



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 17

**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2009  
**Meeting Location:** Dubois County DCS

**Council Members Present:** RM Lesko, Lana Tobin, Leslie Rowland, Diana Songer, Connie Branch, David Galloway, Judge Weikert, Melinda Berry, Judge Dartt,

**Council Members Absent:** Cheryl Hillenburg, Melisa Tye, Lisa Bowles, Gladys Wilson

**Others In Attendance:** Karen Miller, Meghan Olds, Amy Tempel, John Schroder, Natalie Kassenbrock, Beth Stein, Jim Killen, Darlene McBride, Michael Singleton, John Kuss, Jennifer Ryder

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 8:30 A.M. Eastern time by RM Lesko. RM asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. Council member David Galloway addressed that Supervisor Lisa Bowles was listed in the minutes as being a supervisor in Orange County. Lisa is a supervisor in Crawford County. Correction has been made. Judge Weikert made motion to approve the previous meetings minutes and Lana Tobin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Program/Committee Reports:

1. **Community Partners Update:** Natalie Kassenbrock with IHBS gave a summary of the referrals for the month of September 2009. As of September 30, 2009 a total of 55 open cases are currently being serviced through Community Partners for Child Safety in Region 17.

In the month of September, a total of 21 new referrals were made for consideration and 15 were serviced. (Six families failed to engage in services.)

Of the referrals, one came from Crawford County, two came from Daviess County, eight came from Dubois County, two came from Martin County, one came from Orange County, and five came from Perry and two came from Spencer County.

Natalie stated that referrals average 8-10 per week. Natalie stated that the state is asking people to be involved in a work group for a needs assessment which means when IHBS go out to meet a family they gather information and then figure out what the families goals need to be and what their needs are. Natalie and Mike are going to formulate a standardized needs assessment.

Natalie informed the council the state has asked each region to formulate a region wide coalition to be one voice to report back to the state with concerns or problems that we might have. The main purpose of this is to brain storm and take ideas to Indianapolis.

Natalie stated that they have had an increase in referrals from Healthy Families. Natalie stated they haven't seen a big trend in the electric bills but knows this will change with winter approaching and people being out of work. They are educating people on the energy assistance programs to get signed up now so they can prevent large bills in the winter.

Regarding parenting classes Natalie stated some school principals wanted to check with their superintendents so she is still waiting to hear back from them. There is a class coming up with Perry and Spencer counties and she will email the dates to members. Some of the Head Start pre-schools are wanting to partner so she is working with them to schedule dates.

**2. Practice Model:** Darlene McBride stated there was state wide training for supervisors on September 29th for Regions 13, 16, and 17 at the Dubois County DCS office. Darlene stated the training was productive. The video conferencing equipment was used for this training. There was a lot of positive interaction with the trainers, the teams and the supervisors.

Darlene informed the members she will be attending a meeting in Indianapolis on October 30<sup>th</sup> about the practice model. This is an annual meeting and Darlene will inform the members of any changes at a later date.

**3. Regional Finance Report:** John Schroder informed the council that the state does have a budget. The budget was approximately 7 ½ percent under the previous year. The next step is to allocate the regional monies throughout the county DCS and probation offices. The state is still reviewing the standards for the services and the contracts are being developed for the types of services that are involved and will have that information soon. It does appear most counties are following procedures and costs have not gone up.

All should make Susan and John aware should a child need to be placed in an expensive institution. John stated that the account numbers for each budget item will change due to a new system.

**4. Unfinished Business:** Director Rowland updated the council on the Child Advocacy Mobile Unit. She stated that the funding has been achieved to expand services to three of the seven counties in the region. Perry County has their own CAC equipment that has been donated by several agencies.

Director Rowland stated that there will be a meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 on the mobile unit and how to better coordinate the sites and understand how agencies will work together. RM stated that it is her understanding that Ray Sailor from Crawford County will be available to drive the equipment to the site when needed. RM Lesko stated that Cheryl Hillenburg would like a representative from each county at the training on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan:

Jim Killen informed the council that the results of the survey are in. Region 17 did well in getting responses. The survey deadline has been extended and encouragement was given to invite more people to fill the surveys.

Jim wanted to touch base once again that only two counties in our region have the 211 service which are Dubois and Spencer. He was under the impression that all seven counties in Region 17 had this service. He stated this is a very sophisticated and impressive system and is paid totally by the private sector. Jim feels that this is a resource that every county needs. FCM Supervisor Tobin did state that you must call from a land line phone not a cell phone. Jim went on to say that even in a county where 211 is not available if you call from a cell phone they do have a limited data base for those counties where they do not maintain a presence.

**5. New Business:** Beth Stein with Crisis Connection informed the council that Crisis Connection has houses in Dubois and Perry counties and an apartment in Spencer County. The house in Perry County has not been used this year and Crisis Connection was contemplating on what to do with it. They have the ability to place one family at a time for up to 30 days in that facility. Beth stated that after going on the QSR review with the team (which was a DV family) she knew that DCS and Crisis Connection could work together and will be working with Amy Tempel to use the home for active DCS cases where DV is involved. FCM Supervisor Tobin stated on October 29th there will be an in-service at Dubois County DCS for FCMs to learn more about Crisis Connection services. This in-service will be for Martin, Pike and Dubois counties from 8:30-11:30.

John Kuss with Hoosier Hills Pact did state there will be transitional housing in Salem within one year in partnership with Blue Rivers Services. A family will be able to stay up to six months to a year or maybe longer.

Melinda Berry, Director of Daviess County stated they partner with Washington Housing Authority and they have an apartment that people can be placed in up to 90 days and if necessary can do another 90 days and this has worked out well.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** November 20, 2009 at 8:30 Eastern time and 7:30 Central time. The meeting will be held at the Dubois County DCS office located at 1045 Wernsing Rd., Jasper, IN.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** A motion to adjourn was made by Melinda Berry and Connie Branch seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.





RSC to do some of the interviewing. This review is a way for DCS to improve services and case management.

3. Regional Finance Report- Finance Mgr. John Schroder distributed the budget showing expenditures through June for the region. John informed council that the six month 2009 year budget has been completed and for the latter part of it they

decided not to complete the turn about transfers unless there was going to be a shortage within the region. John stated that the budget was passed and the region came out in pretty good shape. There will be training for directors and regional managers later this month to determine the amounts to each county. John stated the state is moving from one computer system to another and that there will be a hold up starting late August until mid September on payments. In August the financial staff will be attending a three day training to learn the new system.

#### 4. Unfinished Business:

Cheryl Hillenburg gave an update to the council regarding the CAC mobile unit. Cheryl stated that on July 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> they received notice that Comfort House would no longer be providing services anywhere other than their facility in Harrison County at Corydon which leaves us in a time gap in services before we get our equipment. We have our equipment on order (the grant was awarded to the state in June 2008) but we have yet to receive any of the money to pay for it. We are going to be called the Southwester Indiana Child Advocacy Center. We are going to use equipment that was in Milltown until we get our new equipment. We will have two sets of equipment, we will have a stationery place where children can be interviewed that's child friendly that is the same place where Comfort House was started. If you want your child to be interviewed in Milltown, that can be arranged. If you want your child to be interviewed in your county the mobile unit equipment will actually be in a surplus vehicle driven by someone from the Milltown police department.

**Meeting Adjourned at:**



