

Biography Gary Huelsmann, MSW, LCSW

Gary has 25 years experience in the Social Service and Behavioral Health Fields. He is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul MN with a bachelor in social work and a Masters of Social Work from St. Louis University in St. Louis Missouri. Currently, he is the Executive Director for Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois (CSS).

CSS is a non-for-profit agency serving the Southern 28 counties in Illinois through four regional offices and six locations in which services are provided. The largest program is Foster care with over 500 children in care. The agency has ranked 1st in the state all four quarters of fiscal year 2009 on foster care performance scores. Other programs include St. John Bosco Children's Center, residential treatment center; Counseling Services; Fox River Assistant Living Center, Senior Aides Employment Training Program and Private Adoption. The agency has grown in its revenue by 40% in the four years he has been the Executive Director. The growth has occurred through program development and expansion as well as through new programs. The fiscal year 2010 budget is about 11.2 million dollars.

Before coming to the not for profit world he worked for Magellan Health Service (Magellan) a for profit publically traded company for 17 years. Magellan is the nation's largest provider of Behavioral Health Services. At Magellan, Gary held several positions with increasing levels of responsibility. He started in various clinical services positions then became an Account Executive followed by positions in project management. Those projects varied from finance projects to a project that assisted victims of Hurricane Katrina. Gary also was the first Director at Behavioral Health Response when it formed as a crisis response system for mental health emergencies in east central Missouri.

Gary serves on several Boards and Committees. They include the Southeastern Illinois Residential Organization (SIRO); Catholic Conference of Illinois Social Service Committee (current Chair); Coalition for Healing Ministry; the Peace Justice and Integrity of Creation committee (in association with a Catholic Religious order) (current chair) and Catholic Charities of Southern Illinois.