



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region 3

**Meeting Date:** January 23, 2017  
**Meeting Location:** Joy Rose Center  
1000 W. Hively Avenue  
Elkhart, IN

**Council Members Present:** Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Wendy Disher-Taljaard, Director Elkhart County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Teresa Zornig, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Bill Horton, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Philice Hutchen, Marshall County DCS.

**Council Members Absent:** Judge David Cates, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Magistrate Deborah Domine.

**Others In Attendance:** Joni Tusing, DCS Regional Financial Manager; Paige Hamilton, SCAN; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Dion Smith, DCS Regional Services Coordinator; Todd Heim, DCS Clinical Specialist; James Bayer, DCS; Julie Reed, CAPS; Lashall Brown, CAPS; Leah Plank, CAPS; Libby Martin, Lutheran Social Services; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Amy Prosser, Lifeline; Becky Loth, Lifeline; Kelly Sanford, YWCA; Jennifer Rutkowski-Smith, SCAN; Dee Szyndrowski, SCAN; Cheri Lintz, The Villages; Richard Troyer, Lifeline; Kim Hollabaugh, Choices; Jen Martin, Keys Counseling; Judie Jones, CAPS; Sean McCrindle, Bashor; Tess Ottenweller, Bowen Center; Kiana Jackson, YSB; Elsa Casault, YSB; Jennifer Pickering, YSB; Patricia Hancock, Center for Positive Change; April Kwiatkowski, Center for Positive Change; David Hancock, Center for Positive Change; Terry Poindexter, White's Residential.

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jamie Pippin.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 10-18-16 reviewed. Minutes amended to show Teresa Zornig not in attendance. Teresa Zornig motioned approval of amended minutes. Bill Horton seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Paige Hamilton, Program Administrator, Community Partners November 2016 financial report reviewed, 43% of budget spent YTD. We are on target. Summary data sheet for the new fiscal year reviewed. We are starting a new fiscal year so if you would like to see a new format or additional information on the reports they can be modified. 397 families enrolled through the end of November. 207 total referrals this month. Spike in referrals on children 5 years of age and under. Discharges are where they should be. 1324 families enrolled and received services in contract period. Program outcomes are meeting all of our goals. St. Joseph and Elkhart County were about equal in referrals this month. Local Prevention Dollars spent YTD is also at 43%. In March I will be contacting providers asking for spending projections. If we have money to reallocate I will be coming back to you to see if we can reallocate funds. Sneak peek on program head counts as data is still forthcoming; Parenting Education Program Women's Care Center 342 served, Family Children's Center served 86 children and 49 adults, Gear-Up served 54 families, Out of School Program at the Casie Center served 631 families, Child and Parent Services Intensive Therapeutic Preschool worked with 4 children

and 6 adults needing support, Young Mother's Funding at the YSB 21 adults, and YWCA in Elkhart has served 34. Introduced new boss Dee Szyndrowski, Chief Executive Officer.

Terri Zornig, Director St Joseph County DCS, save the date, "Breaking Down Barriers: April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Kroc Center

4. Service Update. Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator, provider meeting quarterly after the RSC meeting. Contracts will be extended to 2019. If you would like to add services you will have to wait for a quarterly RFP to open, please check the website.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, reported through December, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 5.882 million, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 5.881 million and total YTD expenditures \$11,763,775.89. Of that 2.9 million was spent on in home care with the remainder spent on out of home care. Increase of 1.2 million in spending across the board. DCS Foster care expenses decreased. Probation saw a decrease, their decrease seen mostly in residential placements. Costs are up but not seeing anything stand out.

Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, caseloads increased 16% in region 3, even though we had this increase our number of kids in out of home placements went down. We are doing more to be able to keep them in their homes safely. We had a slight increase in LCPAs. We are finding more mental health issues. Nine is the age that we are seeing a lot of aggressive behaviors and are having a hard time placing these children. This is a statewide problem.

6. County Updates.

Elkhart – Wendy Disher-Taljaard, Director, numbers exploding, through February we have hired 15 new Family Case Managers, mostly for assessment. Two young kids in shelter care (10 & 12 years old), no place for them because of mental health/behavioral issues, Bashor Emergency Shelter Care graciously accepted them temporarily.

Kosciusko – Erin Shidler, Director, one resignation last week, and have one in cohort. Large increase in number of CHINS in December. Erin is covering the Miami County local office and Amanda is covering Kosciusko.

Marshall – Michael Carroll, Director, at full staff with one worker going out on maternity leave. Increase in reports, struggling to meet basic needs because housing is horrible in Plymouth. Seeing increase in drug exposed infants, babies born with marijuana and meth. Also struggling with finding appropriate relative placements and finding foster homes.

St. Joseph – Teresa Zornig, Director, couple of resignations and continue to recruit new staff. Biggest issue we have is placement availability. Asked the Clinical Specialist and Supervisors here today for a provider meeting after this meeting to brainstorm how we can better serve kids and problem solve trends we are experiencing. William Horton, Division Manager, is covering in Fulton County.

Regional – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, Director Bonaventura was retained by Governor Holcomb, majority of the Deputy Directors are staying. In the Field we currently have three Regional Manager positions opened (7, 11 and 4). Jamie is covering Region 4. Marion is dividing into 3 separate offices. Federal Review results on DCS website, 7 indicators on how we stacked up. We have to come up with a Practice Improvement Plan for the areas we did not do well in. More emphasis on documentation.

7. Other Business.

Erin Shidler motioned to adjourn. Philice Hutchen seconded. Meeting adjourned 10:42 a.m.

***Next RSC meeting is Monday April 17th, 10:00a.m., at the St. Joseph County DCS Local Office, 300 N Michigan Street, Ste 418, South Bend, IN.***