Regional Service Council

Region 6

December 16, 2020

* **Welcome-**
* Liz Learned Regional Manager
* Iwona Morretino DCS Rep Regional Service Coordinator
* Katie Craft DCS RFM
* Julie Hobbs Wabash Co LOD
* Kerri Baker Huntington Co LOD
* Mary Cunningham Miami Co LOD
* Delli Wells Cass Co LOD
* Mary Werner DCS R6 Foster Care Supervisor
* Janaei Smith Cass Co FCMS
* Kelly Moorman Huntington Co FCMS
* Jan Williams YSB Huntington
* Caroline Sholty Four County
* Libby Martin LSSI
* Jennifer Rutkowski-Smith SCAN
* Deanna Szyndrowski SCAN
* Lisa Blanchard SCAN
* Courtney Calhoun
* Barbara Hilton FSA- Howard Co.
* Kimberly Sims
* Bradley Samuel FCM

* **Budget and projections-Katie Craft**
* End of November Region 6 the overall target for the month was 43%, and Region 6 was at 41.31%.
* Residential treatments of high acuity kids has increased and we are working hard to address their needs and bring them back into the communities/less restrictive settings with services to support them
* Our budgets were reduced for fiscal year 2021.
  + State agencies were put under a 15% reserve, however DCS was only put under a 3% which was still a $27,000,000 for the entire state. For region 6 the reduction was $300,000 from last year.
  + Region 6 budget for 2021 is $11,575,865 which is slightly lower but doable.
* **From Liz Learned**
  + Residential Treatment workgroup- Huntington County LOD Kerri Baker and the regional committee is tracking and monitoring children placed in residential care during the 1st 5 months ensuring there are addressing the trauma/underlying issues and developing attainable goals with exit planning from the onset.
  + In the case where the child is in residential care or more than five months, then moves to the regional Permanency Round Tables. These are more specific committees to help kids who are “stuck” in their permanency. This allows us to have a bigger think tank to try to problem solve.
* **Services Coordinator- Iwona Morretino**
  + The main update with services obviously operating under the pandemic conditions.
    - We have been letting the child and family teams (CFTM) decide the appropriate format of service delivery (in-person vs. virtual).
    - A lot of providers have hybrid models where some of the services in person and some are virtual. Safety is number one priority.
    - Our priority has to be some in person components with most of our families. This includes the family preservation provider’s initial intake meeting.
  + Preparing for a full implementation of the Family First Act
    - This includes Family Preservation Services.
    - As of January 1, 2021 we will have a full evaluation of the family preservation services as they are delivered right now.
    - There will be a strong focus on using evidence based interventions and treatments.
    - Focus on outcomes for children and families and most important preserving the family unit.
  + Right now the region is going strong when it comes to family preservation services despite having a smaller group of providers.
  + There are currently 89 active referrals in the region.
  + There was recently a virtual provider fair where the providers were able to explain their programming and their approaches.
  + There are also additional providers interested in expanding and move into the region to assist with family preservation services.
  + We have been able to help maintain children in their own homes with the additional service provisions.
* **Foster Care Updates-Mary Werner**
  + There have been a lot of changes with foster care and more to come.
  + We are down to zero overdue annual reviews and the goal is to stay caught up. We’ve been partnering with our foster families to get their training and to build their parenting capacities.
  + Mary is transitioning to be the foster care licensure supervisor. She will be supervising the foster care specialist who do initial licensure and ongoing annual review licensure and support.
  + Community engagement specialist, Tana Wagner is still working with recruitment and retention but she’s under a different supervisor who just supervises community engagement specialists.
  + Kinship Care Navigation Specialist Melissa Marner, who is servicing the entire region is supervised by a Kinship Care Navigation Specialist supervisor, is meeting the families within the first 5 days of a placement occurring to discuss options with them that are available. She is also working with families who are interested in becoming licensed. That would then be assigned to one of the licensing worker.
  + We currently have about 14 open applications that we are processing. The goal is to have at least 4 completed this month.
  + Placement line worker will be transitioning to a new supervisor who solely supervises the placement line.
  + We have 2 emergency foster homes who will take placement for up to 7 days. We have utilized these 2 homes pretty well.
* **SCAN- Community Partners-** **Jennifer Rutkowski-Smith**
  + We have enrolled 66 families from July-October.
  + We processed over 200 referrals some of them were not eligible or interested. We do get a few from the schools and mental health providers.
  + Over all 76 adults and 130 children.
  + Initial contact within 5 days was 85% mostly due to the contact information being incorrect or incomplete. But those contacts were usually made after 5 days.
  + It would be helpful to make sure that the information was complete and correct in the narrative section in KidTracks.
  + Goal achievement, we’ve noticed a trend of families not staying engaged in services.
    - We are looking at that across the board to make sure that those that are enrolled are committed to the program.
    - We have also done some re-training on goal establishment to make sure that they are the most meaningful goals for the families.
    - We have a state expectation for improvement on parenting assessment. This report has not yet worked but it’s still under development and will be rolling out soon.
  + Budgets -
    - We should be at 33% and we are just below that as 32.6643%. We are doing pretty well. We are keeping an eye on that. What this means is that we do have a little bit of extra concrete assistance available to families.
    - We are not quite where we want to be with our Local Prevention Contracts. We have quite a few programs that are school based. There are a couple of outstanding invoices that we are processing and making adjustments.
  + We have noticed quite a few of the referrals that come through KidTracks have been getting canceled. There seems to be some sort of glitch. Just be aware that SCAN is still reaching out to families. This does not require an additional referral.
  + Jennifer is stepping in to cover some of Paige’s duties, Lisa Blanchard is also available as the VP of Prevention. Makayla is starting Monday, she will help with the coordination of local prevention dollars and audits. Christy Robbins is the supervisor who oversees the assessment team as well as coordinating services with the partner agencies.
* **Regional Updates**
  + As you are aware we have continued to meet family’s needs despite the pandemic, utilizing PPE, social distancing and making sure we are acclimating to the virtual world as needed.
  + As an agency, we have moved to a 60/40 split with front line workers in order to provide social distancing and maintain a healthy work life.
* 2021 meetings will be posted to the DCS website and SCAN will send it out as well. We will meet in the months of March, June, Sept and Dec.
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