

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

Date: October 17, 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:

- Community Partners
- Local Prevention Dollar Services
- Referrals Summary Data
- Program Outcomes Data

Service Update – Dion Smith

Dion explained and discussed the Biennial Plan

- Biennial Plan is every two years
- The local offices in the region need to post a Notice of Hearing in their office
- With the Biennial Plan we have a public hearing. In that public hearing any stakeholder within the community can come to that public hearing and have their voice heard. They will have a limited time to speak, we will record that information and add that to our Biennial Plan
- In the last several years the four prescribed focuses that State really wants us to look at are:
 1. Prevention Services
 2. Repeat Maltreatment After Involvement

3. Permanency for Children in Care 24+ Months
4. Substance Use Disorder Treatment
 - We will look at these things, form workgroups and come up with an action plan to target and solve the problems that we have with those areas
 - When workgroups are finished, those things will be typed up and presented to the RSC Council to approve. All that information will be given to the Director of DCS by the end of February 2024

Regional Budget Update – Katie Craft

- Katie shared her screen and discussed the Region 4 – Financial Status Report through the end of September. This is our 1st quarter of fiscal year 2024
- As a region our target was 25.0% for this month. The actual was 24.01%

Region Updates – Erin

- We welcome Paul Watson as the new LOD for LaGrange County effective yesterday, October 16th. Paul was formally a supervisor in Whitley County
- We welcome Matthew “Matt” Hagenbush as the new Chief Council in region 4. Matt was the Chief Council in region 5. He has a lot of experience with the law in general but also being a DCS attorney. He is originally from Fort Wayne. We are excited to have him on board and looking forward to working with him more in the future

County Updates

Allen – Melissa Hayden

- We are constantly still hiring and reviewing for Family Case Manager positions
- Christiana Patterson is our newest supervisor. Christiana had previous DCS experience in Marion County a few years back so we’re happy to have her on board

Data:

- With Assessment and Timely Initiations our 2022 what we achieved was at 68.5% and so far, year to date for this year we’re up almost to 80%
- Permanency in September 2022 we were at 145 children and this September we’re at 96 so we were able to decrease of 49 children or almost 34%
- Caseloads overall with IAs and CHINS children – September of 2022 we were at 980 children. We are down 139 kids to 841 or 16.5% decrease

DeKalb – Andrea Hoy

- Jennifer Calhoun transferred from Noble to DeKalb County as Supervisor. We have an FCM transferring, an FCM in the pre-hire phase and we’re still looking for an additional 2-3 FCMs. Hopefully we will have some interviews scheduled next week

Data:

- Last year we were sitting at about 51 CHINS and now we’re at 60
- We are drastically down in our Informal Adjustments (IA’s). We had 32 last year and right now we’re sitting at 8
- Our Assessments are currently up, and we are really working on our Initiation times as well as timely closures

LaGrange – Paul Watson

- LaGrange has 1 FCM position that we're looking to fill right now. Our supervisor, Stephanie Walker will be transferring to Steuben on October 30th. We're in the process of interviewing for both of those positions

Data:

- LaGrange averages about 25 assessments over the past quarter. We currently have 25 cases open and 54 kids in care. LaGrange has 50% of its cases as in-home cases which is an increase over 10% from last year so we're excited to see some movement there and supporting families in the home

Noble – Jamie Pippin

- We currently have 9 FCM positions. We're hiring for 11. We have one transfer coming from Allen County and one in pre-hire
- We are doing Supervisor interviews today. Hopefully by October 30th we will have our 2nd supervisor in Noble County

Data:

- Noble currently has 51 CHINS and 7 IAs. The CHINS are going to drop two today because we just had a guardianship go through
- Looking at our Length of Stay we're currently sitting at 492 days. Last year at this time it was at 483. The difference is last year at this time we had 24 kids that were in care for less than a year. Currently we have 8. One big change that we have is we have one child that is 4 plus years. Last year at this time we had 7 so we've done a really good job getting a lot of the older cases closed and permanency for those kids
- Timely Initiation we're sitting at 89.19%. Our goal is 90%
- In August we had 79 assessments. In September we had 71 assessments. Currently in October we have 35

Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux

- Stephanie Walker is transferring to Steuben on October 30th and Chelsey Vance will be going to Whitley. We're hiring a 9th FCM, our 6th is in Cohort, our 7th is in pre-hire, our 8th is going to be transferred and we just interviewed for our 9th FCM position

Data:

- Over the last 3-months we've seen an increase in caseloads. Assessments have stayed pretty steady in the low 40's but our focused children have increased to about 10 over the last 3-months to about 54 (24 of those are in-home and 30 are out-of-home cases)
- With assessments our initiations stayed constant, around 90% which is an improvement for us from last year
- Absence of Repeat Maltreatment stayed pretty high around 98%

Whitley – Amanda Herendeen

- We are without a supervisor due to Paul's transition to LaGrange as Local Office Director
- Chelsey Vance is starting with us on October 30th
- As far as FCMs we are fully staffed

Data:

- Whitley has averaged about 33 to 34 assessments a month over the last 3-months. For October we are already there and past that

- We currently have 54 CHINS, 73 focused children total so we have about 51% of our caseload currently as in-home or informal adjustments which is pretty consistent with where we've been the whole year
- We have seen an increase in focused children of about 9 to 11 children total over the last quarter. That kind of goes along with the increase in assessments that we're seeing

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

2024 RSC meeting dates/time

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, July 16, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary *Helen Garmon*

Date 1-23-2024

Approved *hg* (secretary's initials)

Chair *Evin Thiddle*

Date 1-23-2024