 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, September 8, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. CST

**Meeting Location**: Porter County/Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by RM Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RM Brown asked if anyone was attending for the first time to introduce themselves: which there was none. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Crystal Bradley, Brian Broek, Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, Meghan Finn, and Angelina Brouillette.

**3**. **August** **11th, 2023, Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Brian Broek gave a motion to accept the August 11th minutes as written which was seconded by Angelina Brouillette.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Kristin Smith went over the Community Partners report:

Open Referrals – 151

New Enrollments – 99

Discharges – 73

DCS County Referrals – Total of 42

* Benton/Newton – 3
* Jasper – 7
* LaPorte – 21
* Porter – 6
* Pulaski – 3
* Starke – 2

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 57

* Benton/Newton – 3
* Jasper – 5
* LaPorte – 23
* Porter – 17
* Pulaski – 4
* Starke – 5

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 57

* Self – 25
* Community – 8
* School – 6
* Healthy Families - 1
* Families/Neighbor - 1
* Legal System – 1
* Medical System – 2
* Juvenile Probation – 1
* Family Resource Center Agency - 12

 Flexible Funds

* Request – 14
* Approved – 14
* There were 3 CFTM requests:
* LaPorte – 2 with 2 enrolled
* Porter – 1 with 1 enrolled
* No safe sleep requests.
* Kristin gave an overview of the successes and attended events. Kristin announced the following events are coming up:
* Provider Fair – September 20th at PNW
* Family Olympics – September 27th for LaPorte County families at the Family Resource Center in LaPorte.
* LaPorte Trunk or Treat on October 25th
* Porter County Trunk or Treat on October 30th
* Amanda Satterfield gave an overview of the new Family Resource Center located in LaPorte. There were 62 adults and 48 children that have gone through, and they helped 33 families. The Bubble Bash was well attended, starting new programs, will be offering free legal and Medicaid advise for needing families on the second Thursday of the month. The center is off to a good start on helping local families.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion stated Willowtree Therapeutic Services has been expanded into Region 2 as of September 1st. They provide counseling, therapeutic visitation and home-based therapy. There will be a Family Preservation/Probation meeting online this afternoon starting at noon with Don Travis. Dion asked on Family Preservation, you must upload the initial assessment and make sure the family has a copy of the safety plan.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni went over the financial report for August:

* Budget Target is 16.67%, Region 2 actual 16.14%
* Benton: 17.56%
* Jasper: 13.97%
* LaPorte: 16.07%
* Newton: 14.91%
* Porter: 17.74%
* Pulaski: 18.31%
* Starke: 12.53%
* Expenditures were $1,423,992 (YTD: $2,499,528 - up 50.27%, $836,127)
* In-Home YTD was $387,557: up 22.9% ($72,221)
* Out-of-Home was $2,111,971: up 56.67% ($763,906)
* County expenses for August:
	+ Benton - $55,009 (YTD $83,109: up 78.53%-$36,557)
	+ Jasper - $84,146 (YTD $158,092: down 2.17%-$3,511)
	+ LaPorte - $777,465 (YTD $1,276,707 up 71.76%-$533,383)
	+ Newton - $45,347 (YTD $94,432 up 61.03%-$35,790)
	+ Porter - $331,798 (YTD $628,807 up 67.57%-$253,547)
	+ Pulaski - $64,626 (YTD $119,305 up 92.34%-$57,276)
	+ Starke - $65,602 (YTD $139,076 down 35.61%-$76,915)
* Joni discussed the cost of preadoption, pre-guardianship and the kinship stipend that has not been added to the report at this time.
* RM Brown discussed on the challenges the region will face trying to keep the costs down.

**7. Service gaps, needs, next level:** RM Brown discussed with the council residential cost going up due to a gap of services for autistic children. This is one of many gaps in services. RM Brown asked each LOD’s to identify the gaps in services they are having to face and overcome daily. LOD’s told about mental health services, drug addiction services, more availability for referrals, staff issues, travel, and placement issues just to name a few. There will be a 5-year plan with goals on PowerPoint available at a later date. There was a discussion of the service hub and its usage.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** RM Brown discussed with the providers the barriers they are having within their agencies to help DCS achieve the 5-year goal. Many responded with staff turnovers, working remotely, flexibly, travel, and funding. Discussion about hours that can be put into cases, school ability to help with mental health and skill coaching. Lyndsay Flores reminded everyone about the Stakeholders training being held on September 12th at Aberdeen located in Valparaiso.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next regular RSC meeting will be held in person and virtually on October 13th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Porter County office. Please join us in person if possible.

**10.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.