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Description automatically generated **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, May 12, 2023 – 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: RM Brian Brown, Brian Broek, Chris Buyer, Crystal Bradley, Meghan Finn, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **April** **14th, 2023, Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, Brian Broek made a motion to accept the April 14th minutes as written and was seconded by Crystal Bradley, minutes passed.

**4. DCS Changes:** RM Brown announced Director Terry Stigdon has left the agency and has been replaced by Director Eric Miller. Other changes include Aaron Atwell as Chief of Staff, Sarah Sailors as Chief Deputy Director and Senior Advisor, and Rhonda Allen as Deputy Director of Field Operations.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion made the clarification that his focus has been on visitation and using paraprofessionals for the visitation, not on home based, case work or homemaker parenting aids. Starting on July 1st, the rate for standard supervised parenting time has increased from $58.09 to $74.61; enhanced supervision has increased from $84.00 to $89.00. With these rate increases, Dion has been speaking on visitation and the use of paraprofessionals for the visitation. If the visitation is ramped up, you need to have an evidence-based model to use and has been approved. Dion spoke of family preservation data for the region: total cases since inception is 447 and currently the region has 316 in care. Total number of children since inception is 894 and currently the region has 638 children in care. Dion asked the providers to make sure monthly reports are in before billing due to checks being done. Dion asked that providers report what evidence-based models that you are using in the monthly report and to include the safety checks. Dion also asked that providers update the service hub app weekly, if not daily.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni went over finances for April:

* Budget target is 84.30%, region is at 80.72%
* Benton – 83.66%
* Jasper – 83.00%
* LaPorte – 97.70%
* Newton – 72.02%
* Porter – 73.68%
* Pulaski – 57.09%
* Starke – 52.34%
* Expenditures were $1,192,947 (YTD is $9,564,950, down $254,824)
* In-Home was $1,837,388: down 21.77% ($511,280)
* Out-of-Home was $7,727,561: up 3.43% ($256,454)
* Discussed each county expenses:
  + Benton - $30,209 (YTD $374,611: up 57.18%-$136,277)
  + Jasper - $96,016 (YTD $839,471: down 2.75%-$23,754)
  + LaPorte - $670,007 (YTD $4,757,630 up 18.27%-$735,010)
  + Newton - $63,232 (YTD $339,507 down 35.21%-$184,470)
  + Porter - $216,491 (YTD $2,006,902 down 12.77%-$293,768)
  + Pulaski - $46,170 (YTD $359,749 down 15.69%-$66,939)
  + Starke - $70,821 (YTD $887,079 down 38.58%-$557,181)

Joni stated costs are going up, but the region is doing good at this time. RM Brown talked about the budget for the next fiscal year which has not been released at this time. RM Brown discussed the lower budget the region had this year and the increase cost causing the region to run tight with the budget.

**7. Community Partners – Geminus:** Community Partners were unable to make the meeting this month but sent the Managers Report for April which RM Brown discussed.

Open Referrals – 153

New Enrollments – 78

Discharges – 76

DCS County Referrals – Total of 54

* Benton/Newton – 3
* Jasper – 4
* LaPorte – 19
* Porter – 22
* Pulaski – 1
* Starke – 5

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 24

* Benton/Newton – 1
* Jasper – 5
* LaPorte – 10
* Porter – 7
* Pulaski – 1
* Starke – 0

Flexible Funds

* Request – 15
* Approved – 15
* There was one CFTM requests from Porter County, and no safe sleep request.
* RM Brown asked each county to discuss events in their counties for abuse prevention month:
* LaPorte – LOD Broek stated they had a vigil at the mayor’s office that consisted of guest speakers and great food. There were a couple of churches that displayed the pinwheels to bring awareness. There was also a symposium held to bring attention to mental illness.
* Porter – LOD Richey talked about the first annual 5K walk/run they held with 97 people registering and 77 participating. There were tables with community information and foster care specialist to help with questions. The county is hoping for an even bigger event next year.
* Starke – LOD Bradley discussed the carnival they held in their county and gave away cleaning supplies, and 75 baskets to families. They had games, prizes, and food. Local community resources were there to hand out information. Over 560 people attended the event.
* Pulaski – LOD Stowers stated they also had a carnival with games, food, and vendors. They are hoping to make it an annual event and had over 375 people attend.
* Jasper, Benton and Newton – RM Brown stated they had events also to bring awareness to the community.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown went over the data showing the region is doing very well. Counties are having issues getting permanency for children with severe behavioral issues. The region is focusing on engaging parents and have shown improvements. The region is showing very outcomes and can achieve these goals with the help from great providers. The state is in the middle of a federal review but will not have results until the end of the year.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** There wasn’t any open discussion.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next regular RSC meeting will be held in person and virtually on June 9th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Porter County office. Please join us in person if possible.

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