



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: September 26, 2008

Meeting Location: Wabash Valley Hospital
North River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Autumn Jackson, Warren County FCM; Coleen Hamrick, Tippecanoe County CASA Director; Kathy Shank, FCM Carroll County DCS; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; JP Thorpe and Pam Crum, Foster Parents; and Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe County for Judge Loretta Rush.

Council Members Absent: Judge John Rader, Warren County; Cathy Booe, Fountain County DCS Supervisor; and Judge Henderson, Fountain County.

Others In Attendance: Sonya Janssen, Director Warren County DCS; Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Mary Jo Cuculic, Sarah Sailors, Rhonda Friend, and Laura Zimmerman, FCM Supervisors, Tippecanoe County; Sandy Lock, Clinton County FCM Supervisor; Landra Talbot, Clinton County FCM; dianna Huddleston, Rick Crawley and Tim Dilling, Wabash Valley Hospital; Shalon Perez, Heartford House; Jim Shively, Dodson Shively and Associates; Misty Robinson, Tippecanoe County Probation; Chuck Hunter and Darrell Gordon, CEO, Wernle Children's Home in Richmond; Lisa Hollis, Families United; and Pam Biggs Reed from Community and Family Resource Center.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:30 am

1. Community Partners report – dianna reported the following numbers for referrals:
 - Benton County had 35 referrals and used \$3140.00 of flex money
 - Carroll County had 51 referrals and used \$3400.00 of flex money
 - Clinton County had 29 referrals and used \$1200.00 of flex money
 - Fountain County had 54 referrals and used \$456.00 of flex money

- Tippecanoe County had 357 referrals and used \$42,000.00 of flex money
- Warren County had 27 referrals and used \$15,000 flex money
- White County had 78 referrals and used \$4950.00 flex money

dianna reported that we are averaging about \$50.00 per family.

Pam Biggs-Reed of CFRC reported that most of the checks they write for families are for rent deposits or utilities. All of the counties are doing well though it is still difficult to get outside referrals especially in the rural areas. Many of the schools just do not understand Community Partners yet. Wabash Valley staff really enjoys working with these families. Rick Crawley reported that as of July Tippecanoe County is out of money and asked the RSC to approve Region funds to be used as necessary. This money is a regional allocation anyway. Elva James stated she would like there to be a projection of the smaller counties needs and money over that amount could be used for Tippecanoe County. A motion to use regional funds as necessary was made by Barb Bedrick, seconded by Coleen Hamrick. The motion was approved.

2. Jim Shively, IV-B Coordinator – Jim stated that \$60,000 of Family Support money will be going to Community Partners and some Child Welfare Funds will be going into Community Partners.

Counties have approved the first wave contracts. All contracts are statewide. Funding allocations are regional. Regional Service Councils have a larger role in this process now. As of January 1, 2009 the counties won't be able to pay for anything, everything will be paid on the state level. We've lost the property tax contributions to Child Welfare Funds. Regional Service Council will need to set up a process to figure out how much is spent month to month. We currently don't know what our allocations will be but we're fairly certain it will be at least as much as last year, if not more. During the next three months RSC will need to review where money has been going and see if that's where we want it to go. State contracts must fit very tight standards. There are no performance standards for prevention services. These services will emanate out of Community Partner standards.

We are working on a process where Community Partners will be a broker for services. It's very important to have this all worked out by January 1st.

Wave two was intended to replicate wave one with the same service standards in order to pick up any services missed during wave one. We are currently in the middle of wave three intended to pick up programs in place that don't meet current standards and create new standards. These services include respite care as prevention service, three types of drug screens and truancy. These proposals were due in Jim's office by September 15th. Wave four proposals are due in Jim's office by October 15th and are for another

set of services developed with probation staff including detox and day treatment. We may be able to approve Wave 3 and Wave 4 proposals at the same meeting because they will have fewer proposals than Waves 1 & 2 did. A wave five is being projected and is a work in progress. It will most likely begin sometime in the first six months of next year.

A list of wave two proposals was distributed for approval. Contractually the providers on the list that have been approved are open to serve any county in the Region though they may not be able to due to staffing, etc. A motion was made by Barb Bedrick to approve these contracts. Seconded by Elva James. Motion was approved.

Jim's office will prepare our resource book listing services and providers.

IV-B part 2 money needs to be moved from family support to the Community Partners program. Part 2 is the restrictive part of IV-B because of restrictions around family support. The federal government says this money must be used for prevention services. A motion to move IV-B part 2 money to Community Partners was made by Barb Bedrick. Seconded by Coleen Hamrick. Motion was approved.

Clinton County had allocated IV-B part 2 money to Building Blocks and would like to remove this allocation. A motion to remove this allocation was made by Elva James. Seconded by Autumn Jackson. Motion was approved. This money will be put into Community Partners.

3. Child Welfare Service dollar allocations – These dollars will not roll over into 2009, they need to be encumbered by January 1. Gil passed out a sheet showing statewide allocations for 2009. The allocations are based on money spent in previous years. The figures show one lump sum for each regional allocation.
4. CQI (Continued Quality Improvement) is based on information from the QSR (Quality Service Review). Twenty four (24) cases were pulled in the Region and data was presented. Our Region did well in the areas of mental health, physicals and vision. Dental services are lacking in our area. We're doing a better search to find absent parents and are trying to engage them. Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) – we're getting better at having these except in the early stages of a case. It's hard to engage both parents if they don't get along.
Long term view – how will what we do for a child now will effect the child throughout his life?
Independent Living – we struggle with this more now that we don't have an IL Coordinator. It is especially difficult in the smaller counties that are unfamiliar with it because they do it less often.
5. Practice Indicator Reports, Sandy Lock – As a Region we've done well at keeping our kids placed locally and keeping siblings together. Our numbers

have dropped some in relative placement and we need to concentrate on improving in this area. Sandy passed out two reports, both showing monthly report on placements by county. The second report was one she fashioned from the first one, making it much simpler to read. This is a key indicator that Director Payne looks at each month. Our relative placement is going down in some counties. We need to look at these and see why and what we need to do to improve. In some cases families may have a criminal background and we can't place the child with relatives.

This report should really be based on CHINs in placement. Not all CHINs are in placement.

We're above the state average in residential placement but not by much.

6. Practice Reform Updates, Landra Talbot – Landra reported that after the Planning and Intervening trainings in November and December all workers should be trained. New workers have had this training. Anyone who hasn't had it yet should sign up with Landra. She reports that CFTMs are challenging but most staff are meeting the requirement of two per month.
7. Tippecanoe County allocation of Child Welfare Services dollars, Sonya Janssen – Sonya requested on Angela Smith Grossman's behalf \$3000.00 for Lafayette School Corporation to support the attendance initiative that acknowledges parental participation and \$45,000.00 for CFRCs pregnancy program that serves pregnant teens and teen parents. A motion was made to grant these requests by Barb Bedrick. Seconded by Coleen Hamrick. The motion was approved.
8. There will be a Power Point training on the role of the Regional Service Council and its membership. We will be viewing this in the future.
9. Dismissal of Court Representatives - Court representatives were dismissed to prepare for provider presentations.
10. Provider Presentation –
 - Michiana Behavior Center – Tom Guy
Tom was late due to the time difference.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: The next meeting will be October 31, 2008, at 7:30 a.m. at the Wabash Valley Hospital on North River Road in West Lafayette.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:00 am.