Regional Service Council

Region 6

January 25, 2024

* Welcome and update on county successes

RM Liz Learned welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Delli Wells reported out for Cass County. She stated they are continuing good teamwork and have had some staff changes. Since the staff changes, they have slowed down with community involvement. They have some meetings scheduled with the schools and LEA because some educational needs are needed so they are going to be working on that. They are going to be working on child abuse prevention with the Safety Fair this year. Their numbers are down, and they are continuing to do well with length of stay. She states their assessments and cases are booming. They have opened 25 kids in 2 mos. Delli just got news that she is able to hire for a supervisor position and applications are already coming in.

Kerri King reported out for Huntington. She stated they are off to a good start for the new year. They have reunified 7 kids so far in January. They are working with child abuse council to plan for April’s Child Abuse Prevention month. They are needing community providers and retail stores to put out pin wheels. Their office created a tool kit that they are face to face engaging with people and asking if they want to put out the pin wheels. She stated they usually partner with the YWCA Safety Fair every year as well. Nicole, their supervisor is working very closely with their NDT Team to create human trafficking protocol to create their multi-disciplinary team. Their office is staying staff but did lose a FCM who transitioned to a different position.

John Lane reported out for Miami County. He stated they have been picking up cases and have been very busy. They are continuing to engage in the community. He has been meeting with newly elected officials to work to prevent child abuse meeting. The child abuse meeting is scheduled Friday to plan for an event. We will be partnering with YMCA in a Safety Fair. John stated the office is fully staffed. They are focusing on quality improvement this year as a team to engage parents by having genuine conversations and using CFTM’s to drive the case to focus on quality and to engage parents.

Stacey Morgan reported out for Howard County. She states their numbers are going down. In 2023 they had 35 kids adopted. Their staff is continuing to be stable and is currently over staffed. They are helping Cass County and Region 9. RPCA conference is already planned and is up and running. Stacey will send out the save the date for April 11th. The keynote speaker is Ashley, who is a survivor of teen abuse. She is nationally recognized as an advocate for teen survival stories for domestic abuse and sexual abuse. The event is open to everyone.

Erica Haag reported out for Fulton County. They have closed several cases this month. They reunified four and closed one case through a third-party custody and had one kid adopted that has been in care just under four years. They have opened five cases so far in January and said it has been a month of a lot of babies. They are working to hire their 7th FCM and have extended a conditional offer that has been accepted. She stated they are gearing up to work on a SCAN event this weekend. Their office has been dealing with struggles with residential placements. She stated they have one kid that is still in the home that they have been searching for a placement for quite a while and still have a kid placed in Virginia that isn’t doing real great and also a kid in emergency shelter care since November.

Julie Hobbs reported out for Wabash County. She states they are over staffed. They have their last person in training and has a month left to go. Their new attorney is doing very well. They are continuing to do prevention efforts. They have a drug prevention program in the schools in Wabash County and for the last two years they followed with a safety fair. John and Julie will be meeting next week in hopes to put on some type of a conference on prevention or safety. All the community providers will be meeting to brainstorm on efforts for 2024 and thinks it will be well suited for First Friday. Their focus continues to work on Safe Sleep and fire safety. They currently have no placements in residential care. Their goals they are working on are timely permanency and how to keep kids out of residential placement.

Delli Wells stated their county is struggling with teen suicide. Cass County just had their third teen suicide in less then a year. She asked if anyone had any resources or guest speakers in their county to let her know. Jan from Huntington said they have a lot of protocols and prevention for teen and adult suicide in their county that she will share.

Stacey Morgan shared Turning Point in Howard County is a new provider for drug screens.

* Minutes <https://ingov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anne_eckelbarger_dcs_in_gov/Documents/Documents/Desktop/Regional%20Service%20Council%20Notes/RSC%20Notes%2011-15-23.docx>

There were no corrections to the November 15, 2023, minutes. Kelly Moorman made a motion to accept the minutes and Stacey Morgan seconded the motion.

* Financial <https://ingov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anne_eckelbarger_dcs_in_gov/Documents/Documents/Desktop/Regional%20Service%20Council%20Notes/Financial%20Report.pdf>

Katie Craft passed out and went over the budget. She stated the region is still under budget. The target was 50.0% or less and we are under the budget as a region at 44.20%. Foster placement is down and residential is up, Overall, fiscally everything is going well for region 6.

* SCAN <https://ingov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anne_eckelbarger_dcs_in_gov/Documents/Documents/Desktop/Regional%20Service%20Council%20Notes/SCAN%20Handouts.pdf>

Christy Robbins passed out the report for Community Partners on how they are doing in the region and went over it. She stated referral trends have pretty much stayed the same. She stated they are always communicating with the schools and social service agencies and doing different PSA through social media. Safety is the main goal they are addressing. They have $6984.43 of concrete funds. Those funds are reserved for emergencies. Christy stated they are exploring offering babysitting training and asked if the region if this was something they would be interested in. The region thought it was a good idea and asked how long the curriculum would be and if there would be a cost. The curriculum would teach basic techniques and prevention and awareness training.

* Services: <https://ingov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anne_eckelbarger_dcs_in_gov/Documents/Documents/Desktop/Regional%20Service%20Council%20Notes/Biannual%20Action%20Plan.pdf>
* **Biennial Planning Discussion and approval**

Iwona Morretino stated it was time to go over the biannual plan. Work groups were gathered in December to identify a plan for the next biennium. The biannual strategic plan is prepared for 2 fiscal years, which is for 2025 & 2026. It begins July 1, 2024. Council members received an electronic copy of the action plan and Iwona1 went over section 7 which was the action plan and discussion was held.

Kerri King made a motion to adopt the action plan for the biannual report and Julie Hobbs seconded the motion.

Topic areas:

1. Increase parental engagement, understanding, and knowledge of the services available and roles of the providers. LEADS- (Julie and Kerri)
2. Improved tracking and assessing service delivery to ensure services are meeting the individual needs of each family member on every DCS case. LEADS- (Stacey and Erica)
3. Increase engagement with community resources and providers to increase the ability to meet cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs of families. LEADS- (John and Delli)

* 2024 RSC Meetings are:
* January 25, 2024 (at Miami County DCS @ 11AM-12PM)
* April 25, 2024
* July 25, 2024
* October 24, 2024
* Provider meeting will follow shortly after each meeting
* Other Business

Liz Learned talked about a translation device and said it would have to be ran through central office to see if legally it is a good device to use and would stand up in court. She said it could be a great tool informally when working with a family but needs to make sure we can use it for legal process. Christy Robbins showed a demonstration on how it works.