Regional Service Council

Region 6

September 16, 2020

* **Welcome-**

Liz Learned Regional Manager

Iwona Morretino DCS Rep Regional Service Council

Paige Hamilton SCAN: Community Partners

Katie Craft DCS RFM

Julie Hobbs Wabash Co LOD

Kerri Baker Huntington Co LOD

Mary Cunningham Miami Co LOD

Jamie Brown Fulton Co LOD

Mary Werner DCS R6 FCM Supervisor

Cassie Bault Miami Co Supervisor

Janaei Smith Cass Co FCMS

Tracey Timmons Cass Co FCMS

Tanna Wagner Community Engagement Specialist

Latasha Music Foster Parent

Jan Williams YSB Huntington

Stephen Kitts Cass Co Judge

Caroline Sholty Four County

Libby Martin LSSI

Bradley Samuel

Courtney Calhoun

* **Budget and projections-Katie Craft**
  + End of August Region 6 our target was 19%, region 6 as a whole was 14.58%
* 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-
  + One thing that Region 6 is working on is trying to keep children out of residential programs and maintain them in their communities with wrap around services.
  + Huntington County LOD Kerri Baker is tracking and monitoring children placed in residential care.
  + There is a regional committee that meets monthly to try to problem solve and come up with exit strategies for how to get the child out of residential care.
  + In the case where the child is in residential care or more than five months, then it goes to a different Local Office Director who then oversees the permanency team and regional placement committees. 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.
  + Residential care can blow a county’s budget very quickly.
* **Services Coordinator- Iwona Morretino**
  + Family Preservation services started on 6-1-20
    - Family Preservation is a new way of providing services to families with children in the home.
  + Region 6 is doing well with 50 active referrals.
  + It appears that we are utilizing the providers that we have
  + The feedback is positive.
  + The state is still at a stage 4.5 of reopening, providers are still allowed to provide services virtually on a case by case basis. Many providers are moving to in person again. We will see as we progress if the conditions unfold in the near future where we stand. As long as we are in a stage 4.5 they are still allowed to provide virtual services.
  + If and when the state decides to move away from virtual, providers will be given a 30 day notice.
* **Foster Care Updates-Mary Werner**
  + The foster care unit has been restructured
  + We have a Kinship Care Navigator who is servicing the region for brand new relative/kinship placements.
  + The Kinship Care Navigator meets with the families at least twice for the first 30 days for a crisis period to evaluate what support level is needed then it transfers to the case side.
  + In the event that the family returns to a crisis period, then she would become involved to navigate the family with support.
  + We also have 2 Relative/Kinship Licensing workers who strictly work with relative/ kinship placements licensing.
  + We have 3 Foster and Adoption Licensing Workers who work strictly with traditional foster and adoptive homes
  + We have a Placement Line Worker again, Chayse Thompson, who from 8-4 works with FCM’s when a placement is needed. Chayse will also be included in the weekly shelter care calls with LOD Kerri Baker.
    - The goal is to move the children who are in emergency shelter care to a foster home.
    - The child can only be in emergency shelter care for 20 days.
    - There are no service provisions or educational provisions to that child while in emergency shelter care.
    - We now have an emergency foster care home. The family has signed the agreement 3 months.
  + Tanna Wagner is our new Community Engagement Specialist
    - Tanna has met with some of the local service providers and has attended the support group that Lifeline offers foster families
    - We are going to work with YSB to get to the support group that they hold so that our families can have face to face meetings
    - Tanna has done a few recruitment activities. 2 in Miami county and 1 in Howard county.
    - Tanna has been trying to focus on siblings and foster homes for siblings and teens.
    - When a foster family first inquires Tanna does an orientation with them. Then she sends them the initial information and paperwork.
    - Tanna has been working with Hands of Hope. Hands of Hope has Journey bags that are available to all of the counties. Please reach out to Tanna with any questions regarding Hands of Hope.
* **SCAN- Community Partners-Paige Hamilton**
  + For local prevention dollars, in July we spent $5,000 our goal was $18,000.
  + That looks bad but this was a July billing and will get better as the year goes on.
  + We will have to watch this and will have to move money around and look at reallocation in December.
  + CP Services in July we spent $47,971 our goal was 8.3% of the budget and the $47,971 was 7.74% of the goal.
  + For the Region 6 Referral Summary
    - It shows where the referrals came in for the month of July, the majority were from DCS.
    - 11% were “Self” which were referrals that came from individuals who were given information from places that hand our brochures like doctors’ offices and churches and don’t make referrals.
    - Our community agencies referrals did pick up at the beginning of COVID as people became aware of the services that are provided.
    - Howard pulled the majority of services.
  + For our next Regional Service Counsel meeting we will have a providers meeting AFTER the RSC instead of before.
    - How we have survived COVOD?
      * lessons learned
    - Where do we go from here?
  + Paige stated the he has some great providers who are doing great things in the communities.
* **Regional Updates**
  + As you are aware we have continued to meet family’s needs despite the pandemic, utilizing PPE and making sure we are acclimating to the virtual world as needed.
  + As an agency, we have moved to a 60/40 split in order to provide social distancing and maintain a healthy work life.
  + We are hearing a lot of positives from working from home. People feel like they can get more done at home. Some people don’t like working from home because they feel isolated.
  + As a region we continue to work on quality.
  + We are staffed at 110% plus in each office for FCM’s to increase the quality of front end assessing. Actively involving moving cases to permanency. Ensuring that we are tracking and adjusting quality service delivery and making sure that we are getting the appropriate services.
* Next Meeting December 16, 2020 11:30 AM
  + Followed by the provider meeting.
  + A Teams invite will be sent
* adjourn