

***Regional Services Council  
Region 4 Meeting***

**Date:** October 15, 2024

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Location of Meeting:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Chair:** Erin Shidler, Region 4 Manager

**Meeting Secretary:** Helen Garmon

**Call to order**

**Start time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Roll call**

**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

As read    X    As corrected

**Program/Committee Reports**

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New business**

**Welcome**

**Community Partners Update – Christy Robins**

Christy shared her screen and reviewed the following reports:

- Referral trends from 2021/2022 fiscal year to current
- Partner Agencies Providing Services
- Local Prevention Dollar Services
- Family Resource Center – Bridge of Grace in 46806 Allen County
- Successful Community Engagement

**Regional Budget Update – RM Erin Shidler reported for Katie Craft**

- For region 4 our target was 25%. We spent 25.77% of our budget.

**Services – Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator**

- The RFP is open for all Community Based Services statewide. It will close December 11, 2024
- We will have a pre-proposal conference which will be virtual on October 22, 2024, at 1:00 EST.  
You can find the link on the RFP website page

- While the RFP is open Dion is no longer allowed to answer any questions. You will have to submit all of those to the questions and answers link by October 31, 2024, and those answers will come back to you all by November 13, 2024
- Make sure you're checking that your monthly reports are getting uploaded by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month
- If you have a family preservation case make sure you have updated, uploaded the treatment plan, the safety plan, the evidence-based practices that you're using

### **County Updates**

#### **Allen – Julie Foster gave update for Melissa Hayden**

- Our long-awaited remodel has been completed. We are getting settled in our new spaces and that has been real exciting for us
- We have 4 division managers (2 in assessment and 2 in permanency) Gary Jones has been with permanency for many years and he is going to be out on leave for the next couple months, Heather Rouns and Melissa Hayden are splitting the 6 supervisors that typically report to Gary so if there's a need in permanency the contact will be Heather or Melissa
- In assessment we have 9 supervisors and 37 FCMs that report to those supervisors. We see a heavier caseload in assessment vs permanency so we're continuing to try to get that more equalized across the two divisions within Allen County. Right now, our assessment caseload average is about 125%. There are 12 supervisors in permanency and 57 FCMs that report to those supervisors and their caseload is just over 100% at 105
- Several months ago, we brought 2 supervisors over from permanency to assessment to help in that balancing process. Most of our hiring efforts have gone to assessment where we have more of a need due to our volume
- We have 11 FCMs in Cohort, 2 of them are assigned to permanency and the other 9 are assigned to assessment
- We were at 513 assessments in the month of September and with those FCMs in rotation we saw our average still higher than what that allotted caseload is for an assessment FCM but throughout the year we have seen that come down so we're making baby steps

#### **DeKalb – Sara Herendeen gave update for Andrea Hoy**

- DeKalb currently have 9 FCMs that are carrying caseloads, 3 FCMs that are in training effective today, 1 started today and 1 is pending a start date so we're waiting to hear back from her about her preferred start date. We have 2 supervisors
- DeKalb had 75 assessments in September and so far in October they have 27
- DeKalb has 112 focused children. There's been an increase in their in-home CHINS numbers, they are at about 60% for relative placement which is great. There's been an increase in their open involvements in the past couple of months as well

#### **LaGrange – Paul Watson**

- We currently have 3 FCM's carrying case loads, we need 7. We have 2 in training; at the end of this month, we have a couple more graduating. We have 1 that's waiting on background checks for another state, and we have 1 spot still open
- We currently have 36 cases and 66 focused kids which is a little higher than normal or our county. We have increased the amount of in-home and IAs that we have recently so that's good. We are having cases, but they are able to remain in home a lot of the time
- We have 28 assessments currently open; we're averaging about 30 with the staff we have

- LaGrange has had a lot of fatalities this calendar year. There has been 3 within the Amish community that have passed away so we're really working with those communities to try to work on some safety awareness and issues to help prevent some of those things from happening in the future
- We have a couple of adoptions coming up for two of our longest stay kids. One is actually this week, and one is in a couple of weeks. We are very excited to get those kids to permanency

#### **Noble – Stephanie Walker gave update for Jamie Pippin**

- We currently have 4 FCMs, we are slated for 8. We have 1 in training, 1 scheduled for Cohort and 1 in the hiring process. That will leave us with one open position. We have 1 supervisor
- Our permanency is currently down from where it was a year ago. Out of 21 we have 5 in-home CHINS
- We're moving towards some adoption either this month or November. We have a couple of cases closing, we had some close with a change of custody so that's always good to hear
- Assessments are kind of on a trend up. In August we had 54 assessments for the month. In September we had 74 and so far for October we're at 30

#### **Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux**

- We have a new supervisor. Her name is Wendy Caskey, she was promoted internally
- We are currently at 6 FCMs for carrying a caseload, we've hired 2 FCMs, 1 is in pre-hire and 1 we're finalizing. They should start cohort sometime in November
- We have approximately 16 focused children with about 50 CHINS cases, 8-10 IAs
- Our length of stay and out of home placement has dropped significantly. We are currently at about 330 days for kids who are in out-of-home placement. That's a big improvement for us as we move kids towards permanency in a timely manner
- As far as assessments are concerned that is staying consistent. We have 40 assessments since September, about 21 assessments so far in October and our timely initiation remain at about 88%

#### **Whitley – Sara Herendeen**

- Whitley currently has 8 FCMs that are assigned cases or assessment, we have 3 FCMs that are in training. They will be graduating at the end of October.
- We have 2 supervisors with one currently on medical leave
- We have a new clerk who started today
- In September we had 56 assessments, so far in October we have 26
- In September our SafeACT closure was just a little over 60% which is good for us
- Our total CHINS numbers have been going down in the past couple of months. In June we were at 100 open cases with focus children and now we're down to 86
- We've had 3 adoptions in the past month
- We've been stable with our in-home CHINS numbers

#### **Provider Presentations (10-Minutes)**

Executive Director Lori Lehman, Fort Wayne Center for Learning

Director, Christy Robbins, SCAN gave an over of our Prevention Services

Providers, please contact Helen Garmon ([helen.garmon@dcs.in.gov](mailto:helen.garmon@dcs.in.gov)) if you are interested in signing up to do a 10-minute presentation. Helen will contact you the week before the RSC meeting to let you know you will be presenting

The next RSC meeting will be via Microsoft Teams at 12:00 p.m. on January 14, 2025

**Adjournment**

With no other business meeting was adjourned

**Signatures:**

Secretary Helen Marmor

Date 1-14-2025

Approved hg (secretary's initials)

Chair Evin Thiele

Date 1-14-2025