



A Message from CEO Joe Blewett



Society has come a long way with breaking the stigma around mental health, and we have a long way to go. Mental health issues do not discriminate and can impact anyone at any time.

- 1 in 5 US Adults Experience Mental Illness.
- 1 in 8 Emergency Department visits are mental health related.
- The largest centralized locations of people with Mental Illness, diagnosed and undiagnosed, are in every jail and prison.
- Across the U.S. economy, serious mental illness causes \$193 billion in lost earnings each year.
- More than 50% of US adults with mental illness did not receive treatment in 2021.
- Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for teens and young adults, ages 10-34.
- One-fifth of the US population live in a rural area, and one-fifth of those living in rural areas have a mental illness.

Therefore, this year Family & Children's Services (FCS) has implemented a strategic plan and applied resources to address these areas. We continue to provide support to a variety of families facing different challenges. We work closely with the local court system, Community Mental Health and area non-profits to reach those in need. Our Access office engages with health systems to help combat the overwhelming demand mental health has on health systems.

Our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) proceeds to grow and add regional work places to offer counseling services to local employees. Our collaboration with Senior Services of Midland County has never been stronger. FCS offers telehealth and on-site services to Senior Service clients in a familiar and comfortable setting which allows clients access to Senior

Services programming. To combat a lack of rural health counseling services, FCS sought out grant funding and partnerships to offer counseling services at the Greater Midland Coleman Family Center. FCS continued and expanded services to Midland County youth through our United Way Youth Services program and partnership with Bullock Creek Schools to offer on-site counseling services. All of these partnerships help remove the barriers to mental health that include cost, lack of insurance, transportation and stigma.

As FCS inches closer to our 100 year anniversary i025, the agency persists to follow our mission and meet community gaps while keeping an eye on future needs. These future plans include expanding services, increasing access and offering mental health counseling, education and support to as many people in our community as possible. FCS is grateful, appreciative and overwhelmed by the ongoing support for Family & Children's Services.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Blewett". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, textured background.

Joe Blewett

Chief Executive Officer

MISSION : We inspire hope and well-being for people of all ages by providing counseling, education, and support.

VISION: For everyone to feel welcome to come as they are and leave as they want to be.