

Regional Service Council Meeting
3-12-26

Twan Stokes thanked everyone for joining

Meeting called to order by Twan Stokes at 9:00am

Roll Call

DCS Updates

LOD Franklin Williams will now cover Pulaski and Starke counties as of Monday, March 16th.

LOD Julie Bonaventura will now cover Jasper County

Power Point Presentation

Safely Home Family First

- Over 50% of children involved with DCS in Region 1 are placed with relatives
- Decline in non-placements – more children are staying in their homes without removal

Length of Stay

The goal for length of stay is to reduce the time that children are in DCS custody

Reunite children with their families as soon as possible

Absent Repeat Maltreatment

- Absent Repeat Maltreatment numbers are down
- DCS is not receiving as many allegations/substantiated reports regarding the same children

Region 1 Budget

- Budget discussed for Region 1 was at \$84,104,917

Provider Reports

- Bauer – George White
 - Covers Carol, Clinton, Fountain, Tippecanoe, Warren and White Counties
 - In budget for the year
 - Majority of referrals are from DCS
 - Serviced 91 families for abuse and neglect
 - Greatest need for housing and food stability
 - Shelters are not available
 - Churches are trying to establish help for low-income families
- Firefly - Heidi
 - Covers Cass, Fulton, Howard and Montgomery Counties
 - 184 Referrals – Referrals are mostly from DCS
 - \$14,000 – spent
 - 14 – Safe Sleep Education Classes
 - 18 – Car Seats given out
 - \$15,000 spent on family services
 - Family event pictures shared
 - Assist with basic needs – clothing, hygiene supplies, laundry and household supplies
 - National night will be held in August and cleaning kits will be distributed

Geminus – Douglas Thames

- Covers Lake, Porter, Newton, Benton, Pulaski, Stark and Jasper
- 1,047 families served
- Spent - \$38,797.22
- Rise in therapy services
 - Mentoring, home making and mental health
- Rental issues
- Events
 - 3-26- Night of Network
 - 4-1 – Annual Conference
 - 4-17- Lake County Carnival
 - 4-18 – Pulaski Carnival
 - 4-12 – Lake County Vigil
 - 5-6 – Lake County Provider Fair

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- Amanda Satterfield
 - Covers S. Joseph, Kosciusko, Elkhart and Marshall
 - 148 Referrals
 - 61 DCS Referrals
 - 34 Non DCS Referrals
 - Concrete Support - \$20,000
 - 13 – Rent
 - 7 – Beds
 - 2 - Appliances
 - 1 – Hotel
 - 3 transportations
 - 1 Camera
 - 2- Exterminator
 - 3 -Gas & Electric
 - 4 – Water

- Events
 - 4-8- Annual Conference
 - 4-25 – Marshall Carnival
 - 4-30 – St. Joseph Vigil
 - 5-13 – Provider Fair
- Regional Service Coordinators
 - Dion Smith
 - Covers Cass, Fulton & Howard
 - Regional Service Coordinators will also meet with the contracted providers
 - Quarterly Provider Meeting Invites have been sent
 - Monthly invites for staff have been sent
 - Gwen Girten
 - Covers Fountain, Marion & Montgomery
 - Provider meetings are being planned
 - Available by e-mail
- Ashley Guterrez – Service Coordinator Supervisor
 - Introduced herself to staff
 - Some background provided
 - Advised she can be contacted with any questions or concerns
 - Regional map provided
- Regional Service Council
 - Dates for the year provided
 - Next meeting will be held on June 11, 2026

Meeting Adjourned at 9:56am.