

***Regional Services Council
Region 4 Meeting***

Date: July 18, 2023

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Chair: Erin Shidler, Region 4 Manager

Meeting Secretary: Helen Garmon

Call to order

Start time: 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Approval of minutes from last meeting

As read As corrected

Recommended Correction:

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Welcome

Community Partners Update – Christy Robbins

Christy shared her screen to review the following reports:

- Referrals Summary Data - 7/1/22 through 6/30/23
- Program Outcomes Data - 7/1/22 through 5/31/23
- Community Partners – 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2023
- Local Prevention Dollar Services – 7197 YTD total individuals/services billed

Changes to next fiscal year service standards 7/1/23-6/30/24:

Community Education * Primary prevention of Suicide, Domestic Violence, Substance Use

Service & Support * Primary prevention of Domestic Violence

Youth at Risk removed

Community Education

YWCA NEIN

SCAN – Family Connections

Gear Up

LSSI

After School

Respite

Boys & Girls Club
Mission 25
Wellspring

SCAN – Daybreak

Service & Support

Mission 25
LSSI
YWCA NEIN (new)

Service Update – Dion Smith

- Rate changes took place on 7/1/2023. Almost all our service standards went up.
 - Our Home-Based Service Standard increased quite a bit
 - Reminder – Providers that are Home Maker Parent Aide, our paraprofessional service standard went up quite a bit so please start hiring people of paraprofessional level so they can meet the needs of our local offices

Family Preservation Friday is going to be this Friday, July 21st at 12:00 p.m. This is a Statewide call and will cover:

- All things Family Preservation
- Answer any questions you may have
- Dion put the below link in the chat for those wanting to join
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWFkYzJjMGYtOTFmMi00ZTRlTg4ZmUtOTQ5MDRiYjY1NDMx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22199bfba-a409-4f13-b0c4-18b45933d88d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225bb07c41-69d7-4dc7-8150-20c0142155bd%22%7d
- Family Preservation numbers for region 4
 - The maximum total cases that family preservation have serviced is 627
 - Over the last 90-days we have serviced 397 total cases
 - Total children in region 4 that have been serviced is 1, 398
 - Over the last 90-days region 4 has serviced 906 children
- Family Preservation opened for Probation Youth as of January 1, 2023
 - The minimum rate changes will take effect as of July 1, 2023. Those rate changes will increase pretty much all the services across the board

Dion is working his way around his regions, reaching out to providers that service family preservation so he can learn from those providers that are getting us good outcomes. Learn from those providers that are not getting us the best outcomes so he can guide them in ways that can help them get better outcomes

Indiana DCS is offering an RFP which is open currently. It's a stabilization grant to help with retaining employees.

- Dion put the below link in the chat
**INDIANA DCS-CONTRACTED SERVICE PROVIDERS
NOTICE OF OPEN CHILD WELFARE PROVIDER STABILIZATION GRANT due 8/18-**
<https://www.in.gov/dcs/current-requests-for-proposals/>

You can also go to the DCS request for proposals page to see information on the stabilization grant and what needs to be done if you would like to be involved

Provider Employee Files

- There are three different modules of training that specific employees need to take depending on the capacity that they hold with the children that they work with. Please ensure you have those training modules in the employee files
- Please make sure you have the attestation forms in those files. This should be done yearly
- Please ensure you have those background checks in the employee files
- Supervision notes should be in those employee files

Regional Budget Update – Katie Craft

- Katie shared her screen and discussed the Region 4 – June 2023 CHINS Financial Status Report
- As a region our target was 100% actual was 101.72%
- Katie stated she is pleased with the way things went this year with region 4. Region did a great job fiscally!

Region Updates – Erin

- Erin introduced Megan Rockwell-Ashton, the new Clinical Consultant for region 4. Megan discussed her role as the Clinical Consultant for region 4
- DeKalb County Local Office Director, Wesley Husselman retired in June after serving DCS for close to 40-years of service. We are very happy for Wes!
- Andrea Hoy was the Local Office Director for Noble County. Andrea transferred to DeKalb County and is now the Local Office Director in DeKalb County
- Jamie Pippin will return as the new Local Office Director for Noble County effective Monday, July 24th. Jamie was the former Regional Manager for Region 4
- Matt Skeens, Chief Counsel for Region 4 is no longer with the agency. We have two points of contacts for our legal issues; Deputy Chief Counsels Hillary Knipstein and Mitchell Morris. They will hold down the fort until a new Chief Counsel is hired

County Updates

Allen – Erin reported for Melissa Hayden

- Allen county continues to do really good work. We are hiring an assessment supervisor. That position is currently posted. We hope to make that decision early next week
- Our staffing levels are looking good in Allen and across the region
- We have the Domestic Violence Court that is up and running now in Allen County with a few cases going. The next step as we partner with the court in Allen; they are going to be starting a Therapeutic Treatment Court. That is in the early stages of development so look forward to more to come on that
- DCS is doing a lot of work with the LEAN Management. Region 4 has our very own Value Stream Analysis. We're doing a lot of improvement projects around the region over the next year or so. One of our initiatives within this process is to include partners so we may be asking some of you to participate in some of these events and to partner with us which some of you already have. We're looking at making improvements in the first 60-days of our involvement with the family

DeKalb – Tammy Downs reported for Andrea Hoy

- Assessment Initiations have increased almost 10% from the end of 2022 until today in total
- Relative placements have increased by 12% from the end of 2022 until today which is a huge win for them as well

- Staffing cases currently is at 85%
- There are 64 CHINS in total

LaGrange – Tammy Downs

- We're going to have 3 adoptions take place this month. When we have these adoptions take place, we will be down to two.
- In-Home CHINS and IAs. We've increased about 25% from the end of June 2022 to date
- We continue to see a slight increase in the need for Family Preservation in our area
- As far as caseloads, we have seen a slight increase from the end of 2022 until now
- We need foster homes willing to take larger sibling groups together
- There has been some great communication taking place between our probation and DCS office. That has also included providers in the area as well that are coming in to be community supports for the dual status team

Noble – Amanda Herendeen for Andrea Hoy

- Noble is focused on staffing and starting the FCM hiring process
- Noble is doing a lot of good work. Their CHINS numbers are currently at 41 which is a decrease of about 20 kids from last year at this time so they're doing a lot of good work getting those older cases closed out and getting kids to permanency
- Currently 44% of our cases are IA or in-home
- 55% of our kids that are placed out of home are with relatives
- We have two families signing into family court today hopefully so they're really utilizing that program through the courts for cases that have substance use and criminal elements as well

Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux

- We're doing well. Our focus right now is on staffing levels. We're in the process of hiring two people. One is pending a final offer. We have several interviews scheduled this week for the other one
- Our caseload percentage is a little lower than in the past. We're at 82%
- We have 16 focused children, 44 CHINS cases and 17 IAs. We continue to work hard and develop some good plans to get these children permanency
- Our in-home cases outweigh our out-of-home cases. We have 52% of our cases in-home
- Our absence of repeat maltreatment remains high. Right now, we're at 98%
- Our initiations for assessment continue to remain high at 90%
- Timeliness to permanency is at 100%

Whitley – Amanda Herendeen

- We are fully staffed and hope that continues
- Our CHINS numbers are currently at 48 which is an increase from last year at this time of about 9 kids
- We are seeing a trend of substance use cases. All our cases are Fentanyl right now which is a scary place to be
- Because we're seeing a trend with substance use, one of the things that we really focused on is linking families to informal and formal supports. Mission 25 has a recovery center that they're starting. We took a tour for our all-staff last month to see the building and what programming they have available there. This is a really good resource for our community; we're excited to set up our clients with Recovery Coaches to Mission 25

- Currently 37% of our cases are in-home or IAs which is a little bit of a decrease since last year at this time
- We have 77% of our kids placed with relatives or kinship in our out-of-home cases

Provider Presentations (10-Minutes)

None

Providers, please contact Helen Garmon (helen.garmon@dcs.in.gov) if you are interested in signing up to do a 10-minute presentation. Helen will contact you the week before the RSC meeting to let you know you will be presenting

The next RSC meeting will be via Microsoft Teams at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary *Helen Harmon*

Date 10-17-2023

Approved *hg* (secretary's initials)

Chair *Erin Thiele*

Date 10-17-2023