



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: July 31, 2009

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

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Kathy Shank, Carroll County FCM; Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS; Judge Loretta Rush, Tippecanoe County; Stacey Morgan, FCM Supervisor, Clinton County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County; Autumn Jackson, Warren County FCM; Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director; Angela Smith Grossman, Director Tippecanoe DCS; and Elva James, Director Benton County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Tricia Thompson, Carroll County Prosecutor; Judge John Rader, Warren County; Judge Henderson, Fountain County and JP Thorpe and Pam Crum, Foster Parents.

Others In Attendance: Cindy Mason, Director Fountain County DCS; Sarah Sailors, FCM Supervisor, Carroll County; Karyl Brown, FCM Supervisor, White County DCS; Sam Warren and Laura Zimmerman, FCM Supervisors, Tippecanoe County; Pam Biggs Reed, CFRC; Bob Daugherty, Regional Finance Manager; Sandy Lock, Director Carroll and Clinton Counties; Tom Gilliam and dianna Huddleston, Wabash Valley Hospital; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; and Carissa Stivers, The Children's Campus.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:30 am

1. Minutes from May 29, 2009 will be sent out.
2. June Practice Indicator Reports, Sandy Lock – Region 5 continues to look good in these reports. We are lagging behind a little in the area of Relative Placement and we need to look at why. Sandy is still struggling with a couple of the reports that she isn't sure are correct. Judge Rush said she is concerned that IA's aren't tracked in these reports. We do have a lot of support for our foster homes and kids stay there. Credit for this is given to the foster care team doing a great job.

3. Sarah Sailors is now our Practice Consultant for the Region. They are starting to really watch the Child and Family Team Meetings for quality vs. quantity. Also to be sure the goals set are attainable. Ongoing numbers are good. Investigative numbers are down but this may be more a problem of documentation than lack of CFTMs. Sarah will meet with the peer coaches and have them get with the Family Case Managers on this.
4. Community Partners Report, dianna Huddleston – Benton County has had 57 referrals and used \$4000 of flex funding dollars. Carroll County has had 92 referrals and used \$8700 flex dollars. Clinton County has had 118 referrals and used \$3100 flex dollars. Fountain County has had 189 referrals and used \$24,000 flex dollars. Tippecanoe County has had 684 referrals and has used \$116,000 flex dollars. Warren County has had 70 referrals and used \$5500 flex dollars. White County has had 217 referrals and used \$13,000 flex dollars.

Tom Gilliam reported that services rendered in June will be paid in July, which is the new fiscal year. May's services were billed in June and even though June is part of the last fiscal year, services were billed in July. We'll have to keep an eye on the funds for this year and may need to ramp down our expenses. Possibly slow down referrals. Tippecanoe County is currently only accepting referrals through DCS. We are currently authorizing treatment services for up to 12 months and that could be revised but Angela Smith Grossman said she didn't want to limit these because sometimes they are needed. We could also look at our flex funding. Tom reported that flex spending is more each month than the month before. Angela said knowing where we are in allocations makes it easier to manage and she doesn't recommend any changes. Each Director should manage their own allocations.

Gil asked if we should restrict referrals. Angela stated it wasn't consistent to tell the community to change back and forth; Elva would be interested in knowing what percentage of referrals come from other agencies; Colleen Hamrick doesn't feel we should close it down to outside referrals; Judge Rush feels like it should be decided month to month; and Angela said 75% of referrals come from DCS. Gil asked if everyone was ok with allowing Directors to make changes on a month to month basis. Everyone agreed. dianna Huddleston said to send referral source information to her. Tom said he would get this information out to the Directors who aren't on the Regional Service Council.

5. Financial, Bob Daugherty – Bob distributed budget spreadsheets. Each county has its own allocation. We can transfer allocations between line items and categories and between counties. We can also transfer money

between Regions but hopefully we won't have to do that. Bob gave the following report on the past year's budget –

- Benton County spent 57% of their budget
- Carroll County spent 297% of their budget. They had no probation kids and didn't have any CHINS for eight months in 2008.
- Clinton County spent 103% of their budget. They spent more on probation and institutions.
- Fountain County spent 130% of their budget, also probation and institution costs.
- Tippecanoe County spent 73% of their budget. Their preservation services were up but overall they did a good job.
- Warren County spent 100% of their budget.
- White County spent 93% of their budget. They had a significant cost for preservation but that is a good thing.

The amount for 2010 state budget was reduced to \$480,000,000 and 5% of what we get goes into reserve. Therefore we are looking at \$5,000,000 less than we requested. We will really need to watch our money.

6. Judge Rush feels we need more services for kids in care. There is a big deficit in services we provide to kids in care. We need to look at this in the next waves. Gil appreciated her comments and questions. We will need to think about service standards to provide services for foster families. Angela said CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs Survey) should do a good job of measuring needs and strengths. Judge Rush said the Judge's conference made her realize what we aren't doing. She feels we are too far behind as a state. She feels as a Regional Service Council we are too tied down with numbers and money and we need to talk about the kids. Once we know there are mental issues we need to have the capacity to address them. Angela stated that because we are a pilot for CANS we can develop a strategy for this.

Gil asked that he be sent any thoughts about the agenda so we can add them and not talk just about the money and Practice Indicators.

Judge was dismissed.

Carissa Stivers from The Children's Campus gave a presentation.

Next Meeting Date, Time and Location: Next meeting will be at 7:30 am on September 25, 2009 at Wabash Valley Hospital

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:20 am.