



The Minnesota Legislature established Children's Mental Health Collaboratives and Family Services Collaboratives in 1993 as a system wide, collaborative approach to addressing the needs of children and youth who face complex needs involving them in multiple service systems. Mandated partners of a Collaborative include public schools located in the program area of the Collaborative; social service agency; county public health; the Department of Corrections; a community action organization; Head Start; and parents.

The Clay County Collaborative was established in 1998. The original structure of included two separate Collaboratives - a Family Service Collaborative that addressed the needs of children and youth ages prenatal to twenty-one with special needs; and a Children's Mental Health Collaborative that addressed the needs of at risk children and youth and those identified as having a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED). Services ranged from early intervention to crisis programming as identified by the Collaborative's members. In 2005, the Collaborative restructured itself into a combined Family Service Collaborative and Children's Mental Health Collaborative and changed its name from the Clay County Joint Powers Collaborative to Clay County Collaborative. During that time, the Collaborative Board also authorized a change in its governing structure. The current structure includes a Governing Board, Board of Directors, Administrative Committee and various work groups and projects. Currently, the Collaborative has twenty-two partners. See Partners for more information on schools, governmental units, agencies and service providers who are participating in the Collaborative.

As the needs of the families, children and communities change over time, so has the focus of the Collaborative's work. The Minnesota Department of Human Services oversees the ongoing work of the state's Collaboratives. While the main focus of the Collaborative's work has been to reduce out of home placements, coordinate service systems to reduce duplication and make access to services to less complicated for families, the state also requires us to work with community partners to provide early intervention services that are child centered and family driven. In 2017, the Minnesota Department of Human Services identified new

priorities around Adverse Childhood Experiences. Those new priorities include:

- Promote Mental Health & Well-Being of Children, Youth & Young Adults
- Support Healthy Growth & Social Emotional Development of Children, Youth & Young Adults
- Strengthen Resilience & Protective Factors of Families, Schools & Communities

Funding for the work of the Collaborative comes from the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS). This is a federal funding source enhancing the work of Family Service Collaboratives (FSC) and Children's Mental Health Collaboratives (CMHC) and those Collaboratives that have combined the FSC and the CMHC. Collaboratives have been invited to participate in the time study as a means of generating new federal money by statistically measuring the percentage of time spent on local activities that help children and families. Local staff of school districts, public health and corrections systems must participate in order for a collaborative to claim federal reimbursement through the time study. The money generated must be used to expand prevention and early intervention services for children and families. The federal funds received from LCTS activities are intended to benefit families and children, not an individual collaborative or a single member of a collaborative.

During the past 20 years, the Clay County Collaborative has earned over \$13 million in funds through the Local Collaborative Time Study program. In 2005 there was a change in how the funds were distributed between the federal government and Minnesota. The Collaborative share went from an average of \$600,000 a year to just over \$200,000 a year. Because of the partnerships formed and the dedication of program staff, the Collaborative continues to offer high quality programming for children and families in Clay County.