

Regional Services Council

Region 4 Meeting

Date: July 10, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Allen County DCS – 201 E. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Meeting Chair: James Pippin, Region 4 Regional Manager

Meeting Secretary: Helen Garmon

Call to order

Start time: 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Members Present:

James Pippin
Austin Hollabaugh
Wesley Husselman
Kelly Moorman
Angela Vachon

Phone:

(260) 458-6167
(260) 636-2021
(260) 925-2810
(260) 356-4420
(260) 824-3530

Members Absent:

Amy Richison
Judge Pratt
Judge Heuer
Michelle Savieo

Non-Members Present:

Alexys Vosmeier
Addie Brandell
Debbie Branfield
Irene Paxia
Michelle Meinika
Jennifer Rutkowski-Smith
Tess Ottenweller
Chelsea Patton
Amy Avencamp

Kim Hollabaugh
Joshua Gerardot
Liz Terveer
Brittney Collins
Jeff Waibel
Libby Martin
Kelly Roe
Millie McDonald
Laura Hoffman

Kelsey Middaugh
Jeff Bedree
Ron Lahmeyer
Maureen Prebyski
Jeremy Greenlee
Heidi Sims
Courtney Wiegmann
Betsy Kuhn
Carla Kilgore

Approval of minutes from last meeting

As read X As corrected

Recommended Correction:

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Network for Safe Families:

Paige Hamilton distributed and reviewed the following handouts:

- Network for Safe Families - Services May 2017 Financial Report
- May 2017 Program Statistics
- Local Prevention Fund May 2017 Financial Report

Paige stated all the contracts are out for Region 4. They're doing a couple of pilot RFP's so keep a look out for that.

County Updates

Noble County (Austin Hollabaugh, Director) – We have 16 FCM's vs 13 a year ago making workspace space is a little tight. Our assessment numbers have stayed pretty much in the 90's since the beginning of the year. We got a new Judge at the end of the year. We have had some Heroin but not like anything Allen County has seen. Summer Law did not affect Noble County.

Whitley County (Jeff Bedree, Director) – Whitley County was impacted with the Summer Law. We've seen a dramatic decrease in referrals. We currently have 9 FCM's. Caseloads are pretty stable. We're seeing a huge increase in our Domestic Violence cases, we're trying to address that as best we can.

Steuben and Lagrange – (Ron Lahmeyer, Director) - Steuben has 10 FCM's. There was a spike in the number of assessments this summer. Caseloads are pretty stable. Meth is a problem. Steuben does well with making Community Partner referrals.

LaGrange- LaGrange numbers are pretty steady as far as assessments and caseloads. There's opportunity to make more Community Partner referrals. There has been some turnover but we're getting that all turned around.

Huntington – (Alexys Vosmeier, Director) – We have 12 FCM's. Our county problems like most counties is Meth, Drugs and a big increase in Domestic Violence. Since the summer; we've had a drop last month at almost 20 assessments lower than our normal average of about 80-90 assessments a month. We do well with Community Partners. We have good relationships with the Bowen Centers, SCAN, Lifeline, YSD and Crossroads; those are our major providers.

DeKalb – (Wesley Husselman, Director) – They started building construction. We've been staying steady with 16 FCM's, we recently dropped one but believe that position will be filled soon. There hasn't been a great turnover with staff. As far as intakes in assessments; I haven't seen a drop yet this summer but I haven't seen a huge increase either. I see a lot of Meth and some Heroin. Our Community Partners have been good. There's a lot of communication. We do a lot of CFTM's each month and Community Partners are present for that.

Adams, Allen and Wells- (James “Jamie” Pippin, Region 4 Manager)

Adams/Wells – Adams County is looking at a larger building, Wells and Adams have been flip flopping staff. Assessments have stayed pretty stable. They border Region 7 so we’ve had a lot of families jump back and forth which is a big issue trying to sort out who’s doing what and if they had a failed drug screen some place; which court has jurisdiction over it? Region 7 has a new Manager, Kelly Broyles. They have been working together to sort this out.

Allen- Allen needs to expand. They may stay in the Rudisill Plaza Bldg. and move to the basement but at this point he really doesn’t know. Allen has had a lot of turnover mostly on the Permanency and Ongoing side.

As a Region – Region 4 does very good with Assessments. Where we struggle is with permanency for kids. Jamie’s mission and one of his focus coming to Region 4 is to see what we can do as a region to help get kids to permanency quicker. There are a lot of tools and tactics that we have in DCS like Permanency Round Table (PRT) and Permanency Teams (smaller version of PRT).

We are thinking of breaking Region 4 down into Sub-regions. Adams, Wells, Huntington and Whitley serving as a sub-region. Allen would be a region by itself. Noble, DeKalb, LaGrange and Steuben as a sub-region. When we do our Permanency Teams; they will meet in those sub-regions themselves.

Anyone who talks with the Region 4 staff should expect to have a polite and professional conversation. We may not agree; but there’s a way to professionally disagree about something. If you run into a situation with an FCM or Supervisor; please let the local office know. If you’re having a problem with a specific county; please feel free to contact Jamie.

If there’s ever a training opportunity that you would to attend or have someone from DCS come out and talk to your staff; please feel free to ask.

Statewide- They’re going away from the QSR and going toward the Federal Model CFSR which is more in-depth but they don’t do as many cases. Currently they’re looking at about 100 a year. It’s a 3 day process to get qualified. There’s been some turnover at the Central Office level; Chief of Staff, Doris Tolliver is leaving.

Regional Fiscal Report

We want to make sure we’re getting the units and referrals correct. Mary Holliday and James Pippin will do a budget presentation in each county to train staff in terms of what this needs to look like and this needs to happen

Next Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2017 @ 12:00 p.m. in the Allen County DCS Regional Training Room, 201 E. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned.

Signatures:

Secretary Helin Harmon Chair [Signature]
Date 10-16-17 Date [Signature]
Approved: hg (secretary's initials) Date: 10-16-17