

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

Date: April 11, 2022

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 – MaKayla Gusching

- As of April 1, 2022, they are doing some internal training on Goal Writing and Goal Setting. They will be enrolling clients at the assessment and setting an initial goal with them that revolves around safety
- They have Case Managers to help with ongoing support
- They have a posting in the Kendallville area

MaKayla Gusching shared her screen to review the following reports:

- Services Summary Data 7/1/21 through 6/30/22
- Referrals Summary Data 7/1/21 through 3/31/22
- Local Prevention Dollars 7/1/21 to 6/30/22

RFP

- There's an open RFP, the application can be found on the website. It closes on April 30, 2022

Prevention Coordinators – There are two Prevention Coordinators:

- One will be focused on Outreach and Education
- One will be building their PCA Councils within each of the counties in region 4

If you are interested in being involved in the PCA Chapter or know anybody that would be please contact MaKayla Gusching. Her e-mail address is mgusching@scaninc.org

Service Update – Erin gave update

- They are working on the new Supervised Visit Service Standard
- Reminder for Providers; the request for DCS is that you bill 90-days from the Service Dates. Please reach out to Dion if you have any questions

Regional Budget Update – Katie Craft, Regional Financial Manager

- Things are still going well for region 4. The target for March was to be at 76.52%. Region 4 is at 62.28%. That's 14% less than where region 4 was last year at this time

Provider Presentations following each RSC meeting starting in July – Erin Shidler, RM

- Starting in July 2022, the last 30 minutes of the RSC will be offered to Providers to sign up to give a 10-minute presentation/overview of their services
- Providers are asked to contact Helen Garmon (helen.garmon@dcs.in.gov) if they are interested in signing up to present. Helen will contact you the week before the RSC meeting to let you know you will be presenting

County Updates

Allen – Melissa Hayden

- Two FCM's were promoted to Supervisors
 - Sarah Corley is the new Permanency Supervisor
 - Gabrielle Washington is the new Assessment Supervisor
- We are creating a permanency mediation to help us move those cases from the beginning. Hopefully that will be starting in the fall for all new cases. For the older case, we're able to identify those so we can get all the parties around the table to see if we can help that towards permanency
- Last month in March; Allen County had the highest percentage of kinship or relative placements

DeKalb – Wes Husselman

- We've had a couple of resignations in the last couple of weeks which has taken us from 11 caseworkers to 9. We're in the process of reviewing applications and scheduling interviews
- Our intakes have increased over the recent months. We are pretty much at the numbers we had before COVID

- The caseload sizes have increased. We still utilize the kinship care which has been very successful for us
- Most of DeKalb's cases in the permanency unit would be informal adjustments but we now have a few more CHINS cases so we're moving in that direction

LaGrange – Erin gave update

- LaGrange is facing some significant staffing shortages. They currently only have two FCM's in the field and they have been really working hard carrying the load in LaGrange County. Some of the surrounding counties have helped by carrying cases and doing assessments. Erin is going out next week to help with some face-to-face visits
- LaGrange has two people in training, a worker on medical leave should be coming back soon, some more getting hired so there is a light at the end of the tunnel

Noble – Joe Sims

- One of our FCM's transferred to Collaborative Care We currently have a posting for an FCM position as well as a clerical position
- We're working a lot with in-homes and kinship. We're at our highest percentage for in-home than we've been in a long time
- Our intakes have also increased over the last month, our team is doing a really great job getting out there early initiating those assessments, insuring safety. They are doing a great job working together, looping in Community Partners and making those referrals

Steuben – Ron Lahmeyer

- We are currently fully staffed! We currently have 8 FCM's. We have one on FML and one going on FML which will take us down to 6 FCM's.
- We're seeing more assessments come in, a lot of education neglect. Recently our office has seen some bad infant abuse and a major disruption of a ward that's been in our care for 13 years which has taken a toll on us

Whitley – Amanda Herendeen

- We've had some staff changes in Whitley. Our Supervisor, Sara Cole was promoted and is now LOD in another office. That takes us down to 1 Supervisor. We had one resignation so that takes us down to 7 FCM's
- We haven't seen much of an increase in assessments. We've been pretty steady each month
- 50% of our cases are in-home or IA's right now
- We've seen a slight increase in non-relative foster care. We continue to look for kinship for a few cases
- About 16% of our kids are in foster care. The other 84% are in-home, relative or CHINS
- We had Community Partners come and speak at our CPT last month which went well and hopefully that will help our community members remember to use that as prevention services and refer families through the schools

Other Business

Placement Protocol – Erin

- We recently had children sleeping in our office, our staff sitting with children in hospitals and just a lot of challenging situations that we're trying to overcome as an agency
- Erin would like region 4 to have a "No Placement Protocol" in place to work together with our partners to support our children in difficult situations and keep them safe
- If you're interested in working on a workgroup regarding our "No Placement Protocol", please reach out to Erin or Helen. Erin will get an e-mail list together to set up an initial meeting this month to start this process

Next Meeting will be via Microsoft Teams on Monday, July 11, 2022 @ 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary Helen Harmon

Date 7-11-22

Approved hg (secretary's initials)

Date 7-11-22

Chair Erin Thiele

Date 7-11-22