 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, January 14, 2022 – 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 Elizabeth Learned from Region 6.

**2. Introductions:** RM Elizabeth welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: Marc Brown, Sharon Mathew, Lou Ritchey, Angelina Brouillette, Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **December 10, 2021, Minutes**: RM Elizabeth asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Sharon Mathew made a motion to accept the December 10h minutes as written and was seconded by Shawna Smith, minutes passed.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Kristin Smith discussed the Manager Report for Region 2:

DCS County Referrals – Total of 30

* Benton/Newton – 1
* Jasper – 0
* LaPorte – 6
* Porter – 20
* Pulaski – 2
* Starke – 1

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 32

Closures - 65

Flexible Funds

* Request – 19
* Approved – 19
* Denied – 0
* There was two CFTM requests: Porter County requested both which resulted in the family successfully completed and enrolled.
* Success stories from LaPorte and Porter Counties
* There is concern for: the need of flex funds due to spike in new Covid cases and the Covid Variant. People are having to work from home due to potential school shutdowns. Increase of available therapists via Tele-Health to get clients started with their mental health more quickly and safely. The fear of working from home is increasing negative effects on mental health and financial issues for clients.

Kristin also went over the Geminus Community Partners dashboard indicators, Newsletter, and discussed upcoming events in the region. Nicholas announced the upcoming annual conference which will be held on April 13th, 2022, at The Market located in Valparaiso. The conference is titled Living Fear, Violence Behind Closed Doors. Invites will be forthcoming. Nicholas also went over the bidding process for grants which will open on February 14th, there will be more information coming out for it.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion went over Region 2’s Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan which is being adopted from the past plan with updates since the plan is a living document that evolves as we evolve. Sections 3 through 5 are boilerplate and are waiting for approval from the department and will be updated when approved. Section 7, Public Testimony Meeting was held on December 20th and the four identified needs in the region are:

* Prevention Services
* Maltreatment After Involvement
* Permanency for Children in Care 24+ Months
* Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Dion went over on what measures will be taken to work on the identified needs. Joni Tusing went over the fiscal portion of the Biennial Plan. RM Elizabeth explained to the group on how the region has already been working on these matters and how the data reflects the improvements. RM Elizabeth asked for a motion to accept the Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan with the correction of the CAC dates. Shawna Smith made the motion to accept the plan with the amendments and was seconded by Crystal Bradley, motion passed.

Dion reminded all provider to keep your Family Preservation data updated for FCMs’ ability to make referrals. Currently working on visitation service standard language and giving time for providers to hire and train paraprofessionals.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni briefly went over the financial report stating Region 2’s budget target is 51% and we are running at 46%. Region 2 remains in great standing for use of their budget. Lot of great work being done on the finance side of Region 2.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** Rita discussed the PI Overview comparing the goals RM Brown made at the beginning of the year against the regional data showing how well the region has done this year. RM Elizabeth highlighted about how well the region is doing in length of stay, length after TPR and the quality of a CFTM. Job well done Region 2.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** Jeanne Cannon announced her retirement from Dunebrook and introduced Dr. Tammy Button as her replacement.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next RSC meeting will be held virtually on February 11th, at 9:00 a.m. central time. If there are any changes, emails will be sent.

**10.** **Adjournment:** RM Elizabeth thanked everyone for their time and hard work done, then adjourned the meeting.