 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, August 13, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. CST

**Meeting Location**: Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Regional Manager, Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Magistrate Jonathan Forker, Marc Brown, Sharon Mathew, Crystal Bradley, Angelina Broillette, Shawna Smith, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **July 9, 2021 Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Sharon Mathew made a motion to accept the July 9th minutes as written and was seconded by Sarah Fink, minutes passed.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Nicholas discussed the different book bag events that were held and how successful they were. Continuing to find ways to get the community involved with events and presentations. Darnitha Woods discussed the Manager Report for Region 2:

DCS County Referrals – Total of 39

* Benton/Newton – 4
* Jasper – 1
* LaPorte – 21
* Porter – 8
* Pulaski – 2
* Starke – 3

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 19

Flexible Funds

* Request – 10
* Approved – 10
* Denied – 0
* There was one CFTM requests from Benton County which resulted in the family being successfully enrolled but unfortunately didn’t continue with the program.
* Success story from Porter County
* There is concern for the need of flex funds due to spike in new Covid cases.

Nicholas expressed his concern about the provider fair in October needing more attendance. RM Brown will support the offices to attend. Nicholas also discussed upcoming holiday events.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion discussed the updates in the supervised visitation service standards for Home Based Case work by taking out the need for a degree. Dion reminded everyone that home based case work should not, is not, for mentoring and/or tutoring. FCM’s should not make referrals for tutoring and/or mentoring, and providers should not accept those referrals. Data from the surveys given to the Family Preservation providers is available on the Family Preservation page online and is on the last link on the page. It is being updated as they are competing it. Family Reunification service is being worked on and will be using one provider to get the children back in the home that are out of the home. It will be similar to Family Preservation but only for out of home children and include visitation.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni discussed the regional finance report:

* Budget target is 9.72%, region is at 8.04%
* Expenditures YTD is $1,086,122 which is up .61% from last year
* In-Home is up 196.04% (up $174,157) and Out-of-Home is down 16.92% (down $167,587) from last year
* Discussed each county expenses
* State is pleased with the work being done in Region 2

RM Brown praised all the providers for their great work and discussed the new budget for the region.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown discussed the PI Overview showing that cases are going down and not coming back into the system. The region is doing great and that is with the hard work and great communication between DCS and providers.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:**

Mary Jo Polos from Family Focus talked about how they are now able to promote within due to the service changes the state has been making. They are also able to hire more staff.

Jeanne Cannon asked if anyone has problems with Guardianship paperwork/courts to please contact her (jcannon@dunebrook.org) due to Dunebrook having a Guardianship program. They also have a Family and Parent Education program and are willing to bring the class to them.

Nancy Koedyker, LIfeLine stated they are being able to hire more due to changes.

RM Brown discussed the hiring process everyone is going through at this time.

**9. Cancel September RSC Meeting:** The September RSC and Provider meetings will be cancelled due to Region 2’s leadership team building day. The next meeting will be held on October 8th, 9:00 a.m. CST virtually on Teams. Provider meeting will follow.

**9.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.