

Region 17

Regional Services Council Meeting

June 17, 2016

Introductions were made. (Susan Ford (LOD Martin County), Jason Nelson (Service Coordinator), Mendy Berry (LOD Daviess County), Sybil Rodeck (FCM S4 Spencer County), Jeff Gray (Lifeline), Jonda Bowers (IHBS), Gary Emmons (IHBS), Danielle Stansfield (IHBS), Dale Stroud (LOD Crawford and Orange County), Tracy Brown (Youth Villages) , Shannon Blaize (FCM S4 Dubois County) , Amy Tempel (LOD Dubois County), Kim Donnelly (FCM Daviess County), Melissa Lueken (RFCS) , Lisa Smith (FCM S4 Crawford County), Stephanie Helton (FCM Martin County), and RM Jim Snook.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Budget report provided by RM Snook – Region 17 is SLIGHTLY over budget. Our main expense at this time is residential care. Region 17 DCS staff make every effort to locate resources within the region. We keep children safe and do what is in the best interest of the children, despite the current budget situation.

Jason Nelson, Service Coordinator – RFP's for Community-based services closed recently. DCS management needs to score the proposals before the end of the month, preferably before July 4th. Discussion will be held with DCS managers to decide who will be on the scoring teams and when scoring will be completed. A team needs to be comprised of 3 DCS employees. Jason will offer recommendations and a score will subsequently be assigned by DCS to each proposal. RSC will need to meet before September if proposals need to be approved prior to that time. RFPs are currently open regarding CAC's. One CAC must be selected for each county. July 1st was discussed as a potential date to score proposals as managers had a regularly scheduled meeting on this date anyway.

Danielle Stansfield, Community Partners – Region 17 will finish the fiscal year slightly over budget. Community Partners serviced 45 families in May. Success story: A single mother with infant twins self-referred – She needed money to travel back to South Korea. She arrived in the United States to visit her brother when she was pregnant. Medical conditions mandated mother deliver early while still in the US. Mother's husband and other child were unable to come to the US. Mother began suffering from depression. Community Partners helped her find local resources to purchase a plane ticket. The young woman was recently able to fly back home. Community Partners has an allocated budget of \$496,447.32 for next year. A large portion of Community Partners funds is received through the Kids First Trust Fund. Community Partners has prepared a flyer with information about the Trust Fund. They have also produced magnets offering Safe Sleep information. It will provided to all families with children under the age of 1.

Jonda Bowers, Fatherhood Engagement – There are currently 31 cases for services in the region. Success story: A father was referred late fall/early winter to Fatherhood Engagement. He was in need of parenting skills, access to Toys for Tots, and information about local resources. Father learned how to use *1-2-3 Magic* and helped him with a referral for Toys for Tots. The child stopped bad behaviors at the count of “1”. Father applied for Child Care vouchers, but did not use them as he was not willing to change his child care provider. He applied for food stamps, but was over income guidelines. The child was referred to First Steps. Upon engaging father, it was learned he felt lonely. The service provider encouraged his involvement in a club related to his hobbies. The case closed successfully last month. RM Snook discussed the importance of engaging fathers from the onset of the case and continuing engagement efforts throughout the life of the case.

CFSR was completed last week. RM Snook reported out. Reviews were completed of 3 counties. A series of scoring occurred, similar to the process used in QSR. As a result of the review, DCS needs to put together a PIP (Performance Improvement Plan) as we did not perform well in a couple of service areas. The main area of concern was Safety. We went from a score of 100% on the CFSR held 9 years ago to a score of 31% in the latest review. Probation cases had a significant impact on scores. Timeliness of initiation in assessments was also problematic. We will be focusing heavily on this issue. Safety Staffing’s will be heavily emphasized in the future; they must be completed and documented. Data entry was also delayed. Contacts were made, but not necessarily put in in the appropriate timeframe or could not be found in MaGIK. It was noted that if assessments are linked, the “newly linked” assessment must also be initiated within the appropriate timeframes to ascertain safety. The “initiation” of the original assessment does not satisfy the requirement for initiation of the “new” assessment. It was stressed that while there are some things we do not have control over, we do have control over data entry, timely initiation of assessments, and ensuring that monthly face-to-face visits occur. It was also reported that the State Fatality Review report should be coming out next week.

Melissa Lueken, Foster Care Specialist - Over the past year, Region 17 FCS’ licensed 6 foster homes, 7 relative homes, and had 18 inquiries. Research into the number of available foster care beds throughout the state is being conducted. Reportedly, there are vacant beds, but the reason for those vacancies is unknown at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20am.

The next RSC meeting is currently scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016 @ 8:30am EST at the Center for Technology Building on the VUJC Campus, located at 850 College Avenue, Jasper, Indiana. (See Attached Map)