

*Regional Services Council
Region 4 Meeting*

Date: April 18, 2023

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

Christy shared her screen to review the:

- Referrals Summary Data - 7/1/22 through 3/31/22
- Program Outcomes Data - 7/1/22 through 2/28/22
- Budget – Overall for the year we should be at 58%. We're at about 67%
- Local Prevention Dollar Services

Changes to next fiscal year service standards effective 7/1/23-6/30/24:

- Application period through April 30, 2023
- Community Education * Primary prevention of Suicide, Domestic Violence, Substance Use
- Service & Support * Primary prevention of Domestic Violence
- Youth at Risk removed

Service Update – Dion Smith

- Family Preservation numbers for region 4
 - 576 cases in total and over the last 90-days 352 cases have been serviced

- The maximum total children in the region is 12,081 and over the last 90-days 808 children have been serviced
- Family Preservation opened for Probation Youth as of January 1, 2023
 - The minimum rate changes will take effect as of July 1, 2023. Those rate changes will increase pretty much all the services across the board

Dion highlighted the Home-Based Services that have been increased. Those Home-Based Services especially Home-Based Casework and Home Maker Parent Aide. Home Maker Parent Aide rate will go up very closely to what our Home-Based Casework rate is currently. As a State, as a region we want to start using Paraprofessionals a lot more than we have been using

Regional Budget Update – Katie Craft

- Katie shared her screen and discussed the Financial Status Report
- As a region our target for the end of March was 76.13% and region 4 was at 74.82%

County Updates

Allen – Melissa Hayden

- The caseload for Allen is currently at 91%
- We are still getting a lot of applicants in so we can continue to hire and offer positions
- Something new - Judge Morgan has led the Domestic Violence Problem Solving Court. They had their first hearing with a couple of participants this Monday
- Our Assessment Team has been doing an experiment that started this year in Timely Initiations which is ensuring that we contact with child victims timely whether that's 2-hours, 24-hours or 5-days depending on the allegation.
 - In 2020 Allen County was at 54%, in 2021 we were at 62%, in 2022 we were at 68% and for January, February and March 2023 we've been over 80% so they've done amazing work
- Bowen Center is partnering with our building partners and they're having a Planting Pinwheels for Prevention on Tuesday, April 25th at 10:00 a.m. There will be some community speakers including the mayor

DeKalb – Wes Husselman

- DeKalb held an all-day Abuse and Neglect event was held April 13th. They did this with SCAN. That was for DeKalb and Allen. They had 256 registrations. There were two keynote speakers from Chicago and the mayor of Auburn
- We recently hired an FCM. We are receiving more applications for 2 more positions and have 2 interviews scheduled for later this week
- We've seen an increase with our initiation percentage so far this year
- We had a case closure in court yesterday. The child was placed back with biological mother that she had not resided with in 9-years
- We also will be having a guardianship later this month with 2 children that are going to be reunited with paternal grandparents. That case is expected to close once the guardianship is approved

LaGrange – Tammy Downs

- We have a new location. We had a ribbon cutting and open house on the 14th of this month

- We have a larger visitation room and have seen some providers using the visitation room more often than they had in the past. We also have an outside opportunity for visitations
- We have an attorney. His name is Marcus Rogers, he transitioned to us from Allen. We're excited to have him on board with us
- We've seen an improvement in the first quarter of this year with our engaging with parents. Fathers was about a 12% increase and mothers was about a 11% increase
- We partnered with SCAN for Child Abuse Prevention Month and NEC on Sexual Assault Awareness Month to have a combined event on April 26th at 6:00 p.m. outside of our courthouse. We will have a "chalk the sidewalk" where kids can draw different things about child abuse awareness, sexual assault awareness, we will also have speakers and one thing we're adding that we didn't have last year will be a DJ. There will also be a "roaming blue tire" the title is Stop Abuse in its Track. There's a hash tag # on there and we're encouraging people in the community to take a picture with the tire and post it on social media to bring about awareness of the month of child abuse prevention

Noble – Andrea Hoy

- Noble is having an event at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21st on the 2nd floor of the Noble County Courthouse. It's with regards to the Judge Kramer Award. Our CPT team takes nominations for highlighting people who are doing great work in the community with our children
- We are currently hiring 1 more staff which will put us at 11 FCMs
- We have remained steady with our caseload at 43 CHINS and 12 IAs. Every time we close one another case will open
- We have seen an increase in children testing positive for illegal substances in Noble County so that's something we are definitely keeping an eye on

Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux

- We partnered with SCAN, and they provided some pinwheels and billboards for a pinwheel garden that we planted in front of our office for child abuse prevention month.
- We are planning locally to conduct a back-to-school drive with SCAN and other community partners as part of our PCA Council
- We're also hosting a foster parent/relative parent appreciation event here in Steuben on May 6th we will be partnering with LaGrange for that
- We're seeing some great things with our practice this year. The average caseload right now is 89%. We're averaging about 40 reports per month. Initiations have increased over the course of this year. We're at about 89% which is really good for us in comparison to last year
- We're seeing an increase in our in-home cases which would include the IAs and in-home CHINS. We're at about 49% which is a high for us
- We have a new clerical that started last month. We're in the process of hiring a new FCM which would be our 8th FCM in the office

Whitley – Erin for Amanda Herendeen

- We are fully staff in Whitley which feels nice
- We had our Pinwheel for Production and Mayoral Proclamation the beginning of the month at the Courthouse and planted our pinwheels. SCAN and Bowen helped organize that and donated signs and pinwheels
- We continue to focus on in-home cases. Our court has the expectation that we start with IA's and In-home cases so that's always kind of been our focus here in Whitley

- Currently when we add in our in-home, IAs and relative placements, we're at about 84% of our caseload

Provider Presentations (10-Minutes)

- Lori Lehman, Executive Director Fort Wayne Center for Learning

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 July 18, 2023

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary Helen Garmon

Date 7-18-2023

Approved hg (secretary's initials)

Chair Evin Thiele

Date 7-18-2023