



For more information, contact:  
Annie Foncannon  
Executive Director  
Franklin County Children and Families  
Community Resource Board  
Phone: 636-234-7133  
annie@franklincountykids.org

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## CLARK VITT SCHOOL BUILDING FINDS NEW PURPOSE



### For Immediate Release

The Franklin County Community Resource Board (FCCRB) and the Union R-XI School District announced today the completion of the sale of the Clark-Vitt school building and adjacent real estate to the FCCRB.

The building will now be known as the Franklin County Family Resource Center. The FCCRB is currently in the planning stages to renovate the school building to house several agencies in one location. "The Franklin County Family Resource Center creates a children & family community asset, housing several human services agencies in one, easy to access, location for receiving needed services and care," stated Chris Jensen, Chair of the FCCRB. "Partnering agencies will work together to provide more efficient and successful coordination of care for all families," he continued. "It is our belief that this building project will be transformative for our overall system of supportive and preventative services throughout the county. We are really excited that this project is coming to fruition. We have been working on this concept for several years. We hope this building project will become a model for other communities to more successfully deliver the much needed services for children and families."

In addition to providing much needed office space for the participating agencies, the community resource center will have shared spaces available. The current gymnasium will be used for interactive therapy with youth, as well as provide a secure and comfortable space where supervised visitation can occur, when necessary, while allowing children the freedom to be

children and permitting families to interact in a more natural setting. Along with the gymnasium, the current music room will be transformed into a community training space and an additional room will also be available for smaller community gatherings.



“We are pleased that the Clark-Vitt Elementary building and site will continue to be an investment in the lives of Franklin County children & their families. An investment which will pay future dividends by the creation and fostering of healthier, happier, and more productive youth,” remarked Steve Weinhold, Superintendent of the Union R-XI School District.

The FCCRB has contracted with Navigate Building Solutions for consulting services and to provide project management on all aspects of the building project and with Cochran Engineering for architectural services. The Board hopes to have notice for bids on the renovation work in the very near future. The goal is for all participating agencies to be fully moved into the space by March 1, 2021.

According to Annie Foncannon, Executive Director of the FCCRB, the current list of confirmed tenants includes Lutheran Family and Children’s Services, Children’s Advocacy Center, St. Louis Counseling, Advanced Treatment and Recovery, Family Futures of Missouri, UMSL Center for Behavioral Health, and Preferred Family Healthcare.

Franklin County Community Resource Board is comprised of various community leaders, appointed by the County Commission, to create a comprehensive system of care in Franklin County for Children, Families, and Individuals and to oversee the Putting Kids First Children's Services Fund, which was approved by the Franklin County voters in November of 2008.

For more information on the FCCRB, please visit [www.franklincountykids.org](http://www.franklincountykids.org). Any inquiries into the Family Resource Center should be directed to Annie Foncannon, Executive Director of the FCCRB at 636-234-7133 or [annie@franklincountykids.org](mailto:annie@franklincountykids.org).

Picture: Chris Jensen, Chairman of the FCCRB, and Dr. Virgil Weideman, President of the Union R-XI School District signing the closing documents. Picture Credit: Annie Foncannon