for-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization established in 1986. Its mission is to enhance and enrich the quality of public education in Lee County for students and educators through programs, resources and experiences made possible through corporate, individual and educational partnerships.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



December 9, 2016

Representative Matt Caldwell
Chairman, Lee County Legislation Delegation
The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

Re: Lee County REACH Initiative 2017

Dear Representative Caldwell,

It is with pleasure that The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools lends its support to the REACH Initiative for Lee County. This innovative strategy to increase capacity for children's mental health treatment, while using existing resources in our community, is a progressive step in addressing this critical need in our community. We applaud this effort.

Undiagnosed and/or poorly managed pediatric behavioral problems cost communities and primary care systems in multiple ways. Among them are an overuse of expensive psychiatric medications, using non-evidence based prescribing, and an increased use of specialty mental health services. Lee County has stretched its capacity for publically-funded mental health services. Giving pediatricians the tools to treat some of these children in their practice will allow faster access to care for children with significant needs. It will also ensure that medication is appropriately combined with therapeutic interventions when necessary. It will allow us to build a community who is ready and able to treat children's mental health issues without lines and frustration.

While 23 pediatricians were trained in last year's pilot project, this year's goal is to train the rest of Lee County's Pediatricians is astounding. Allowing Lee County to be among the first in the national to have ALL pediatricians trained in psychopharmacology for children is certainly an honor for our community. Under the collaborative supervision of Healthy Lee, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, SalusCare and Lee Memorial, this initiative is certain to be successful and have a lasting impact on generations to come in Lee County. We are honored to be supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Marshall T. Bower, Esq.
President & CEO

The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.

2266 Second Street / Fort Myers, Florida 33901 / P.O. Box 1608 / Fort Myers, Florida 33902

PHONE: 239-337-0433 / FAX: 239-337-7077

www.LeeSchoolFoundation.org

Facebook.com/TheFoundationforLeeCountyPublicSchools





SalusCare

Recovery Begins Here

Legislative Budget Request

AMOUNT REQUESTED = \$442,709.00

Funding would be used to secure the REACH Institute to provide training conducted by national leaders in child psychiatry, psychology and pediatrics for 25 local (Lee County, FL) pediatricians (Primary Pediatric Psychopharmacology training.) The training provided would be the latest and most effective evidence-based therapies to improve the mental health of children and adolescents. Intervention with child and adolescent patients at the pediatrician level allows them to remain with their trusted medical provider whom, after training, is empowered and tooled to manage his/her patients' behavioral health symptomology. Not needing to refer the child or adolescent to a specialist for behavioral health care increases the incidence of recovery and symptom management by double digits. The REACH-trained pediatricians also have access to a local consultation line for "back-up" support and making referrals for more "intensive" behavioral health disorders that require psychiatrist intervention. Trained pediatricians also participate in a six-month consultation process with ongoing training and support provided to further integrate and practice newly-acquired skills and techniques. This reduces wait times for care, increase system capacity and builds community capacity through purposeful integration of behavioral healthcare and primary healthcare efforts. By increasing access to mental health care for children and adolescents through an enhanced partnership with pediatricians who are trained and provide medication management and integrated care to patients in need, SalusCare believes this increases the likelihood of children/adolescents succeeding in community-based services rather than requiring residential or hospital-based care.

The local pediatricians trained through this program on the latest and most effective evidence-based therapies to improve the mental health of children and adolescents are empowered and tooled to manage their patients' behavioral health symptomology.

Outcome data collected post initial training of 23 pediatricians within our community from April 2016 revealed the following:

- 96% of physicians indicated that they felt confident to treat pediatric behavioral health problems effectively with evidence-based therapies.
- 93% of physicians stated that they would "change" their current practice – meaning maintaining and treating children rather than referring them out to a "specialist."

In addition, the funds would be used to hire two case managers, two care coordinators, one program manager, one part-time support staff and the supplies necessary for the program to operate most effectively for patients, beyond just the training of pediatricians.

Case managers would provide an array of services to assist patients and their families cope with their health or medical situations in the most effective way possible, thereby achieving a better quality of life. Case managers help to identify a patient's goals, needs and resources and, together, they formulate a plan to meet those goals.

Care coordinators are crucial for the program to succeed on a holistic level. Care coordination involves deliberately organizing patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants involved with a patient's care to achieve safer and more effective care, with the main goal to meet patients' needs and preferences. Equally important, providers work together to keep patients and their families informed and to ensure that effective referrals and transitions take place. All of this information is used to guide the delivery of safe, appropriate, and effective care. Care coordination is identified by the Institute of Medicine as a "key strategy that has the potential to improve the effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of the American health care system." Well-designed, targeted care coordination that is delivered properly can improve outcomes for patients, providers and payers.

Although the need for care coordination is clear, there still remains obstacles within our current health care system that must be overcome to provide this type of care. Current health care systems are often disjointed, and processes vary among and between primary care sites and specialty sites. Patients are often unclear about why they are being referred from primary care to a specialist, how to make appointments, and what to do after seeing a specialist. Specialists do not consistently receive clear reasons for the referral or adequate information on tests that have already been done. Primary care physicians often do not receive information about what happened in a referral visit. The care coordination provided to patients by SalusCare is part of a broader integrated care model designed to alleviate treatment barriers and provide the best care possible.

The **Program Manager** provides clinical supervision to the case managers and care coordinators, collect data, measure and report outcomes and be responsible for the overall success of the program.

The **Support Staff** position provides administrative support to the case managers, care coordinators and program manager, thus allowing these individuals to focus on patient care.

The integrated care model of pediatrician training, case management and care coordination for adolescents and families cannot occur in a vacuum – it requires support from our community, and partnerships forged, in order for it to succeed. Currently at the forefront of this effort with SalusCare is Healthy Lee, a broad-based community coalition. The Healthy Lee movement was created to empower and inspire the people of Lee County, Florida regarding healthy lifestyle choices through education and action. Among its many initiatives, Healthy Lee has convened a community collaborative to provide a comprehensive continuum of care for behavioral health, based on the current needs assessment for Lee County residents. This involves a compassionate, coordinated approach to managing behavioral health

across the continuum of care including emergency care, inpatient and outpatient hospital settings, primary care facilities, as well as education and community-based organizations.

Target populations

SalusCare believes two populations within our community will benefit from the program.

First and foremost, children and adolescents ages 5-17 experiencing behavioral health symptomology currently under the care and treatment of a pediatrician will benefit from this program. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics Study, 13% of children and adolescents have anxiety disorders, 6.2% have mood disorders, 10.3% have disruptive disorders, and 2% have substance abuse disorders, for a total of 20.9% having one or more mental health disorders. The expectation is that many youth with ADHD, depression and anxiety diagnoses could be managed and maintained by pediatricians and other primary care providers with intentional collaboration with case management and outpatient services provided by SalusCare. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 13% of children in Florida, ages 4 to 17, have ADHD and nearly 120,000 adolescents (9% of all adolescents) per year from 2009–2013 had at least one major depressive episode. The CDC also reports that 55% of children with ADHD perform below average in school and 35% have run-ins with law enforcement.

Secondly, the pediatricians trained through this program on the latest and most effective evidence-based therapies to improve mental health of children and adolescents will be empowered and tooled to manage their patients' behavioral health symptomology.

Impact on the community served

The impact on our community thus far has been extremely powerful and far reaching, and could be even more so, given the impact our pilot program has had to date. The community is stronger due to the initial successes and outcomes of the pilot program, although a bigger impact will occur with additional funds.

Given there is a national shortage of child/adolescent psychiatrists, thus creating access to care issues not only in Florida, but nationally as well, care not provided (or offered too late) often results in increased public costs borne by state government or not at all.

According to research conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health, one-half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Scientists are discovering that changes in the body leading to mental illness may start much earlier, before any symptoms appear. Pediatricians trained by REACH will help children and their parents manage difficulties early in life, thus preventing more deep end services such as residential or hospital-based care.

The Association for Children's Mental Health reports that only 40% of children with behavioral health concerns that are left untreated graduate from high school, and more than 50% of students age 14 and older with behavioral health issues simply drop out of high school. Researchers from the CDC, the University of Florida-Jacksonville, and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center found that

more than 50% of children with ADHD also had another mental disorder, and these children were more likely to have other problems, such as struggling with friendships and getting into trouble in school or with the police.

According to a recent report from WUFT News in Northern Florida, there has been a 48% increase in the number of students seeking counseling on Florida's public university campuses. Campus counseling centers also report an increase in more severe cases, with 4,200 visits in the 2013-14 academic year classified as emergency or crisis visits, involving issues like severe depression, acute anxiety and suicidal thoughts. The data shows that since the fall of 2008, the number of students seeking counseling services rose 48%, to 20,495 seeking services, in the 2013-14 academic year. There were also 163,000 counseling sessions, a 67% increase. More than 300 students were involuntarily treated under Florida's Baker Act during that academic year as well. SalusCare's request for funding, coupled with the push in Florida's state university system to seek funding to expand psychiatric and counseling services to students at 12 institutions, reinforces the need for expanded mental health and substance use treatment services in our state.

There is also a correlation between mental illness and obesity in our youth. Recently reported data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey estimates that 17% of youth ages 2-19 years old to be overweight. A core feature of depression is decreased interest and motivation for activity. Depression and obesity have shared symptoms such as sleep problems, sedentary behavior and an emotional intake of food. These are not coincidences, but rather a shared pathophysiological response. Successful treatment of depression in children and youth may also help lower the childhood obesity rates.

Children and adolescents receiving appropriate mental health services, when needed, will more likely be successful in school settings and less likely to drop out, less likely to encounter the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and less likely to require more intensive and costly services that are not as effective as community-based care. An added benefit to receiving these appropriate mental health services when needed may also be a reduction in childhood obesity rates.

Training pediatricians with the most effective evidence-based therapies to treat these disorders in a holistic manner, rather than referring out for behavioral health services, assures recovery and compliance with treatment as well as whole family engagement and participation. Additionally, offering case management and care coordination services will not only help the patients, but the families too, as they navigate an obstacle-filled healthcare system. Only through a broader integrated care model will we truly be able to treat patients' illnesses holistically, thus preventing more deep end and costly services.



December 19, 2016

Hon. Matt Caldwell
209 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: Lee County REACH Initiative 2017

Dear Representative Caldwell,

It is with absolute pleasure that the College of Health Professions and Social Work at Florida Gulf Coast University greatly supports the REACH Initiative for Lee County. As a member of the Executive Committee of HealthyLee for the past 5 years, and now as a member of the Children's Mental Health Taskforce of HealthyLee, I have personally committed to supporting and caring for the residents of Lee County as one of mine and my College's primary community initiatives. In this regard, I have engaged the faculty leadership from my Departments of Counseling and Social Work to integrate our faculty and students in an effort to intimately support and expand behavioral health services in Lee County as a part of the REACH Initiative. The REACH Initiative represents a comprehensive and innovative strategy to increase capacity for children's mental health treatment, while using existing resources in our community. The program is a progressive step in addressing critical behavioral health needs in our community. My College and I stand behind and applaud these efforts.

Undiagnosed and/or poorly managed pediatric behavioral problems cost communities and primary care systems in multiple ways. Among them are: overuse of expensive psychiatric medications, use of non-evidence based prescriptions, and an increased use of specialty mental health services. Lee County has stretched its capacity for publically-funded mental health services. Providing Pediatricians the tools to treat some of these children in their practices will allow faster access to care for children with significant needs and will provide greater efficiency of existing resources. Collectively, we can continue to build a community who is ready and able to treat children's mental health issues. While 23 pediatricians were trained in last year's pilot project, we have set a lofty goal to train the rest of Lee County's Pediatricians!! Allowing Lee County to be among the first in the national to have ALL pediatricians trained in psychopharmacology for children would be an honor for our community. Under the collaborative supervision of HealthyLee, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, SalusCare, and Lee Health, this initiative is certain to be successful and have a lasting impact on generations to come in Lee County. Thank you for your consideration, and any support you can provide to the REACH Initiative.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mitchell L. Cordova'.

Mitchell L. Cordova, PhD
Dean & Professor



December 9, 2016



State Representative Matt Caldwell . District 79
15191 Homestead Road, Building A
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Re: Lee County REACH Initiative 2017

Dear Representative Matt Caldwell:

It is with pleasure that the Southwest Florida Community Foundation lends it's support to the REACH Initiative for Lee County. This innovative strategy to increase capacity for children's mental health treatment, while using existing resources in our community, is a progressive step in addressing this critical need in our community. We applaud this effort.

Undiagnosed and/or poorly managed pediatric behavioral problems cost communities and primary care systems in multiple ways. Among them are an overuse of expensive psychiatric medications, using non-evidence based prescribing, and an increased use of specialty mental health services. Lee County has stretched its capacity for publically-funded mental health services. Giving pediatricians the tools to treat some of these children in their practice will allow faster access to care for children with significant needs. It will also ensure that medication is appropriately combined with therapeutic interventions when necessary. It will allow us to build a community who is ready and able to treat children's mental health issues without lines and frustration.

While 23 pediatricians were trained in last year's pilot project, this year's goal is to train the rest of Lee County's Pediatricians is astounding. Allowing Lee County to be among the first in the national to have ALL pediatricians trained in psychopharmacology for children is certainly an honor for our community. Under the collaborative supervision of Healthy Lee, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, SalusCare and Lee Memorial, this initiative is certain to be successful and have a lasting impact on generations to come in Lee County. We are honored to be supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Sarah Owen
President & CEO
Southwest Florida Community Foundation



HealthyLee

Chairman, Robbie Roepstorff

Executive Committee Members:

Greg Adkins, PhD
Christine Brady
Mitchell Cordova, PhD
Gray Davis
Pastor William Glover
Dennie Hamilton
Teri Hansen
Ed Houck, PhD
Mike Jung
Scott Kashman
Jim Nathan
Kevin Newingham
Sarah Owen
Annette Pounders
Jorge Quinonez, MD
William Schroeder
Ben Siegel
Cliff Smith
Angela Swartzman
Judge Andrew Swett
Judie Zimomra

Steering Committee Members:

Jeff Allbritten, PhD
Samira Beckwith
Michael Biel
John Patrick Boland
Marshall Bower
Jessica Carter Peer
Joe Catti
Veronica Culbertson
Roger Desjarlais
Peter Dys
Don Eslick
Leonardo Garcia
Todd Gates
Gary Griffin
Al Hanser
Sandie Horvath, RN
Gary Hudson
Scott Kashman
Saeed Kazemi
Skip Leonard
Kevin Lewis
David Lucas
Gail Markham
Joe Mazurkiewicz, PhD
Frank Mazzeo, Jr. DDS
Dan Miles
Marliese Mooney
Abdul'Haq Muhammed
Andrew Oakes Lottridge
Danny Pate
Guert Peet
Steve Riggs
Jonathan Romine
Steven Sarkozy
Carl Schwing
David Shellenbarger
Shari Skinner, MD
Sara Stensrud
Sandy Stilwell
J. Nathan Stout
Rev. Israel Suarez
John Szerlag
Elmer Tabor
Gary Trippe
Meredith Viskovic

December 21, 2016

Representative Matt Caldwell, Chairman, Lee County Legislative Delegation
15191 Homestead Road, Building A
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971-9749

Re: Lee County REACH Initiative 2017

Dear Representative Caldwell:

It is with pleasure that Healthy Lee lends its support to the REACH Initiative for Lee County. This innovative strategy to increase capacity for children's mental health treatment, while using existing community resources, is a progressive step in addressing this critical need within our community. The Healthy Lee priority for Behavioral Health and the Children's Behavioral Health Task Force have brought together all community interests to identify the best practices which we have begun to implement collaboratively. This includes businesses, FGCU, Lee County Schools, community physicians, Lee Health, Mental Health and Drug Court, SalusCare, SWFL Community Foundation and others all trying to align community resources to meet the unmet needs for our children. The success of our first REACH training has encouraged us to pursue this program for all pediatricians, and later offer it to other primary care physicians. We applaud this effort.

Undiagnosed and/or poorly managed pediatric behavioral problems cost communities and primary care systems in multiple ways. Among these are an overuse of expensive psychiatric medications, using non-evidence based prescribing, and an increased use of specialty mental health services. Lee County has stretched its capacity for publicly-funded mental health services. Giving pediatricians the tools to more accurately identify and treat some of these children in their practice will allow faster access to care for children with significant needs. It will also ensure that medication is appropriately combined with therapeutic interventions when necessary. It will allow us to build a community that is ready and able to treat children's mental health issues without lines and frustration.

While training 23 pediatricians in last year's pilot project was an amazing accomplishment, this year's goal to train the rest of Lee County's Pediatricians is outstanding, and places Lee County among the first in the nation to have all pediatricians trained in psychopharmacology for children. What an honor for our community! Under the collaborative supervision of Healthy Lee, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, SalusCare and Lee Health, this initiative is certain to be successful and have a lasting impact on generations to come in Lee County. We are honored to be supporting this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Robbie B. Roepstorff

Robbie Roepstorff
Chairman, Healthy Lee
President, Edison National Bank