**LCPA Call**

2/1/23

**Diversity Equity & Inclusion: Brandy-Janai Carter – Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer for DCS -** **brandi-janai.carter@dcs.in.gov**

* Support for our Foster care system
* “Calling people in not calling people out”
* Previously in DCS legal department for past 7 years
* Goals for 2023
	+ Strategic planning and ways to be more inclusive and focused on diversity and equity and including working with the families when being served.
	+ Want community providers to be educated on being aware of what are needed services for families.
	+ Planning a foster care appreciation month – May 2023
		- Work groups
		- Address stable housing
		- Pilot in central Indiana
		- Develop tools for foster parents to deal with unique situations, i.e., hair care, transgender teens, etc.
		- Build on conversations
		- Find ways to address achieving permanency for youth who have been in the system a long time
		- Increase diverse talent in our field to represent families to understand and be empathetic and provide support
		- Work with providers to be more culturally aware
		- Identify disproportionality in children served
* Essay contest – send information to foster homes

 Black History Month Essay Contest

* + - THEME: “Black Resilience”

 Open to all children in elementary, middle and high school

 Monetary prize and plaque awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners

* +  Questions: Gretchen.grier@dcs.in.gov

**LCPA Field Audit Team Updates: Rebecca Chauhan – Deputy CFO DCS, report to CFO DCS**

* Explanation & Overview of 2023 Fiscal Audit
* Update on Status of Fiscal Audits
	+ Have sent out letters explaining specific information for your agency
	+ Focus on validating payment to foster parents
	+ Not auditing administrative cost
	+ Not IRS
	+ Routine audit conducted every few years
	+ Beginning Marche 2023, covering period 4/223022 through 3/2023
	+ Sending template for information audit. Complete templates and send back
	+ Information on what is owed to foster parents and what was paid to the foster parents
	+ Required by Federal funders
	+ Want audit to be a positive experience
	+ LCPA providers are up next for auditing
	+ Questions? Reach out to Residential Licensing Specialist and they will get you the person to contact

**2023 LCPAs and High Acuity Youth: Crystal Byrne**

* **Intensive Foster Care RFI (David Reed)**
	+ Analysis of Responses Continues
	+ Still reviewing proposals
	+ Hope to use ideas to improve foster care
	+ Appreciate providers taking time to submit proposals
	+ Important goal for DCS
	+ Local offices appreciate the work being done by providers
	+ Wanting to use foster care system as DCS first response
	+ Want to support LCPA’s when placing children in foster care
	+ Questions
		- how many proposals were received – approx. 14
* **High Acuity Youth Weekly Staffing with LCPAs (Kim Henry) Clinical Service Specialist**
	+ Youth involved with our Escalated Tx Needs Teams
		- Bring up high acuity children for collaborative discussions with providers
		- Providers will be receiving emails from Kim Henry or Lyon Mercaeant-Koohns
		- Discussions will assist in finding homes for youth
		- Work out details to place youth
		- These youth will be those with high acuity needs recommended for Foster Care
* **DCS Foster Care Recruitment (RFF) (David Reed)**
	+ Committee has begun Reviewing Responses
		- 24 submissions being evaluated
		- Thank you to Rebecca and her team
	+ Award Notification: 02/28/2023
		- DCS will be notifying providers
* **DCS Nurse Consultants (Jennifer Hannon) - Registered Nurse,**
	+ Role & impact on our High Acuity Youth
		- Consultants for FCM to assist and support when there are medical needs for youth.
		- Can reach out with medical questions, i.e., definitions, what are medical records saying.
		- Assist with understanding of medical records and assist FCM
		- Attend meeting in CFTM
	+ Most complex cases that involve medical risk –
		- Children with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple medical diagnosis
		- Can arrange case conferences through social workers to get everyone involved, including doctors to give DCS a better picture of what is being reviewed/assessed
	+ If LCPA have youth with a lot of medical needs and have a lot of appointments or large records can assist with understanding and/or coordinating services
* Discharge Notifications – (Crystal Byrne)
	+ May 2022 implemented a centralized system Residential Providers to report urgent discharge notifications prior to youth completing treatment
	+ Since implementing for residential programs, have team of staff to respond
	+ Specific field of information for each child that led to need for discharge and recommendations
	+ Has provided a lot of data to learn and build programs moving into 2023/2024
	+ Would like to discuss a similar process for foster care services
	+ Want to capture this data from LCPA and therapeutic foster care provider and foster parents
	+ If have thoughts or ideas or internal form/system, please share

**Foster Care Licensing: Nicci Chenowith - Foster Care Consultant Supervisor**

* + Overdue Annuals –
		- Currently have 325 Overdue Annuals for LCPA foster parents in past year approximately
		- Have provided data information to be transparent of the reports we’ve seen. To identify barriers to find solution focused ideas to improve foster care.
		- There are resource homes, some may have multiple checklists not submitted
	+ Foster Care Consultant will communicate with providers throughout month of February
	+ Please look over when receive and work with consultant
	+ Want to see improvement by first of March
	+ What are barriers with homes to get a better picture of what issues are needing addressed
	+ Annual Updates –
		- 2/2022 rolled out updated annual review process in policy effective 2/1/2022
		- Have experienced confusion and have been asked for more guidance or tools
		- Have developed a template when to use annual report and when to use SAFE update



* + SAFE Refreshers –
		- Dates for SAFE training (attached) – dates will be provided for trainings throughout 2023. 4 refreshers
		- SAFE training dates:
			* April 13, Refresher
			* May 8-9, 2-day
			* May 10, interview Day
			* May 11, Supervisor
			* June 8, Refresher
			* July 17-18, 2-day
			* July 19, Interview Day
			* July 20, Supervisor
			* September 19, Refresher
			* Oct. 23-24, 2-day
			* Oct. 25, Interview Day
			* Oct. 26, Supervisor
	+ CCDF Voucher Process –
		- this item will be added to the March 2023 provider meeting agenda
	+ Placement Line –
		- Foster Care Unit have placement line and have a process for both workday and after hour placement requests.
		- Placement Line map to identify DCS staff assigned in areas of the state.
		- Please respond with agency guidelines during hours or after hours and to the requests and review what is being requested

**LCPA Licensing: Blake Hudson & Rick Steigerwalt – Residential Licensing Supervisors**

* LCPA Audits
	+ Have completed limited reviews so far. Will monitor and report on any trends
	+ Residential Licensing Specialist will contact LCPA’s and coordinate if conducting in person or virtual audits.
* Team Updates
	+ Have 5 positions posted
		- LCPA Manager – interviewing applicants
		- Clinical Specialist – interviewing applicants
		- 3 Residential Licensing Specialist positions –
			* Amy Burdette starting 2/6/2023 – Southeast Region of the state – Has experience with DCS and as provider
			* Marion Co. Region Residential Licensing Specialist – working through hiring process will announce next month
			* 3rd Residential Licensing Specialist position- still identifying the region this person will be working
		- Will have some agency reassignments of the Residential Licensing Specialist. Residential Licensing Specialist will reach out to providers
* Working with Foster Care Unit and collaborating on address outstanding Annual Reports

**DCS LCPA Contact List –** use this link and send name of people to add for communication, invitations to meetings, etc.

* [DCS LCPA Contact List](https://forms.office.com/g/4uHWfEKZcW)

[**..\..\..\..\..\..\..\OneDrive - State of Indiana\Desktop\Placement Line Regions Map (002).pdf**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CHonnRA%5COneDrive%20-%20State%20of%20Indiana%5CDesktop%5CPlacement%20Line%20Regions%20Map%20%28002%29.pdf)