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Description automatically generated **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, December 9, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. CST

**Meeting Location**: Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Regional Manager Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: RM Brown, Magistrate Jonathan Forker, Marc Brown, Angelina Brouillette, Sharon Mathew, Michele Stowers (proxy for Brian Broek), Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **October** **4, 2022, Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Sharon Mathew made a motion to accept the October 4th minutes as written which was seconded by Angelina Brouillette, minutes passed.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Nicholas Neal discussed county Christmas events. LaPorte’s event held last night was attended by 373 of which 267 were children and was successful. Jasper County Christmas event will be held on December 20th at the county fairgrounds. Porter County’s will be this Saturday at the Living Hope Church campus in Portage. There has been an increase for rent and utility assistance, we were able to give more money to a local church to help with the assistance. Kristin has contact information if anyone in the region needs to arrange assistance. Still one staff short but able to maintain without any drop of services. Kristin discussed the Community Partners report for November.

Open Referrals – 121

New Enrollments – 95

Discharges – 99

DCS County Referrals – Total of 58

* Benton/Newton – 0
* Jasper – 3
* LaPorte – 26
* Porter – 24
* Pulaski – 2
* Starke – 3

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 37

* Benton/Newton – 0
* Jasper – 1
* LaPorte – 17
* Porter – 17
* Pulaski – 0
* Starke - 2

Flexible Funds

* Request – 17
* Approved – 17
* There was 1 CFTM request from Porter but was cancelled: 1 safe sleep requests from LaPorte.
* Discussed successes and concerns.
* Kristin highlighted portions of the Community Partners newsletter featuring Christmas events and ideas.
* RM Brown discussed increase in cases, preventative services and budget.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion reminded everyone that the state still has Family Preservation Fridays where providers can discuss and ask questions about family preservation services. The state has Family Preservation Fridays for family case manager and supervisors that work in the field, and it is also open to local office managers. Both meetings are schedule for next Friday, December 16th. If you would like the link to join the meeting, email Dion. Since the inception of Family Preservation, we have had 86,181 cases. Over the past 90 days we currently have 6,083 cases. Region 2 has had 389 cases and over the past 90 days have 279. This is showing the program is working. Reminder to providers, if you are getting referrals for standard visitation, please don’t try to enhance the referrals. Also, make sure your employee files are up to date. Often during an audit, they are finding missing documents such as background checks, trainings, and supervision notes.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni went over finances for the November:

* Budget target is 41.98%, region is at 37.49%
* Expenditures were $ 873,485 (YTD is $4,442,459, down $851,338)
* In-Home is down 32.12% and Out-of-Home is down 10.82%
* Discussed each county expenses:
  + Benton - $50,023 (YTD up 135%)
  + Jasper - $67,961 (YTD down 14%)
  + LaPorte - $396,688 (YTD down 5%)
  + Newton - $22,158 (YTD down 60%)
  + Porter - $194,082 (YTD down 21%)
  + Pulaski - $60,389 (YTD down 18%)
  + Starke - $82,185 (YTD down 38%)
* RM Brown discussed budget dollars and the extra money going into the preventative services.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown discussed the outcome of the region compared to the goals set by the state. The region did very well rating first in the state of achievement in most of the goals. RM Brown went through each category and discussed the regions achievements. RM Brown discussed the upcoming year with new goals and Practice Models reviews.

**8. Megan Ryan:** Was not available

**9. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** Sarah Fink questioned the process of filling up regional foster home which RM Brown explained how children in other county need foster homes and are placed in our region when their region if full. When we need a slot, sometimes they are filled within the region, and we have to start looking outside the region. Recruitments for foster home was also discussed.

**10. Next RSC Meeting:** The next regular RSC meeting will be held virtually on January 13th, at 9:00 a.m. central time and will continue to be on teams at this time.

**11.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time, wished everyone Happy Holidays and adjourned the meeting.