

# ***SAFELY HOME, FAMILIES FIRST***

## **Regional Service Council Minutes**

### **Region #16 Meeting**

**Date:** April 28, 2016  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon  
**Location of Meeting:** Vincennes University, Ft. Branch, Indiana  
**Meeting Chair:** Regional Manager Melanie Flory  
**Meeting Secretary:** LaJean Gentry  
**Call to Order:** 12:00 Noon CDT  
**Roll Call:** 4 of 12 Voting Members Present

#### **Voting Members Present**

Melanie Flory  
Aaron Simpson  
Michael Summers  
Sarah Gough

#### **Phone Present   Absent with Regret**

#### **Absent**

Judge Brett Niemeier  
Judge Joseph Verkamp  
Judge Robert R. Aylsworth  
Dirk Carnahan  
Suzanne Draper  
Shirley Starks  
Margaret Angel  
Libby Treado

#### **Others in Attendance**

Samantha Freeman  
Sidney Hardgrave  
Jason Nelson  
Barb Tilly  
Jan Dotson  
Sarah Gough  
Diane Braun  
Natalie Kassenbrock  
Michael Singleton  
Gini Combs  
Whitney Weir  
Ramona Wilzbacher  
Donna Culley  
Keith Patterson  
Melanie Reising  
Nicole Myers  
Kim Bivens  
Janie Beckham  
Tiffanie Bailey  
Kenneth Malapote  
Shayna Jones

**Welcome**

Melanie Flory welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the new Knox County Director, Michael Summers, who began those duties on April 4, 2016, and new Posey County Supervisor, Rachel Brown. Introductions were made. Melanie noted that most counties are now fully staffed with Vanderburgh County still hiring a few. This allows counties to be close to the 12/17 assessment/caseload mandated by the state.

**Approval of minutes from last meeting on January 6, 2016:**

As read   X                        As corrected       

Minutes of the January 6, 2016, RSC meeting had previously been e-mailed. No corrections or changes were noted. Aaron Simpson made motion to approve the Minutes. Michael Summers seconded that motion. Minutes of the January 6, 2016, meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

**Program/Committee Reports:**

**Community Partners Report** – Natalie Kassenbrock – Natalie stated the reports are posted to the IHBS website. During March, 2016, Community Partners serviced 126 families. They received 71 new referrals and of those referrals 9 came from Gibson, 11 came from Knox, 1 came from Pike, 1 came from Posey, 43 came from Vanderburgh and 6 came from Warrick. From July 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, 754 families in the region have received services. For the quarter of January through March, there were 256 total referrals with 175 families closed having met at least one goal. The fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and Community Partners has spent 83.3% of the budget as of April 16. Target for the whole month was 83% so they are a little over budget. Adjustments will be made to ensure they will not go over budget.

Natalie stated the Kids First trust fund provides funding for Community Partners through purchase of license plates. IHBS has received ideas from the prevention consultant on how to market that to support those funds, and they are working on ways to promote that.

**Region 16 Practice Indicators** – Melanie Flory – Melanie reported that Region 16 has 1283 CHINS cases, 123 IA cases and 53 Collaborative Care children. There are currently 657 open assessments in the region. Melanie noted the region has been very busy the entire month noting that when people become more aware of child abuse during the Prevent Child Abuse month (April), there tends to be more reports coming in resulting in more assessments. There have been more removals of children during April than is typically done. Now that counties are becoming fully staffed, there is enough staff to cover all of that. Of the CHINS cases, 31% are in-home CHINS and 69% are out-of-home CHINS. Of those CHINS, 49% are placed with relatives. The push is to always explore relative care rather than placing in foster care when other relatives are available. Of the CHINS, 44% are in foster care with 4.9% being residential placements and 1.2% being other placements. Region 16’s residential rate is one of the lowest in the state. Kids in residential care are ones who have been there for a long time. With the increase in relative care and placement, the foster care workers who do licensing of homes are kept very busy. The FC unit is specializing to give the relative care workers support in working with those relatives.

**Practice Update** – Melanie Flory – Trina continues to meet regularly to discuss practice and ways to help improve Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM’s). Focus is on the importance of these meetings and how essential they are to closing cases. Increasing the effectiveness of those CFTM meetings is a goal.

For the month of March 267 CFTM's were held, which is a little higher than it has been the past few months. New peer coaches are needed due to the amount of new staff being hired. Those invited to peer coach meetings include practice champions in an effort to promote more interest in becoming peer coaches. There is discussion of including mentors in the peer coach practice meetings so that the mentors, even though they are not peer coaches, can support that practice. There has also been discussion of combining peer coaching with mentoring.

**Regional Foster Care** – Sam Freeman – There are six foster care specialists and two relative care workers currently in Region 16. One more person is in the process of being hired, which will increase the foster care specialists to seven. A change is being implemented in Posey and Vanderburgh Counties with two foster care specialists doing only relative care licensing and ICPC and two will do general foster care licensing. One person will work on placements for the region with Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick workers assisting when needed. Knox and Gibson workers will maintain what they are currently doing. The foster care unit received 42 inquiries last month, which is very high. April is currently very similar. It is hoped that specializing will allow more families to become licensed by allowing those workers more uninterrupted time to do licensing. Sixty percent of the inquiries received were from relatives, and the goal is to place with relatives if at all possible. Licensing aids those relatives by providing a per diem for child care. It is felt that results are already being seen as a result of specializing. Seventeen homes have been licensed so far this year.

An event is being planned in May at the zoo for foster parents and children in honor of National Foster Care Month. There will be food, a scavenger hunt, etc. Licensing of homes involves a lot of time and effort and the current focus is on retention of foster parents.

**QSR** – Shirley Starks – Region 16's next QSR will be held during the month of December, 2016. In addition to that, a federal review is being conducted from June 3 through June 10. Several regional staff members have been selected to be reviewers. No counties in Region 16 were pulled for the actual review. A final meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> with the results from the review.

**Permanency Round Tables** – Melanie Flory – The next Permanency Round Table will be held on June 14 and June 15. Cases will be selected soon for those dates and is part of the process of the Regional Permanency Team.

**Budget Report** -- Keith Patterson – Region 16 was allocated \$16,900,000 in funds for the fiscal year. At the end of the last report \$14,200,000 had been spent, which averages out to about \$1,500,000 per month. There has been a change in the reports with probation being taken out of the budget and submitted as a separate report. Probation costs are \$908,000 for that side of the budget. Probation was excluded because there was a change in the overall budget and how it was allocated. There is \$2,700,000 remaining in the allocation for Region 16 for this fiscal year.

**Services & RFP** – Jason Nelson – Jason noted he has been using webinars throughout the state in an effort to bring information to agencies and can do that if others want that. He has also been working with Family Case Managers, especially new ones, on what information is needed at the onset of referrals. If there are questions, Jason is available by e-mail.

Jason stated there have been issues with comprehensive referrals. The service mapping program is up and running and doing well. FCM's can make referrals without involving anyone on the team as the

service mapping makes the recommendation. This allows a referral to be made, approval to be obtained from the supervisor and the referral then becomes effective. There have been problems in larger counties with workers making a referral but the supervisor not approving it for several days to a week. This causes problems for providers as the start date is the date the FCM made the referral and there is to be face-to-face contact within 48 hours. Anytime an agency receives a referral but the window is past, Jason asked them not to panic but to send him an e-mail and the dates will be fixed.

An Interim RFP for a variety of services for Region 16 will be opened and includes: domestic violence batterers intervention services, day treatment, home-based casework and therapy, visitation facilitation, additional tier level comprehensive services, diagnostic and evaluation services for the entire area, substance abuse assessments, support groups for families and in-office counseling services. The anticipated opening is scheduled for May 16. Any questions should be received by May 20 with answers to be posted by May 25. The RFP closes June 16. Scoring will be completed by internal personnel by the end of June with announcements made at the next RSC meeting held.

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business noted.

### **New Business**

No new business was noted.

### **Public Testimony/Announcements**

Sarah Gough reported Borrowing Hearts has a clothing bank and a carseat lending program which is located at the Gathering Church in downtown Evansville. Licensed foster parents and relative care placements can call and receive diapers, wipes, etc., needed to get them through the first week of a child being placed in care until they are able to receive more clothing/clothing vouchers, etc. The Gathering Church is located at Second and Walnut Streets. They also accept donations. One of the board members has also become a certified carseat technician and will provide that service as well. They will travel to do carseat training for DCS staff.

Dr. Donna Culley announced that May 7<sup>th</sup> is the fourth annual Southwestern Regional Systems of Care Services Family Fun Day. This event will also be used to increase awareness of resources available to families. This event will be held at the YMCA in Evansville from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to tell their families about this event and to participate.

The Indiana Youth Services Association has received a grant to create a statewide program for youth in human trafficking from age 7 to age 21. Whitney Weir is the Southwest Regional Coordinator so covers Region 16 and can do education for staff and communities on identifying exploitation and working with victims of exploitation. Information was distributed which included Ms. Weir's contact information and red flag information on identifying victims.

Raintree Consulting has opened a new office in Evansville at 3700 Bellemeade in the medical building.

Sidney Hardgrave gave kudos to St. Mary's and Deaconess for running billboards to raise awareness about child abuse using their own budgets.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. RSC will meet on July 28, 2016 at 12:00 noon CDT at the VU campus in Ft. Branch, IN.

Signatures:

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary's initials)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regional Service Council    Region 16 Motion Chart**

**Date: April 28, 2016**

**Chair:    Regional Manager Melanie Flory**

Motion	Discussion	Action	Person Responsible
1. Motion to approve the Minutes from the January 6, 2016 meeting.	None	Adopted – Approved by 4 voting members.	Motion by Aaron Simpson to Approve Seconded Michael Summers All voting members present approved.
2.	None	Adopted –	
3.		Adopted –	


Vote count must be recorded in the minutes.