**Indiana Family Preservation Services**

**Agenda and Questions**

**March 24, 2023**

1. Concrete supports reminder and discussion—Please complete this form for any concrete spend, and send to Bridget McIntyre ([*Bridget.McIntyre@dcs.in.gov*](mailto:Bridget.McIntyre@dcs.in.gov)) or the Child Welfare Plan ([*ChildWelfarePlan@dcs.in.gov*](mailto:ChildWelfarePlan@dcs.in.gov)):

<https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/Expense-Tracking-Agencies.xlsx>

**Also, as a reminder, the anticipated costs of concrete supports were built into the per diem.**

The decision to use concrete supports should also be a team one with good planning to ensure families benefit from the use of concrete supports.

* 1. Discussion around the idea and purpose of concrete supports, and how to utilize them
     1. How do we help families learn about resources
     2. This can be a protective factor as well
  2. Some families have greater needs than others
     1. This is why we need to collect the data – is the per diem amount enough to cover the costs overall, when one family has a great need
  3. We want to be careful that concrete supports are not overutilized, which is why we encourage a team decision
  4. Overall, use of concrete supports is less than we originally expected
  5. As a team, be thinking about how the family can be successful long term – providers cannot write checks monthly, without a plan
     1. Budget with families early in the case/referral
        1. An example is that the provider may need to help with a deposit/first month’s rent, but the family needs to have room in their budget to pay monthly rent
        2. If the rent doesn’t fit in the family’s budget, this needs to be discussed as a team so the provider is not expected to continue to pay rent
     2. Help families understand where to go for help beyond the DCS case and provider support
     3. Plan ahead for emergencies, holidays, time off work, etc.
  6. Remember, concrete supports are to be utilized to prevent removal of children from the home if supports are not available.
     1. If DCS knows of a need early in the case, this needs to be disclosed to the provider – our team will continue to remind FCMs of this when we meet with them
     2. In some instances, these cases are very new and DCS may not know all the needs of the family
  7. Providers reporting that historically, there were pandemic resources available and those are going away
     1. This results in increased utilization of concrete spending
     2. May result in increased need – data will show us that
     3. Rate was established pre-COVID, so this should be accounted for
  8. Providers are concerned that if they are a smaller agency with fewer referrals, then they have one high needs family, they are not able to recover funds from the per diem of other referrals
  9. Providers are not expected to ‘blindly’ or automatically utilize concrete expenses
     1. FCMs are instructed that they should communicate separately with the provider regarding the need, consequences, and long term plans
     2. The model is to address concrete supports in times of need, this is not intended to be a ‘pot of money’ available to families
     3. Providers can also review service standards with FCMs and the team to better understand what is expected

1. Initial INFPS evaluation has been published, and can be found in the Child Abuse and Neglect journal here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213423001175>
2. Brian Goodwin and Aubrey Kearney to talk about the current evaluation and round of surveys.
   1. New evaluation has started, similar to last one but we’re looking at a new population – specifically families who have no prior involvement with DCS
   2. Have already reached out to various providers – it is difficult to predict how many families we will have, or to which agencies. You will be contacted as necessary
      1. Child, case, referral information
      2. Are you providing concrete supports, connecting to community resources, what EBPs are you using, etc.
      3. Do not be concerned if you have not been contacted – you many not have a family being surveyed
      4. Email [brian.goodwin@dcs.in.gov](mailto:brian.goodwin@dcs.in.gov) with any questions related to the survey
3. *Provider documentation examples to review.* 
   1. Examples include providers who indicate what assessments they have completed, which EBPs they use, details of every contact, and notes of each safety check
   2. Noting contacts stands out with FCMs who are looking for services with multiple check-ins
   3. Note your EBPs, not necessarily ‘other’ DCS services such as HBCW, HBT, etc. The service you are providing is Family Preservation, rather than other traditional DCS service standards
   4. Communicate concerns to DCS via appropriate chain
   5. Address presenting problems – and how your agency is addressing them
4. *Federal Health Emergency is ending, and this will impact Medicaid for kids and families who have Medicaid as their insurance. For a detailed explanation, see:* [Indiana Medicaid: Members: How a return to normal will impact some Indiana Medicaid members](https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/member-resources/How-a-return-to-normal-will-impact-some-Indiana-Medicaid-members/)
5. Current case information: *(as of 3/23/23)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Family Pres Case Count** |
| 1 | 107 |
| 2 | 55 |
| 3 | 85 |
| 4 | 121 |
| 5 | 40 |
| 6 | 57 |
| 7 | 135 |
| 8 | 107 |
| 9 | 70 |
| 10 | 164 |
| 11 | 76 |
| 12 | 56 |
| 13 | 69 |
| 14 | 41 |
| 15 | 83 |
| 16 | 106 |
| 17 | 64 |
| 18 | 96 |
| 19 |  |
| **Grand Total** | **1532 (+68)** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Family Pres Case Count** |
| **DCS Case** |  |
| 1 | 99 |
| 2 | 51 |
| 3 | 73 |
| 4 | 117 |
| 5 | 39 |
| 6 | 55 |
| 7 | 130 |
| 8 | 100 |
| 9 | 57 |
| 10 | 154 |
| 11 | 70 |
| 12 | 54 |
| 13 | 62 |
| 14 | 38 |
| 15 | 79 |
| 16 | 99 |
| 17 | 64 |
| 18 | 89 |
| 19 |  |
| **Grand Total** | **1430** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Family Pres Case Count** |
|  |  |
| **JD/JS** |  |
| 1 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 12 |
| 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 13 |
| 10 | 10 |
| 11 | 6 |
| 12 | 2 |
| 13 | 7 |
| 14 | 3 |
| 15 | 4 |
| 16 | 7 |
| 18 | 7 |
| **Grand Total** | **102** |

1. *Updated stats:*

* *Out-of-home cases were down again in February 2023 to 8,780, marking the 24th straight month with reductions. 31 of 33 months have had a reduction since launch. 3 of the 5 months that preceded launch had an* ***increase*** *in out-of-home.*
* *The two months with increases since launch were 9/2020 (up 0.13%) and 2/2021 (up 0.20%).*
* *For a 13th month in a row, we exceeded the federal safety target of 94.6% (we were 95.26% in February 2023).*

1. Questions received:
2. Juvenile Justice track: The service standard says parent/caregiver involvement in the program, but it is being understood at times by probation that it is “optional” for the parent/caregiver, how are we to maneuver this situation granted we have already provided three virtual trainings on Family Pres, shared the service standard, and our team is trained to engage and build rapport with all family members?
   1. Participation from the family is NOT optional. It is the intent that the family participates in this program. This has been communicated to Probation Consultants as well. Here is the map to DCS Probation Consultants that can help with questions: <https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/Probation_Service_Consultants_Map.pdf>
3. Another question I had was that a regional manager shared with many local directors that Family Pres cannot be provided in two different homes under one referral, is this accurate? My understanding is that this is a case-by-case decision. One example would be there is a NCO with mom and dad, but once it is dropped their plan is to maintain their relationship and live together. During the time the NCO is in place as well as when it is dropped, Family Pres services are being provided. We have many referrals that include two homes with the intention of one home being the goal in the future.
   1. Will be answered at the next meeting!
4. Will there be calls specific to the Juvenile track for Family Pres in the future?
   1. Maybe we can increase frequency of the calls again in the future to address questions
5. Is there an update on family reunification?
   1. We will revisit this at the next meeting!

Anything else?

**Next meeting: We are moving this to Monthly meetings going forward, with the meeting to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month. Next meeting: 4/21 @ 1:00 Eastern**

**THANK YOU!**