**REGION 17 SERVICE COUNCIL**

**June 19, 2020**

**Minutes**

Regional Service Council was called into session at 9:30 A.M. on June 19,2020 by Regional Manager Jim Snook.

Present: Aaron Simpson, Nancy Rennie, Sybil Rodeck, Ginny France, Tonette Crite, Emma Cross, Mindy Berry, Kristin Cooper, Gabrielle Brookes, Gwen Girten, Ashley Hansen, Jessica Richardson, Jonda bowers, Debbie Dailey, Amanda Green, Jackie Foley, Brittany Clapp, Stephanie Helton, Laura Greulich, Casey Newton, Lisa Smith, Dale Stroud, Ginny France, Andrea Bennett, Paula Rasche, Latasha Hudson

Jim thanked everyone for coming to the first council meeting done virtually and suspended the introductions.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the December 20, 2019 minutes. Lisa Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from December’s meeting, motion was seconded by Mindy Berry. No changes or additions to the minutes, motion passed to approve the December minutes

**Regional Service Coordinator**- Gwen Girten- Family Preservation Service starting June 1st we are doing a shift on how we are providing services for In Home CHINS and IA’s. We will be providing all those services under one referral called Family Preservation Services. Those providers that receive that referral will go out and do an assessment for that family’s needs so that they can make recommendations and then provide those services for that family. We have been having weekly provider calls on Mondays with all contracting providers. The minutes for those have been posted on DCS Covid sites. There will be links and other information to help you or families posted on the website. Providers are being very creative to provide virtual services for families. Each provider had a list of questions before they encountered families to make sure both provider and family are remaining safe. Many services have been moved back to face-to-face as the state opens back up. Residential facilities have been closed, virtual visits have been happening, but we have had assigned individuals going in to meet to lower risk of passing germs. This will continue for at least one more month, into July. We are starting to move to face-to-face services but considering a more hybrid version moving forward with the addition of virtual services continuing. Bi-annual plan has been approved and uploaded; it has been delayed due to Covid. The plans will still be implemented but pushed back due to the pandemic.

**Regional finance manager**-Debbie Daily- Expenditures through May: Our target for expenditures was 91.7% for Region 17, we are at 90.21%. If expenditures for June are similar to May Region 17 should have spent 98% of their budget. In 2019 we were serving 825 children, as of the end of this past May we are serving 657 children. Our caseloads have gone down, but our expenditures have stayed the same- this is likely contributed to the new processes that have been implemented in the past year and the back-log issues. They have found throughout this process; we have had several rapid improvement events in KidTraks to improve processing times. We are processing more claims and at a quicker pace. We have fewer claims being denied. Family preservation- IA and In-home are the cases that will be receiving these services and this cost could potentially be higher than we would have previously paid. Cost savings in the long run will be seen in quicker closure and sustainable closure in those cases.

**Community Partners Report**- Jonda Bowers- They have been exceptionally busy with Covid to make sure all families receiving services are being safe. As of June 1st, a total of sixty-one referrals that have been received since March of 2020: A home-based caseworker was assigned to 60 cases and a home-based therapist was assigned to 2 of those cases.

There are currently 89 levels being serviced through the Community Partners Program for child safety to assist 87 families. Currently they are just slightly over budget but have been able to utilize extra funds the state provided to assist families during Covid to balance things out

They have been utilizing additional monies the state provided to buy gift cards, clothing supplies, cleaning supplies, beds. They were able to help one family that was renting a stove and fridge to eliminate that extra expenditure for them. They have also been able to make donations to local community resources (food banks, etc.). The funds have been utilized to help a lot of families.

Jim asked the numbers in reflection to the Covid situation. Jonda expressed that these were consistent with what they worked in the past, but they have also been doing a lot of advertising so that referrals continue.

The floor was then opened for questions for community partners.

Jim asked if there were any follow up questions- there were none.

Jim Snook shared that he will be a part of a group that is meeting next week with LCPA for discussions in preparing for Families First Preservations Services Act that will be implemented soon. They will be looking at processes and preparation for when that happens. Discussion will be regarding expectations and issues. Jim asked DCS employees to stay on to discuss this after the meeting adjourns.

**Community Engagement Specialist with 4C**-Ashley Hanson- Jenny Tyra is the new Family Engagement Specialist. They can do trainings and Family programming and want to make sure they connect with everyone. They are working to develop trainings and get those out to everyone. If you have any particular trainings or workshops needed, please reach out to them so that they. They are still able to do childcare referrals (can be done over phone), they serve 28 counties in Southern Indiana, including all of Region 17. Safe sleep training is also available but will be done virtually at this time. If any of your families are struggling with childcare, please contact them. There is a newsletter that can be emailed with information.

Jenny- Please reach out if you have any families that are looking for specific trainings and they will get together a list of things they already have prepared.

Jessica Richardson asked about the Safe Sleep Program- if they provide pack and plays or crib. At this time, they are currently working with the Health Department to see if this is a possibility. They will try to connect any families with a need for these items with resources to get them one, but do not have that in house at this time.

Information on 4C will be sent to all Local Office Directors to be distributed.

**Youth Villages**- Deidra Watkins- Currently in process of hiring for Region 17. You may reach out to her or Megan Stafford if you have a referral.

Jim opened the floor for questions regarding Youth Villages, there were none.

**Anthem/Medicaid**-Ginny France- If you need assistance in regard to Anthem Medicaid, please reach out to her. Anthem has free transportation to provide office visits- They will transport to WIC, renewal appts, etc. Rides will need to be scheduled 2 days advanced.

The floor was then opened for questions in regard to Anthem/Medicaid, there were none.

**The Villages Evansville**- Gabriella Brook- They do have openings for kids at this time.

**Raintree Consulting**- Jackie Foley with Laura Grauleich also in attendance- Family Preservations Services June 1. There is a plan in place about the process and who is doing what assessments. They did move Dubois office during pandemic if you need that information email Jackie. Still continuing to hire and continue to work on expansion.

Jonda Bowers- Resources they have been able to purchase for Community Partners Families: car seats, pack and plays, baby gates, fire extinguishers, and safety items to assist those families.

Fatherhood Engagement Report: 37 open engagement cases.

Success story was then shared (Please see attachment).

Jhonda opened the floor for any questions for Ireland Services – there were no questions.

**Cornerstone**- Latasha Hudson- For nearly 7 years they have been focused on individuals with mental and cognitive disabilities. They provide 24-hour services. They have opened an emergency shelter for boys ages 10-15. They are focused on trauma formed cognitive therapy and wrap around services.

They are ready to take some referrals and get started.

Jim expressed his appreciation for the effort of everyone involved during the pandemic in working to provide the best services and care for our families.

Jim Snook opened the floor for any additional information – there were no additional comments or information.

Jessica Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mindy Berry seconded.

All in favor at 10:19.

Jim thanked everyone for their attendance and time.

Next meeting will be held virtually September 18th.