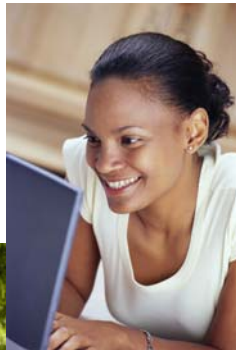


Contact Information for Project LYNX:

Program Director:

Emily Lawery, MS, NCC
Cobb County Community Service Board
1650 County Services Pkwy
Marietta, GA 30008
678-464-0477 cell
770-514-2422 ext. 2026 office
770-514-9853 fax
elawery@cobbcsb.com



Mission Statement:

The mission of Project LYNX is to provide a System of Care, driven by the needs of youth and families, for at risk middle school students within the Osborne Cluster, through interagency collaboration and service linkage to ensure a successful transition to high school.



Eligibility Criteria:

Project LYNX serves youth in 6th through 8th grade who are identified as being at risk of not successfully transitioning from middle school to high school. Youth must meet a **minimum of two** of the following criteria:

- ◆ Chronic disciplinary referrals resulting in negative behavior/consequences (i.e., multiple suspensions, removed from community school, or placed in an alternative school)
- ◆ Chronic truancy that has resulted in intervention from truancy coordinator or other administrator
- ◆ Inappropriate sexual behavior in presence of others or towards others
- ◆ Currently resides outside of home due to involvement with the Division of Family and Children Services or behaviors have caused out of home placement
- ◆ Currently on probation or under supervision of the juvenile court
- ◆ Documented drug or alcohol use
- ◆ Have a parent or guardian who is incarcerated
- ◆ Has experienced a recent traumatic event
- ◆ Is failing 2 or more classes
- ◆ Is experiencing serious social emotional behaviors (includes but not limited to mood disorders, anxiety, moderate oppositional behaviors, suicidal ideations or gestures, self-injurious behaviors, and moderate attention deficit hyperactivity disorders)
- ◆ Has suspected gang involvement

Program Overview:

Project LYNX will receive a referral from the youth's designated school counselor (or similar source) based on the criteria for the program. A Family Advocate will be assigned to the family and they will meet with the family to discuss the services offered through Project Lynx. If the family chooses to participate, the family will be staffed at a team meeting held at the school on Friday mornings. The team will collaborate with the family to develop a plan that incorporates the family's needs. The team is made up of community agencies who will provide services and resources to the family.

Programs Offered through Project LYNX:

Girls Incorporated of Greater Atlanta (Girls Inc.) will offer programs for female youth during and after school that addresses math and science education, health and relationships, peer pressure, substance abuse prevention, economic literacy, violence prevention and civic engagement. Staff will provide a program during the Communities in Schools' High School Prep Camp specially tailored for the needs of girls 11-13 years old. The program allows girls to learn about the causes, appearance and effects of peer influence.

First Step Counseling Services, LLC will offer a weekly coping skills group designed to increase awareness of emotion regulation and to enhance coping skills by offering a practical approach to managing socio-emotional responses to the hardships of life.

Communities in Schools of Cobb County, Inc. will provide a High School Prep Summer Camp for all youth enrolled in Project LYNX services. Activities to promote confidence, self-esteem, trust, test-taking and note taking skills, good decision making, attendance, and behavior will be provided during the interactive summer program.

UMATTERR (Utilizing Media and Technology to Encourage Resiliency and Recovery): Possible multimedia projects include creation of public service announcements, video newsletters, infomercials about program, mini documentaries, welcome videos for new referrals, and spoken word projects. The youth will be able to decide, develop, create, produce and direct the projects, which leads to the buy-in of the youth.

Opportunity Knocks for Youth, Inc. will meet bi-weekly at the school. The curriculum modules include diversity, problem solving, conflict management, money /finances, interest surveys, attitude, behavior, choices, respect, self-esteem, and health.