



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 17

**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2009  
**Meeting Location:** Dubois County DCS

**Council Members Present:** RM Lesko, Lana Tobin, Melinda Berry, David Galloway, Leslie Rowland, Lisa Bowles, Diana Songer, Judge Weikert, Constance Branch.

**Council Members Absent:** Cheryl Hillenburg, Melisa Tye, Gladys Wilson, Melisa Tye, Judge Dartt.

**Others In Attendance:** John Schroder, Herbert Gordon, Natalie Kassenbrock, Michael Singleton, Barb Tilly, Terrie Decker, Amy Tempel, Meghan Olds, Bonita Mattingly, Kathy Kuss, Jim Killen, Maria Bedwell, Henry Cruz

### 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. Melinda Berry made motion to approve the previous meetings minutes and Judge Weikert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as read.

#### **Program/Committee Reports:**

1. Community Partners Update: Natalie Kassenbrock with IHBS gave a summary of the referrals for the month of October 2009. As of October 31, 2009 a total of 75 open cases are currently being serviced through Community Partners for Child Safety in Region 17.

In the month of October, a total of 40 new referrals were made for consideration.

Of the referrals, four came from Crawford County, two came from Daviess County, fourteen came from Dubois County, three came from Martin County, one came from Orange County, and fourteen came from Perry and two came from Spencer County.

Natalie stated referrals have been up from the past couple of months. Referral sources vary with several schools calling, Southern Hills and probation

departments where cases were closing out as well as parents calling wanting to become involved with Community Partners.

Natalie stated they haven't seen a rise in the flex funds yet but in the past week people have been contacting them with issues such as their electric being shut off, kids needing coats, etc. with cold weather approaching.

Natalie informed the council that the costs of the parenting classes have been minimal. The schools have been great about partnering as far as handing out flyers to their students. At Rockport Elementary they had five parents attend, Tell City Elementary had four parents in attendance. Tenth Street Elementary in Jasper had ten parents attend. Orange County Headstart parenting class had thirteen parents and Martin County Headstart class had fifteen. Natalie stated these are much better numbers from previous classes. Most attending are single parents or only one spouse attending.

Natalie informed council that the coalition meeting for Region 17 will be on December 10, 2009 at 10:00 ET at the Medical Arts Building in Jasper. IHBS has been asked to coordinate the coalition. The purpose is to partner with other service providers and community members to determine service gaps in Region 17.

**2. Practice Model:** RM Lesko stated our region continues to work on CFTM's. Our goal is to have a CFTM held at each assessment substantiated and unsubstantiated. Bonnie Pittman a FCM from Perry County will be the practice consultant for three regions in Southern Indiana effective 11-23-09. Also, as part of the practice model Lana Tobin, Amy Tempel and Meghan Olds have been trained to be reviewers for the quality service reviews. This will give Region 17 six trained reviewers. The next review for Region 17 will be in June 2010.

**3. Regional Finance Report:** John Schroder informed the council that we do have an allotted budget. John sees Region 17 possibly having problems as far as shortfalls in institutions either with CHINS or probation. Money within the region may need to be reallocated. He stated the state is reviewing all expenditures.

**4. Unfinished Business:** Lisa Bowles, FCM Supervisor in Crawford County informed the council that on Monday, November 23, 2009 there is training for multi disciplinary teams that will be using the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). Lisa stated that Crawford County has used the center for many years. Lana Tobin, Supervisor for Dubois County informed the council the next round for forensic interviewing training for FCMs will be held in December.

RM Lesko informed council that Orange County has used the mobile CAC unit and Supervisor McBride stated that the equipment was easy to use and the interviews went well.

Leslie Rowland, Director in Orange County informed the council that they are now partnering with a local church to use their space for interviews. The church has provided them with a key, thereby allowing the team access.

#### Domestic Violence Partnering Update:

Director Tempel explained to the council that DCS is partnering with Crisis Connection. Crisis Connection has a home in Tell City they are willing to share with DCS if DCS has an appropriate DV family needing shelter. Director Tempel thought Perry County had an appropriate family, however, the assessment ended in removal of the children.

Kathy Kuss with Pact informed council that their transitional living unit will be four apartments in Salem due to open in the spring.

**Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan:** Jim Killen informed the Council that this plan is due February 2, 2010. Our focus is on services –how and what Region 17 needs to better service the children and families of the community. The plan is for the 2011-2013. After identifying all needs and barriers the plan will be developed. RM Lesko stated the workgroup from the Council has been meeting to identify needs and barriers to services within the Region. The final plan will be brought to the January RSC meeting where it will be discussed and voted on for approval.

**New Business:** IHBS presented a proposal for truancy programs to the Council for consideration. Region 16 has a signed contract with IHBS for this program. Probation officers in Region 17 have requested this service. Natalie Kassenbrock gave a brief overview and presentation of the program.

Melinda Berry, Director of Daviess County made a motion to approve the request for Region 17 and Lana Tobin seconded the motion. Council approved.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** The next meeting will be December 18, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. Eastern time and 7:30 A.M. 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 Lana Tobin and seconded by David Galloway. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.







