**Regional Services Council Meeting Minutes**

**Region 11**

**Meeting Date: November 25, 2020**

**Meeting Location: Hamilton County DCS Office**

**938 N. 10th Street**

**Noblesville, IN 46060**

**Council Members Present:** Joanie Crum, Selena Gibbs, Amy Akins, Mike Gray, Cheri Coonce, Bob Bragg, Courtney Rusk

**Council Members Absent:** Blake Alexander, Annette Craycraft, Robert Daugherty, Lyndsay Krauter, Hayley Logan, Jessica Paxson, Cailtyn Purvis, Amy Waltermire

**Guests:** Ciara Coleman, Iwona Morretino, Theodore Ogle, Katelin Wagoner, Denise Valdez, Brandi Pass, Gabriella Quinones Cueller, Laura Snyder, Courtney Tyler-Hunt, Jill Kelly, Vanessa Pataky, Megan Stafford, Keelie Howard, Katrina Tillman, Sakera Tayabally

**Meeting Minutes**

* Meeting was called to Order at 9:00 A.M. by Joanie Crum
  + **Old Business**
    - **Approval of Minutes from September 30, 2020 Meeting.** RSC members spent a few minutes reviewing the minutes from the September 30, 2020 meeting. Bob Bragg motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by another committee member. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.
  + **New Business**

* + - **Fiscal – Regional Finance Report** – Joanie Crum provided the update in Bob Daugherty’s absence. Region 11’s budget is approximately $23.6 million dollars. We are four months into the new fiscal year and we are currently under budget. DCS has spent $8.4 million dollars; which is 35.38% and we were target for 36%. At the same time last year, we had spent $7 million. The increase is for supervised visitation and residential placement. There has been an increase in in-home by 49 and residential by 2. There has been a decrease in Informal Adjustments by 31 and a decrease in Non-relative placement by 17. For Preservation, we have had 88 referrals with a year**-**to-date spend of

$154,129.

* + - **Services Update:** Iwona Morrentino provided the update
      * There are a good number of providers to choose from. This allows the FCM and Supervisors a better opportunity to match a provider with the identified needs of the families
      * It has been 5 months since the launch of Family Preservation Services. An evaluation of Family Preservation Services will be performed by the research and evalution team.
      * Accepted a new provider for Region 11; specifically for Madison and Tipton County. There name is Quality Counseling and Psychological Services. They are based out of Fort Wayne, but have other offices. They are a well established provider.
      * Still encouraging face to face contact with families during Covid pandemic.

* + - **Community Partners Update** – Megan Wills provided the update
      * Megan & Jill Kelly provided the RSC members with a Community Partners Report for September/October 2020.
      * There has been an increase in referrals; up 45 since last year. Due to families facing financial crisis and Covid needs.
      * 200 families were served in September/October for Region 11. The budget was spent for:
        + Utilities $4,620.26 (this amount will go up due to colder weather)
        + Rent/Deposits $9,770
        + Emergency Housing $3,500
      * Madison County:
* with United Way provided 500 families with Smoke Detectors for Operation Weatherization Project
* provided 500 kids with toothbrushes for Trunk-or-Treat
* provided 250 kids with t-shirts/sweatshirts for schools and Salvation Army with assistance from Dick’s Sporting Goods
  + - * Hamilton County:
* Angels Attic – provided hygiene, baby safety supplies and food items for over 50 families
* Youth Center of Sheridan – provided hygiene and food items for 75 children
  + - * Success Story from Madison County – able to help a homeless father and son with housing so father could find stable employment. The father now has a stable job, a home and the child is enrolled in school.
      * A new liaison has been hired who is bilingual and can help reach out to the Hispanic community.
* **SIF Grant Update**– Jill Kelly provided the update
* Project Hope – increased funding to them
* Referral are up and so is the cost per family. Trying to be flexible while meeting the needs of the families
* Jessica has been assigned to Madison County and has had 2 local implementation meetings
* Alicia Arms has been hired for Tipton (she has many ties to the community); first implementation meeting is scheduled for January 2021
* Hoping to have Madison County up by February/March 2021

* **Questions/Concerns from Membership**
* Joanie Crum asked Megan how much outreach are we doing to schools?
* Megan thinks that the referrals to DCS are up and that they are going to DCS first, rather then Community Partners. Schools are overwhelmed with virtual learning and everyone needs to make sure that students have what they need to learn and getting more “eyes” on the kids.
* **Guest comments** :
* None

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 A.M.