**Region 17 Service Council**

**December 18, 2020**

**Minutes**

Regional Service Council was called into session at 9:30 A.M. on December 18, 2020 by Local Office Director Jessica Richardson

In Attendance: Jessica Richardson, Jeff Grey, Audrey Sermersheim, Kristin Cooper, Dale Stroud, Crystal Collins, Jonda Bowers, Laura Sitzman, Melinda Berry, Jackie Foley, Ashley Hansen, Lisa Smith, Gwen Girten, Casey Newton, Debbie Dailey, Jason Holt, Melanie Flory, Nicole Amenta, Andrea Bennett, Sybil Rodeck, Christina Wicks, Diane Poteet, Kevin Moore, Tammy Gore, Nancy Rennie, Kathy Seymour

Jessica welcomed everyone to the December Region 17 Council meeting and asked for introductions from attendees. The retirement of Reginal Manager Jim Snook was discussed. Melanie Flory will be covering the Region until that position is filled.

Jessica Richardson asked for a motion to approve minutes for the September 18, 2020 meeting. Mindy Berry made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Nancy Rennie. No changes or additions to the minutes, motion was passed to approve the September minutes.

**Regional Service Coordinator**- Gwen Girten- They are still having bi-weekly meetings with providers to answer questions and discuss resources. The minutes for those meetings are on the DCS COVID website. If you are a provider and would like to be on those calls, please send an email to Bridget Mcintyre. We are six months into the Family Pres program. In Region 17 we have 83 active referrals for the entire region. They have biweekly phone calls with their Family Pres providers. If you are not on those calls, please email Gwen or Bridget. Those minutes are available on the Family Pres website. It appears we are doing well in keeping children in the home who are participating in Family Pres. The evaluation process starts fully in January—this is in order for us to propose Family Pres Services be an approved program under Family First Act of Indiana.

**Regional Finance Manager**-Debbie Daily- As of the end of November the target percentage of the budget to be spent was 43% this Region was at 38.4%. Projected year end at our current spending will be approximately 8% under our budget for this fiscal year. The number of children we were serving this time last year was 754 and end of November this year we are serving 702 children. This is approximately a 7% decrease over the past year. We had 323 children in IA’s and In-home. That is approximately 46% of the children we are serving. 379 children are in out of home. Of the out of home, we have 41% in Relative Care, 53% in Foster Care and LCPA’s, and 6% in Residential. When we compare expenditures to this time last year we had decrease in Residential expenditures and Foster Homes and increase in LCPA’s. This time last year we had 30 children in Residential and at the end of November the Region had 22. There were increased number of claims in October and November that slowed down processing and will continue to slow down the process into December. This is due to some changes that took place in July to KidTraks. Counties will be seeing increases in community-based expenditures as well as providers seeing those payments.

**Community Partners**- Jonda Bowers- As of the first of December, we have had a total of 104 referrals that have come in since September 1st. A home-based caseworker was assigned to 104 cases and a home-based therapist was assigned to one case. We currently have 51 levels open for services.

Current open referrals:

Crawford 3

Orange 8

Perry 10

Spencer 11

Dubois 7

Daviess 8

Martin 3

They are slightly over budget and working to assess needs of family as quickly as possible. They are doing their best to prioritize to determine which families need short term services and which need longer services to make adjustment to budgets.

Jonda asked if there were any questions for Community Partners—there were none.

**Abuse Awareness and Accountability-** Andrea Bennett-They are now offering virtual classes through zoom. They are offering two men’s classes and one women’s class. They do ask to meet with participants first so they can go over how the class would go and give them documentation. They hope that most FCMs know that there needs to be an integrity sheet filled out and uploaded into KidTraks. After the first of the year, it will be mandatory for every participant to fill out that sheet. They are noticing those who fill out that sheet have a “light bulb” moment more quickly than those who do not fill out the sheet. They feel these integrity sheets are a positive thing. The participant can ask for a copy of their integrity sheet. If anyone has questions about the virtual classes, you may contact Andrea.

\*Contact information:

[Andrea@abuseaccountability.com](mailto:Andrea@abuseaccountability.com)

Phone number: 765-409-7469

**Abbott Redwood Toxicology**- Kathy Seymour-Tyler Bittner has taken another role in their organization and Kathy will now be covering Region 16 and 17. If you would like Kathy to work with your FCM’s, please let her know. She will meet with them virtually or in-person depending on the restrictions for your office.

\*Contact information:

[Kathy.Seymour@abbott.com](mailto:Kathy.Seymour@abbott.com)

707-318-9328

**CARS**- Diane Poteet- They are new to Family Pres but have been providing health family services since 1994. Their team has many backgrounds, but they do have a behavioral specialist on the team. They have also contracted a psychologist that is willing to do virtual therapy. They can offer employment services for families. They have a long history of placing with disabilities in job and they can tap into these services due to lack of expertise and backgrounds. They help in filling out resumes and preparing for interviews.

\*Contact Information:

[dpoteet@cars-services.org](mailto:dpoteet@cars-services.org)

**Community Partners**-Jonda Bowers- Current Referrals through Fatherhood Engagement programs:

Open referrals for the Region currently:

Crawford 8

Daviess 5

Dubois 2

Martin 3

Orange 1

Perry 8

Spencer 11

Jonda shared a recent success story (please see attachment)

**4C**-Ashley Hansen-They are the childcare resource and referral agency. They serve all of Region 17. They assist families with finding childcare. They do have an online form; Ashley will send that information so that it can be provided to participants. If you need help in filling out this information they can help over the phone. They can connect families to CCDF and other resources. They are continuing their family workshops. They do have safe sleep workshop and it is DCS approved. If you need this meeting, it is done monthly but they can do it at any point. Their monthly workshop for this month is on developmentally appropriate toys and helping families understand the importance of play. For January they will focus on car seats. Ashley will happily meet with teams and agencies to make sure that all Family Case Managers understand what services they provide.

\*Contact information:

Community Engagement Specialist with 4C of Southern Indiana

[ahansen@child-care.org](mailto:ahansen@child-care.org)

\*\*Christina Wicks: January is Human Trafficking awareness months please look for upcoming details about virtual events.

Jessica opened the floor at this time for attendees to share:

November was National Adoption Month. Each county has done well in getting several children adopted. In Region 17, we started out with 29 children on that list and in less than two months we have gotten that number down to 7. We have had 21 children adopted in the last quarter due to the Rapid Permanency Review we took on.

There were no public announcements

A move to adjourn the meeting was made by Mindy Berry, seconded by Kristen cooper.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09.

\*\*\*\*\*The next meeting will be held virtually on March 19, 2021\*\*\*\*

Fatherhood Engagement Program Report

December 18, 2020

**Cases:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Crawford | 8 |
| Daviess | 5 |
| Dubois | 2 |
| Martin | 3 |
| Orange | 1 |
| Perry | 8 |
| Spencer | 11 |
| Total | 38 |

**Success Story:**

We received the referral in February 2020 to provide Fatherhood Engagement and visitation services to a dad who had just found out he was dad to a nine-month old baby. The child had several medical conditions that required extra care and attention. Dad has a traumatic brain injury and knew nothing about being a father or taking care of a baby. He struggles with short term memory and processing things.

Through the course of both FEP and visitation, we were able to teach dad parenting skills and coach him on how to care for his son and meet his needs. He was provided education on how to care for a child, developmental stages, how to manage a home, and gain a sustainable source of income.

Dad has a strong support system in his parents, who have taken guardianship of his son, so that he can continue to parent his child with the assistance of his parents, due to his own medical struggles.