

**Regional Services Council Minutes
Region 11**

Meeting Date: May 25, 2010

Meeting Location: Hamilton County DCS
938 N. 10th Street
Noblesville, IN 46060

Council Members Present: Michelle Burns, Chris Wright, Susan Elsworth, Annette Craycraft, Chris Wagner, Pam Ross-Taylor, Dan Neal, Sonia Leercamp, Katherine Holtzleiter, Christi Tucker, Pam Knight, Jeremy Soultz

Council Members Absent: Terri Chastain, Stacey Pridemore

Guests/Presenters: George Hurd, Dennis Wimer, Jeff Catletl, Trish Crowe, Herb Hobson, Dan Turner, Dawn Talbot, Donna Barker, Valerie Anderson, Sarah Brabaw, Shannon Hicks, Nathan Ferreira, Doug Davis, Jon Bennett, Jama Donovan, Scott Noel, Julie Stewart, Catharine Crockett, Melody Hoover, Polly Craig, Jennifer O'Connor, Traci Elliott, Ann Freeman, Joanne Murillo, Joy Clark, Sharon Ferreira

Meeting Minutes

Meeting is Called to Order at: 9:04 by Region 11 Manager Michelle Burns

1) Greeting/Introductions

- Michelle welcomed everyone to the meeting
- Agenda and minutes from December 3, 2009 and March 31, 2010 were distributed to members

2) Approval of December 3, 2009 and March 31, 2010 Minutes

- Motion to approve December 3, 2009 minutes by Annette Craycraft, and seconded by Chris Wagner
- Motion to approve March 31, 2010 minutes by Annette Craycraft and seconded by Chris Wagner

3) Community Partners Update

- 39 referrals for the month of April.
- As of the 19th of May there were 29 referrals
- Hancock County we are doing family fun nights and shared parenting groups.
- Hamilton County we had Spring Fling, family fun day.
- Silent auction raised about \$1300 which was put in a restricted fund to use for the next event next year.
- Tipton County - writing a grant to bring in a speaker whose daughter died of a heroin overdose to talk to high school students.
- Madison County – Child’s Safety Fair.

4) Old Business

- Motion to reallocate \$13,005.00 from Hamilton Centers to GATEWAY by Chris Wagner and seconded by Susan Elsworth. Both agencies provide same service and Hamilton Centers would not have used their allocated funding for Respite, while Gateway has already exhausted their funding. Motion passed
- Motion to allocate \$18,944 unattached dollars to Community Partners by Chris Wagner and seconded by Pam Knight. Motion passed
- Motion to provide the following prevention services and amounts by Chris Wagner and seconded by Annette Craycraft :
 - Socially Safe teens \$30,000 (internet safety classes, services available to all four counties for kids 11-14)
 - Safe sleep program \$35,000
 - Multi level parenting (homebased casework) \$48,000
 - Respite \$65,000
 - Community Partners \$100,000
- RFPs are currently posted on the website. Michelle Burns, Christi Tucker, Pam Knight, a designee for Kathreen Holtzleiter, Pam Ross-Taylor, and Chris Wright will tentatively review bids – June 7th 10:00 am at the Hamilton County DCS.

5) Practice Indicator Reports – Specific to DCS. These are some of the outcome data that DCS measures on families and kids. Quality Service Review (QSR) process- random cases are pulled and a thorough review is conducted. In this region, our staff is fully aware that one of the top priorities is having permanency for children in a timely fashion. Over all, our region has come down in the past 4 years considerably, but we still have kids out of home care for a long time. Some counties have higher numbers than others. Staff has been working on specific county plans to address those issues. Since we started measuring, the data has improved.

6) New Business

- Cambridge House Group Home – Anne Freeman Executive director for the Cambridge Centers. Jennifer O’Connor Very few group homes in the area. Ann Freeman provided the following information
 - Caseworkers will be master level social workers.
Core issues include
 - a. Character building
 - b. Life coaching
 - c. Education
 - d. Mental health
 - 10 beds (single rooms) in each building, located on 3.7 acres bordering Mounds State Park.
 - Time frame- average length of stay for congregate care is 4.6-6 months. Typically group home stays are longer, doesn’t see it being less than 5 months.
 - Service 10-18 year old males
 - Direct Care staff – 21 years old, background checks, 80 hours of training, 8 hour shifts. 1 staff member to 4 kids.
 - Pam Knight – Resources better served elsewhere. Chris Wagner would like group home in the region. Dan Neal agrees with Chris, currently Madison County has kids in group homes far away from home. Believes Madison County could utilize it. Kathryn Holtzleiter states that they try to keep them in the home with in home services. Those that they place are very delinquent and are placed in a secured facility.

- Motion for Cambridge house to be able to apply for licensing by Annette Craycraft and seconded by Chris Wagner. Motion passed.
- **Child Welfare Services Coordinators** – As of 7/1/10 the coordinators will be DCS employees. The level of expertise needed to provide the services to the region was really high. Should improve service delivery. Will be involved with biannual plan, DCS procurements, RFPs.
- **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** – Susan Elsworth – Easy things we can do to bring about awareness
 - OB/GYNs – provide brochures
 - Community Partners
 - FCMs working with families to get interventions in place.
 - Healthy family providers
 - County Extension Office
 - First Steps
 - Pediatrician
- **Frequency of RSC Meetings** - Motion for the Regional Service Council Meetings to go to a quarterly schedule beginning in August 2010 by Sonia Leerkamp, seconded by Pam Knight. Motion passed. A special call-in meeting will be held on June 16th at 9 am. Next regular RSC meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2010 at the Hamilton County DCS office.
- **Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:25 by Chris Wagner and seconded by Susan Elsworth. Motion passed.**