

DCS Region 5 Regional Services Council Minutes  
Friday, January 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.  
250 Main Street, Suite 301, Lafayette, IN 47901

or

via Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

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Meeting ID: 229 342 652 179

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[indiana@m.webex.com](mailto:indiana@m.webex.com)

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**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 317-552-1674](tel:+13175521674),877203532# United States, Indianapolis

Phone Conference ID: 877 203 532#

Members Present: Hilary Laughner, Brooke Brown, Jennifer Johnson, Jennifer Samuels, Judge Faith Graham, Judge Stephanie Campbell, Debbie Brenneman, Jamie Wilson, Rachel Gallichan, Angela Guimond

Members Absent: Judge Hunter Reece, Penny Neal, Caitlin Jackson

Others Present: Sandra Lock, Ambyr Wade, Iwona Morretino, Lois Logan-Beard

1. Welcome

- a. Attendance reviewed and it was agreed by the members that a quorum of members were present.

2. Budget Review (Lois Logan-Beard)

- a. Regional Finance Manager, Lois Logan-Beard, provided the members with an overview of the region's budget so far.
- b. With a target of 50% at the end of December 2023, the Regional expenses were within the target.
- c. The expenses currently reflected for Clinton Co. appear to be late billing and are largely for out of home services.

### 3. Bauer—Community Partners Report

- a. Review of financials
  - i. Budget expenses reflected a spend of 50% which is right at the target.
  - ii. There has been a drop in concrete spending but some of that could be due to a lag in reporting given that the end of the year usually has more activity.
- b. Family Resource Center
  - i. Had 9 families access the center in December after only 1 family using it in November.
  - ii. Was told by other FRCs that the start can be slow but it will pick up.
- c. Prevention grants have been awarded. They are waiting for signatures on one of the grants before it can be finalized.

### 4. Service Updates (Iwona Morretino)

- a. SFY 2025/2026 Biennial Plan Action Plan discussion and vote
- b. RM Angela Guimond reviewed the Action Plan with members.
  - i. Workgroup facilitators, Jennifer Johnson, Jennifer Samuels, and Ambyr Wade, presented the plans developed by their respective groups.
  - ii. Judge Graham suggested that the acronyms used in the document be clearly specified for readers who are not familiar with the terms.
  - iii. No other edits or suggestions offered by the group.
- c. Judge Graham made a motion for the members to adopt the action plan once the edits are completed. Hilary Laughner seconded the motion.
  - i. Motioned carried by the group.
- d. Group will receive the full Biennial Plan document once it's completed and signatures will be sought electronically or in person at a later date.

### 5. Practice data for the Region

- a. A glance at 2023 data
  - i. RM Angela Guimond provided the group with a recap of practice data for the year.

- ii. Overall, the data indicates steady and stable improvement for assessment and permanency results across the region. Opportunities for improvement include increasing families served in home as well as increasing relative/kinship placement.
  - b. Updated data dashboards available to the public on the DCS website at <https://www.in.gov/dcs/reports-and-statistics/data-dashboard/>
  - c. Additional Practice Indicator Reports can be found at <https://www.in.gov/dcs/reports-and-statistics/practice-indicator-reports>
- 6. Schedule for 2024 RSC meetings
  - a. Location, date, and time
    - i. Reminder that the meeting dates for 2024 would be 1/19/2024, 4/19/2024, 7/19/2024, and 10/18/2024 at 9 a.m.
    - ii. Provider meeting would follow at 10 a.m.
    - iii. RSC Meetings would be a mix of in-person and virtual option for those outside of Tippecanoe County.
- 7. Good of the order
  - a. Reminder! Provider meeting to follow this RSC at 10 a.m. via Teams.
- 8. Adjournment