

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

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Chair: Erin Shidler, Region 4 Manager

Meeting Secretary: Helen Garmon

Call to order

Start time: 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Approval of minutes from last meeting

As read As corrected

Recommended Correction:

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Welcome

Community Partners Update – Christy Robbins, Director Community Partners

Christy shared her screen to review the below reports from July 2023 – December 2023:

- Referrals Summary
- Program Outcomes
- Community Partners
- Local Prevention Dollar Services

Regional Budget Update – Erin Shidler for Katie Craft, Regional Financial Manager

Erin shared her screen to review the CHINS Financial Status Report

- Our total budget for the region is 33 million. So far this year we have spent 44.72%.
Target 50.0%

Region 4 Biennial Plan – Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator

Dion shared his screen to review the Region 4 Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan - SFY 2025-2026

- Region 4 held a Public Hearing and Testimony on Thursday, December 21, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Allen County DCS Office, 201 E. Rudisill Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806.
No one attended
- A motion was made to the voting members to approve the Region 4 Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan – SFY 2025-2026. Motion accepted by voting members to approve the Region 4 Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan – SFY 2025-2026. Motion Carried

Holistic Engagement Tool – Erin Shidler, Regional Manager

- This tool is something that's being piloted in our region and will eventually rollout statewide within DCS
- We're looking at the first 60-days of a case and trying to set our case up with a good foundation so we can move through our case more quickly to achieve the best possible outcomes for our children and families in the timeliest manner
- Erin shared her screen and reviewed the Holistic Engagement Guide. This guide is to help our staff do a more thorough Holistic assessment engagement of the families from day one. This guide has a second page, so we identify some strengths, risks, needs and protective factors of families
- This is designed to be an ongoing communication piece vs just one more form to fill-out
- We're optimistic this will have an impact not only on region 4 but the agency across the state

County Updates

Allen – Melissa Hayden

- We hired two new supervisors
 - Demetria Eley, Assessment Supervisor
 - Tiffany King, Permanency Supervisor
- We met our goal for Timely Initiation
 - In 2022 we had 68.4% and year-to-date for this year was 79%
- We met our goal for Timely Completion
 - Our goal was 90%. We were 95% for the year
- Engaging - we look at mother's, father's and resource homes. We met our goal in each category
 - We had 70% for mom's
 - We had 44% for dad's
 - We had 93% for resource
- In-home and IAs – This year we were at almost 35% of our children were able to be maintained in the home
- Relatives – We didn't hit our goal. In allen county we were at 54%. If you look back a couple of years, we were below 50%
- Timely permanency within the home and out of the home, we're going to continue our efforts in those areas

DeKalb – Amanda Herendeen gave update for Andrea Hoy

- DeKalb currently has 58 CHINS and 13 IAs. Forty-eight children of their CHINS cases are either in-home or with kinship so that's a total of 68%
- DeKalb has 3 participants graduating from Family Restoration Court in 2023. That's a huge success for them

- They started a Domestic Violence Task Force. They have an FCM assigned to that team to represent DCS
- DeKalb continues to be in the hiring process for family case managers. They have an FCM starting in February, and they are hiring for two additional family case managers

LaGrange – Paul Watson

- We have 46 focused children, 34 CHINS, 9 IAs and 3 ICPCs from other states
- LaGrange has done a really good job and have a lot of positive movement in our placements throughout the year. 70% of our out-of-home children are either with relatives or kinships and that was very low throughout 2023. At one point it was as low as about 26%
- We're also seeing increases in sibling placements. Keeping children together with their siblings which is a big positive
- We have dropped the rate in which we see children be substantiated. The recidivism rate for those children is down to about 3% right now in LaGrange and at one-point throughout the year 2023 it was almost 25% range
- LaGrange has a Child Abuse and Neglect Collaborative Panel that Paul is also part of. They are members from DCS and also service providers. They go out regularly to the schools in the area and educate the schools on services, reporting and that knowledge piece
- LaGrange has been doing a lot of dual status meetings with probation and our service providers are a part of some of those meeting also to help educate and having those conversations about what's available when we're talking about some of our youth who are involved in multiple systems which has been a very positive thing for our community
- We made an offer to our last FCM so we will be fully staffed

Noble – Jamie Pippin

- Noble county currently has 39 focused children. Twenty-three of them are out-of-home CHINS, we have 15 children that we're working with in a CHINS or in IA status
- Timely Initiation for assessment ended the year at 88.56%, just a little below our goal of 90%. In terms of Timely Closure, we were above 99%
- Engaging Parents ended the year:
 - 83% of mom's
 - 60% of dad's
- Noble has a new supervisor, Nicole Harrington who started in October. We now have two supervisors. We have one FCM going through training, one FCM we're finishing up our pre-hiring process and later today the LOD will be posting a position for Family Case Manager (FCM)
- Over the last couple of weeks, we've been doing a lot of community education and learning about different service providers and partners within noble county

Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux

- Steuben county met all of our goals in 2023! We met all of our goals except for timely completion, we're 0.2% below that goal
- Initiations remained at 90% throughout most of 2023
- Relative placements were at 70% for the year. We've continued to work hard to make sure children are staying in relative homes
- We have 53 focused children. We have 17 in-home CHINS cases, 32 out-of-home CHINS, 3 IA's and an ICPC. 75% of those out-of-home children are in relative placement
- We have 6 children who are prepared for adoption. Two of those will be adopted on Friday

- We are fully staffed with 9 FCMs

Whitley – Amanda Herendeen

- We are hiring for one family case manager position. That will keep us steady at 9
- 45.5% of our cases for the year on average were in-home or IAs
- 67% for the year to date our placements were in relative or kinship care
- Permanency Outcomes for 2023 we closed out 36 children; 14 were through informal adjustments, 13 were reunification, 6 through adoption and 3 guardianships
- Currently Whitley County has 73 focused children, 60 of those are CHINS cases, 13 of those are IAs, 57% of our cases total are in-home or IAs and 61% currently are in relative or kinship placement for our children that are placed out of home

Provider Presentations (10-Minutes)

Tasha Robinson, YWCA Intake Coordinator and Candice Hall, Director of Clinical and Recovery Services
Candice Hall gave a 10-minute presentation on the YWCA Recovery Services Program

Providers, please contact Helen Garmon (helen.garmon@dcs.in.gov) if you are interested in signing up to do a 10-minute presentation. Helen will contact you the week before the RSC meeting to let you know you will be presenting

The next RSC meeting will be via Microsoft Teams at 12:00 p.m. on April 16, 2024

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary 

Chair 

Date 4-16-2024

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Approved hg (secretary's initials)