

***Regional Services Council
Region 4 Meeting***

Date: October 4, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Chair: Kate Stephens, R3 Manager for Erin Shidler, R4 Manager

Meeting Secretary: Helen Garmon

Call to order

Start time: 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Approval of minutes from last meeting

As read X As corrected _____

Recommended Correction:

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Welcome

Community Partners Update – Christy Robbins, Director

Christy Robbins shared her screen to review the following reports:

- Service Summary Data 7/1/21 through 8/31/21
- Referral Summary Data 7/1/21 through 8/31/21
- Region 4 Local Prevention Dollars 7/1/20 to 6/30/21
- Community Partners 7/1/21 - 6/30/22

Service Update – Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator

- **We've updated the Service Standard for Visitation.** We mirrored the Home Based Casework Standard. We've expanded it to include a GED, High School Diploma with several years of experience in which they would qualify to provide the service for visitation. We're moving through our Service Standards and expanding them so more will be coming down the pike. Probably Father Engagement and a few others that kind of mimic Home Based Casework and Visitation

- **Home Based Casework is a Service that we have a Service Standard for so please do not accept a referral under Home Based Casework that has the language for tutoring or mentoring in there!** We have a Tutoring Service Standard so please redirect the referral source to put Tutoring under the Tutoring referral. We do not have a Mentoring Service Standard. If you have that language in a referral, please redirect that back and explain why you can not do that
- **Family Preservation**
 - Dion stated they've been collection information in the surveys that they have received back and out of those surveys they're looking to make sure that the Provider is meeting the fidelity of the Therapeutic Models, the Evidence Based Models that they said they could provide because when you have an Evidence Based Model, you have to be doing "A, B, C and D" so that we see the outcomes that are expected for that Evidence Based Model. We're also looking to make sure Providers are meeting that face to face time for our outcomes to sure you're actually getting these timely contacts in
 - Dion stated if you want to see the information they've been collecting they have a Family Preservation page on their DCS website <https://www.in.gov/dcs/family-first-act/family-preservation-services> he also put the link in the chat. There's an overview at the bottom of the page called Data Overview and it's supposed to be updated every month
 - Dion stated they're piloting a **Family Preservation Application**. It's going to be used for our FCM's. They will be able to get into the Application via their iPhones if they want a Family Preservation referral. They can put in whatever the needs are for the family, click on the region and county their family is in and it will show the Agencies that have Evidence Based Models that can meet the needs of your family. They're having their Providers update this on a regular basis so we know exactly how many slots they have open for their Family Preservation cases. More information coming soon on the roll out of the Family Preservation App.

Regional Budget Update - Katie Craft, R4 Financial Manager

- Katie shared her screen and reviewed the Financial Status Report for Region 4
- Region 4 is exceeding expectations! The target that was set by Central Office for the end of September was to be at 27.13% or less and Region 4 is at 21.58%

County Updates

Allen – Melissa Hayden, LOD

- We hit our 50% mark for children that are in out of home care to be placed with relative or kinship placement
- September 2021 we were down to 16 children in Residential Care and a year prior September 2020 we were at 55 so we've decreased about 71% of children in more less restrictive placements

DeKalb – Wesley Husselman, LOD

- DeKalb currently has 100 few children in care. We've seen an increase placement in Kinship homes and Relative homes which we're happy about
- In September we had an adoption of one of our youth who has been in Out-of-Home Care about 3 years. He's been adopted and the case is closed so we're really pleased about that
- We're really focusing on Permanency in a least restrictive environment for the kids
- All staff have returned to the office
- DeKalb will be able to hire two more FCM's. One we are actively recruiting right now and the other position not expected to hire until January 2022. We hired a clerical person, we're waiting on background checks etc.
- We currently have 12 FCM's with 1 on leave for an extended period of time. We have a position for another FCM. The hiring of an additional FCM and if we get the second one will increase to 15 FCM's

LaGrange and Whitley – Amanda Herendeen, LOD covering both

- Amanda is covering LaGrange in addition to Whitley due to Kate Stephens promotion to Region 3 Regional Manager. Congratulations Kate!

LaGrange

- LaGrange currently has 7 FCM's, 1 in training and we're hiring 1 in LaGrange hopefully to start in November so we're doing those interviews and trying to get that set up
- We'll be hiring a Clerical Assistant for LaGrange
- LaGrange has seen a slight increase in Assessments over the last couple of months which is pretty common once school gets started
- LaGrange currently has 58 focused children

Whitley

- Whitley currently have 8 FCM's and are fully staffed
- Whitley has also seen an increase in Assessments in the last month since school has started
- We have 47 focused children in care. We have a couple of pending adoptions that we're very excited about and working to get those finalized which will impact a sibling group and 1 single child. They are all being adopted by relatives so we're excited to see those cases have a good outcome

Noble – Joe Sims, LOD

- We're sitting at 13 FCM's. We have 2 transfer FCM's coming in Noble County this month. We have 2 Supervisors
- We have an increase in Assessments for the month of September
- We are down regarding focused children. We're around 85 between CHINS and IA's
- Between September, October and November we have 7 adoptions, 5 different cases being closed out through adoptions so we're pretty excited for that. We've had some great Permanency outcomes lately
- Since March we've closed 20% of our cases over 2 years and we currently have 68% of our children in Relative or Kinship care

Steuben – Ron Lahmeyer, LOD

- We currently have 6 FCM's and we're down to 1 Supervisor. We've been allotted 2 more and have extended those offers out which will put us up to 8 FCM's. We have 1 FCM out working remotely due to COVID reasons
- We've received an increase in Assessments especially from the schools

A motion was made by Wesley Husselman to approve the below RSC meeting dates and time for 2022. Ron Lahmeyer seconded motion. Motion carried.

January 10, 2022 - Microsoft Teams from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

April 11, 2022 - Microsoft Teams from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

July 11, 2022 - Microsoft Teams from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

October 3, 2022 - Microsoft Teams from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned.

Signatures:

Secretary *Helena Harmon* Chair *Evin Thiele*

Date *1-24-2022* Date *1-24-2022*

Approved: *hg* (secretary's initials) Date: *1-24-2022*