 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, March 11, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. CST

**Meeting Location**: Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Regional Manager Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: Brian Brown, Magistrate Jonathan Forker, Marc Brown, Crystal Bradley, Lou Ritchey, Brian Broek, Angelina Brouillette, Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **January 14, 2022, Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Brian Broek made a motion to accept the January 14h minutes as written and was seconded by Shawna Smith, minutes passed.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Nicholas Neal discussed the Bidder’s Symposium that will be held on March 16, 2022, at Aberdeen Manor in Porter County. All are welcomed to sign up and join. Prevention month is next month, and events will be held.

* April 2, Starke County – Carnival – Knox Community Center
* April 9, Pulaski County – Carnival – Church of the Heartland
* April 15, LaPorte County – Bunny Event – Central Advancing Christ Kingdom Church
* April 20, LaPorte County – Vigil – City Hall in LaPorte

Kristin Smith discussed the Manager Report for Region 2:

DCS County Referrals – Total of 27

* Benton/Newton – 1
* Jasper – 0
* LaPorte – 7
* Porter – 14
* Pulaski – 4
* Starke – 1

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 25

Flexible Funds

* Request – 13
* Approved – 13
* Denied – 0
* There was three CFTM requests: Porter County had one which resulted in the family successfully completed and enrolled. Jasper County had two which resulted in the families successfully completed but both declined to be enrolled.
* One safe sleep from Benton County.
* Success stories from LaPorte, Jasper and Porter Counties
* There is concern for: the need of flex funds due to continued negative effects on our economy due to covid, increase in available therapists by providers, and a vacant position for a Community Partners liaison.

Kristin also went over the Geminus Community Partners dashboard indicators, Newsletter, events in the region and the upcoming annual conference which will be held on April 13th, 2022, at The Market located in Valparaiso. This year the conference will be Living in Fear: Violence behind closed doors and is sold out.

Nicholas shared budget information concerning each county expenditures for events which was $7,000 per county but he is raising the amount to $10,000 per county in the upcoming fiscal year. Many of the counties went over the budget this fiscal year.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion went over Region 2’s Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan which is has been submitted for approval. Family Reunification still has not been approved and no date has been given. Currently working on visitation service standard language for providers to use paraprofessionals level employees. Jim Burns questioned if the state was going to increase rates due to gas prices raising and Dion stated that he would bring it up to his peers. Angelique Gray Thompson questioned the rates for supervised visitation.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni went over My Fab Finances for the region:

* Budget target is 67.2%, region is at 58.8%
* Expenditures YTD is $7,949,151 which is down 9.93% ($876,187) from last year
* In-Home is up 43% (up $568,522) and Out-of-Home is down 19% (down $1,444,709) from last year
* Discussed each county expenses

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown went over the data showing the safety of children in the region. He compared 2022 data to the data in 2019 showing on how much the region has improved. RM Brown explained how DCS cases has changed over the past few years and is continuing to change. Overall, the region continues to lead the state in several categories. RM Brown thanked the community and providers for their help to get the region to this level and going in the right direction.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** No discussion.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next RSC meeting will be held virtually on April 8th, at 9:00 a.m. central time. The meetings for the rest of the year will remain virtual.

**10.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time, then adjourned the meeting.