



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 17

**Meeting Date:** August 21, 2009  
**Meeting Location:** Dubois County DCS

**Council Members Present:** RM Lesko, Lana Tobin, David Galloway, Diana Songer, Leslie Rowland, Melinda Berry, Constance Branch, Melisa Tye, Amy Smith, Meghan Olds

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Dartt, Judge Weikert, Lisa Bowles, Cheryl Hillenburg, Amy Tempel

**Others In Attendance:** Herb Gordon, Michael Singleton, Darlene McBride, John Schroder, Jim Killen, Natalie Kassenbrock, Barb Tilly, Karen Miller, Deb Johnson, Beth Stein, Dan Turner, Barb Tilly, 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. Melinda Berry made motion to approve the previous meetings minutes and Melisa Tye 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 July 2009. As of July 31, 2009 a total of 50 open cases were currently being serviced through Community Partners for Child Safety in Region 17.

In the month of July, a total of 24 new referrals were made for consideration and 17 were serviced. Reason for not servicing families were, families failed to engage in services, families declined services, inappropriate referrals, and clients moved out of the service area.

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

Natalie stated to the council if there were 8 face to face visits with a family the case was tracked for one year searching ICWIS using social security numbers to see if the family had a substantiated case in the system. I&L received data and learned Region 17 had 96% of their families that had not had a substantiated case. The programs goal is to prevent child abuse and neglect and these numbers show the program is working.

Natalie informed the council that the parenting classes will be held in the fall and in the spring. Natalie needs to know via email where to obtain attendance prize items for each county. Through discussions, it was determined that not every attendee would receive an attendance prize. It was decided by council members to target the public schools but send an invitation to the administrators of private schools informing them of the parenting classes and inviting them to attend. RM Lesko stated by partnering with the schools this should help bring up attendance especially in the elementary schools.

Last month Natalie informed the council Community Partners would be using a new assessment tool; CP started using the new tool this week.

RM Lesko clarified several questions previously raised about Community Partners.

1. If anyone in the family is involved with juvenile probation the family cannot receive services through Community Partners.
2. If a child is split between household due to custody arrangements, the child may receive services at only one household or at both.
3. Community Partners can service a family even though they temporarily are not living in their home.
4. Community Partners can service non-citizens.

Discussions were held about what should happen if a family continually refers themselves. Mike Singleton expressed that we have to be cautious the program doesn't become all things to all people. If Community Partners sees an abuse in the program they can come to the council with those concerns.

2. Practice Model: RM Lesko informed the council that the QSR's went well, however, the data has not been completed. Melissa Tye and Beth Stein were two non DCS QSR reviewers. Both ladies felt the process was beneficial to them; they learned a lot and have many new ideas and thoughts to consider.

Darlene McBride passed out booklets for the council to view which are to be used during prep meetings for child and family team meetings. Darlene stated there has been six new FCM's hired and half have completed their training to conduct the child and family team meetings.

3. Regional Finance Report: Finance Mgr. John Schroder distributed the budget showing expenditures through July for the region. We still do not have a budget. John informed the council he does not know how much the budget will be cut, at this time it is all speculation.

4. Unfinished Business: 2010 Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan. RM Lesko said it was time to start working on the plan and discussed several time tables. Jim Killen also discussed the plan and next steps. A work group will be established to work on the plan once surveys are returned and the public meeting is held.

Public hearing will be held on September 18, 2009 after the RSC meeting at which time public testimony will be taken. The meeting location is yet to be announced. Jim Killen had the listing of all the parties to be contacted re the survey; directors will be responsible for obtaining email addresses and forwarding them to Jim Shively. The survey will go out September 11<sup>th</sup>;

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** September 18, 2009 at 8:30 A.M. Eastern time and 7:30 A.M. Central time. The meeting will be held at Southern Hills Counseling Center (Community Room) located at 480 Eversman Drive, Jasper, IN.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** A motion to adjourn was made by Diana Songer and David Galloway seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 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:**

