**Regional Services Council Meeting Minutes**

**Region 11**

**Meeting Date: May 27, 2020**

**Meeting Location: Hamilton County DCS Office**

**938 N. 10th Street**

**Noblesville, IN 46060**

**Council Members Present:** Lyndsay Krauter, Amy Waltermire, Amy Akins, Bob Bragg, Cheri Coonce, Annette Craycraft, Robert Daugherty, Niki Howenstine, Jessica Paxson, Ashley Krumbach, Mike Gray, Caitlyn Purvis.

**Council Members Absent:** Joanie Crum

**Guests:** Cindy Sucese, Shalenda Allison, Deserie Brown, Nancy Chavez, Julie Ensinger, Rita Goodridge, Wendy Haag, Tami Harris, Keelie Howard, Courtney Hunt, Opeoluwa Ifabiyi, Lisa Juday, Jill Kelly, Danelle King, Pan Knight, Tifini McChyde, Andy Ogle, Michael Parks, Brandi Pass, Randy Pierce, Krystal Pollard, Kelly Reiff, Hope Russell, Ola Smith, Megan Stafford, Camille Thompson, Denise Valdez, Jessi Wild, Amanda Wills, Megan Wills, Joan Wilson, Lynne Wisneski, Iwona Morretino

**Meeting Minutes**

* Meeting was called to Order at 9:02 A.M. by Lyndsay Krauter
  + **Old Business**
    - **Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2020 Meeting.** RSC members spent a few minutes reviewing the minutes from the January 29, 2020 meeting. Annette Craycraft motioned to approve the minutes and Jessica Paxson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

* + - **Biennial Plan Update:** Lyndsay Krauter had not received any updates from Joanie Crum. Iwona Morretino said that it had been approved at their end but she did not know if the director had approved it.
  + **New Business**

* + - **Fiscal – Regional Finance Report** – Bob Daugherty provided an update. Region 11’s budget is $23,287,000. As of April, Region 11 had spent $20.8 million which exceeds the targeted amount by 6% or $1.4 million dollars. Bob stated that the two main drivers for the increase were (1) a 20% increase in the utilization of LCPA Foster Homes and (2) a 21% increase in residential placements. Lyndsay asked Bob what happens if a region is over budget. Bob stated that currently the state is at 79% of budget and at this time is should be 83%. The state as a whole is 4% under the targeted budget amount and there is money to cover individual regions that may be over budget.
      * Lyndsay also inquired about the increase in LCPAs. Bob stated that there has been a lack of DCS foster homes so we have had to utilize LCPA more. Bob also stated there is an increase in CANS 4 category and that there are more “higher need” kids. Bob also commented that the stay in foster homes has been longer.

* + - **Community Partners Update** – Megan Stafford provided the update
      * Referrals: For the March/April 2020, there was a total of 202 families served
* Hamilton – 84 (increase due to Covid 19)
* Hancock – 17
* Madison – 88
* Tipton – 13
* COVID 19 Relief Funding
* $186,394.02 was received and currently $161,497.79 has been spent. The balance of $24,896.23 needs to be spent by June 30, 2020.
* There was a huge increase for Rent/Deposit since we were able to assist families with rent & utilities for families who lost income due to COVID.
* Able to reach out to pantries and assist them with restocking which allowed us to push clients to those pantries for those who needed information for other resources that were available
* Other Items
* Normal monthly meetings as well as Safe Sleep were held virtually
* PCA was cancelled
* Stephanie Fertucci resigned for a position in Madison County. Megan Wills is serving as the interim director for Region 11.
* Abby Swift is the new VP of Intervention and OYS services
* **Prevention Funding** – Jill Kelly provided the update
* Three of the agencies (Agape, Intersect & Chaucie’s Place) could not use all their funds due to COVID 19 and unable to do things virtually. The funds would be returned to the Children’s Bureau. Tipton Health Department needs additional funds for their Backpack Program. Children’s Bureau already pledged $5,000. Tipton needs $17,000. A vote was made to the Council to reallocate the funds from the 3 agencies to Tipton Health Department. Jessica Paxton motioned to approve the reallocation of funds and Annette Craycraft seconded. The motion was passed.
* Bitters Conference
* Conference was scheduled for March 25, 2020. On hold, due to the coronavirus.
* Unsure how it will look moving forward since we do not know how school will be in the future
* Need to have more people “lay eyes on kids” to report abuse/neglect since the kids are not in school.
* Proposal to roll over 2 of the contracts that are marked for substance abuse (Brandywine and Madison Church of God) for additional funding for seeking out abuse and neglect.
* Amy Akins (Tipton) stated they were also applying for a grant with IU for domestic survivors and children to be completed by June 5, 2020.
* Need to identify what is specifically needed for each county
* If they get this grant, may not need additional funds. Still in the growing, planning and implementation phase.
* Motion made to roll over the 2 contracts for Brandywine and Madison Church of God for use in seeking out abuse and neglect. Motion passed.
* Other Information
* Agencies that need assistance can reach out to Meghan
* Lyndsay Krauter thanked Community Partners for specifically assisting Hamilton County with PPE at the beginning of the virus

**Services**: Iwonna Morrentino spoke regarding Family Preservation Services

* Mandated by legislature effective June 1, 2020
* Contracting process has been completed
* Region 11 has a good number of providers; 30 providers and 26 have been contracted
* Main goal is to preserve the family unit
* In home CHINS and IAs will be referred first.
* Provider will contact family and assess family for safety
* The providers will:
* Do weekly safety checks
* Be responsible for all intervention services
* Will use evidence based models
* Central Integrity and Abuse Counseling are merging
* **Strengthening Indiana Grant**
* Indiana University has provided a Prevention Grant for Madison and Tipton County (Region 11) and 2 counties in Region 7.
* For Region 11, want to use funds for a family resource center
* Location is unsure at this time; maybe Tipton Boys & Girls Club
* May need additional funds beyond grant amount, for rent, etc to get the project started
* **Questions/Concerns from Membership**
* None at this time
* **Guest comments** :

* Andrea Bennett from Abuse, Awareness & Accountability (AAA) stated that Ron Walker will be stepping down. AAA will be merging with Central Intergrity. They have continued in person classes during Covid. Feels virtual takes away from peer interaction. Email is [andrea@abuseaccountability.com](mailto:andrea@abuseaccountability.com). Elwood might be a new location. Please let Andrea know of a church, place to lease, etc. Lyndsay Krauter suggested contacting Ministerial Committee in Tipton regarding churches, brick & mortars that may hold these meetings.
* Seeds of Life was not on the provider list . Iwonna will follow up with her staff and see if this is correct

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 A.M.