

Awareness Month

- ◆ Children's Eye and Safety Month

Upcoming Events

- ◆ [Sip & Learn](#)

Sweet N Savory

Chicken Salad

- ◆ 2 large boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped
- ◆ 1/4 celery Greek nonfat plain yogurt
- ◆ 1/3 c. celery, diced
- ◆ 1/3 c. apple, diced
- ◆ 1/3 c. grapes, halved
- ◆ 1 tsp. tarragon
- ◆ 1/2 tsp. salt
- ◆ Combine the chicken, fruit, celery, and almonds in a bowl.
- ◆ Whisk yogurt and spices together, then pour over chicken mixture, and stir until evenly coated.
- ◆ Serve immediately or refrigerate to chill.

The Fundamentals

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St. Louis County Children's Service Fund Announces Continued Investment for Discovery Initiative

On Wednesday, July 20, 2016, the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund (CSF) Board announced awards of over \$1 million in continued investment in its Discovery Initiative.

Launched in 2014, the Discovery Initiative aimed to foster innovation through funding agencies that adapted existing programs, developed new models of intervention, or conducted impact testing to improve behavioral health and substance abuse services. Over the course of 18 months, agencies tested new methodologies to refine the existing system of care for the children and youth in St. Louis County.

"CSF is continuously looking for ways to provide behavioral health and substance abuse services through enhanced and effective service delivery," Connie J. Cun-

ningham, CSF's executive director said. "The awards announced today are another example of the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund's commitment to use public funds to find new strategic ap-



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proaches to further develop an integrated system of care in St. Louis County."

The Discovery Initiative has identified nine of the original agencies qualified for continued investment for most closely meeting specified

criteria identified by CSF in an effort to achieve successful outcomes. These agencies will now enter the second phase of Discovery referred to as the Innovation Cycle.

"The Board is thrilled to continue funding agencies that have identified innovative and effective evidence-based solutions that are already making significant impacts on our community," said Terry Crow, CSF's Board chair. "The level of ingenuity and inventiveness is rather impressive."

The funded projects cover the areas of early childhood interventions, cultural competency, impact testing, school-based and related interventions, and juvenile justice prevention.

For a brief description of the 2016 Innovation partner agencies, please continue to next page.

Early Childhood and Mental Health

The expulsion rate in pre-school is three times higher than any other grade level.

That alarming statistic was shared at the Early Childhood and Mental Health Forum co-hosted by the St. Louis County Children's Service Fund and the St. Louis Mental Health Board on August 3rd.

Dr. Joan Luby, of Washington University, and Steve Zwolak, from CSF's partner agency LUME, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd for two hours about the importance of building positive, nurturing relationships early in life.

Over the past couple of decades, the needs of young chil-

dren in the first five years of life for positive social and emotional development are becoming recognized as a critical component of school readiness and overall health and well-being.

It has been proven that positive relationships with caring



Keeping Kids First

Announcing 2016 Innovation Partner Agencies

Bilingual International Assistant Services (BIAS)

Project Safe Space: Implementation an approach that targets refugee and immigrants in the Ritenour School District that is cultural-ly informed for youth experiencing or witnessing trauma.

Committed Caring Faith Communities

B-4 Boys: Psychoeducational curriculum focused on African American males 8-16 years of age modeled after the successful Girls Holla Back! This is a community-based and intergenerational approach to address mental health and substance abuse prevention.

LUME Institute

LUME Approach: A professional development model that improves emotionally responsiveness of early childhood educators. The goal is to reduce the harmful effects of social and emotional problems of young children from birth to five.

Nurses for Newborns

Infant Mental Health, From the Beginning: Implementation of home visit guidelines to observe and screen for normal infant behavior and bonding patterns to address inappropriate infant attachment and its negative effects on infant mental health.

Places for People

Positive Youth Justice, Family Outreach and Community Services: Implementation of "Positive Youth Justice" counseling and interventions that includes four components: Family Outreach, Inter-generational Assessment, Service Delivery, and Community Building.

St. Louis Art Works

Evaluating Best Practices: Arts and apprenticeship model that aims in part to impact the behavioral health of participants.

SSM Cardinal Glennon

Program Adaptation of PEERS: Implementation of the Program Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS). Abbreviated PEERS model to 8 weeks (from 16 weeks) and includes approaches to address prevention of bullying, victimization, and ostracism.

Washington University

The Spot: Implementation of early identification and prevention of mental health and substance abuse symptoms in an embedded health center model for the Jennings School District.

Youth In Need

R.I.S.E.: A community-based mentoring program for 9th grade students at Ritenour. The focus: skill building on protective factors for substance abuse and behavioral problems using problem-solving, community service projects, and extracurricular activity engagement.

Early Childhood and Mental Health

adults increases the likelihood children and youth flourish and become productive adults themselves.

With 75% of St. Louis County's young children in care outside the home for 40+ hours a week, having educators trained to recognize and address potential issues is crucial to healthy development.

The LUME Approach does just that.

While much focus has been placed on having children ready for school, the LUME Approach also ensures that schools are ready for the students.

LUME has developed a curriculum for professional de-



Shelly Williams, of the Nine Network, takes questions from a packed house.

velopment for early childhood educators that focuses on the teacher's ability to "understand their own emotional intelligence and to build capacity to understand and support young children's mental health."

Building positive relationships with young children is essential to the foundation of good teaching. These relationships built on trust, understanding, and "ruthless compassion" have shown to increase positive outcomes at school.

The promising results of LUME's Discovery grant will ensure schools, students, and families take a holistic approach to school readiness.

LUME's Mission: We transform the way families, educators, and communities inspire young children to learn, grow, and thrive.

Please click the links below to follow us on twitter and Facebook!

[@CSF_KeepKids1st](https://twitter.com/CSF_KeepKids1st)

[Children's Service Fund](http://www.childrenservicefund.org)

Or visit us on our website, keepingkidsfirst.org

To submit an announcement or event to be included in next month's publication, please submit to Molly Crisp at MCrisp@stlouisco.com

When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.

—AUDRE LORDE