

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

Date: July 16, 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 X

Recommended Correction:

Presenter Change from YMCA to YWCA

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Welcome

Community Partners Update – Christy Robins

Megan shared her screen to review the below reports

- Referrals Summary
- Program Outcomes
- Community Partners
- Local Prevention Dollar Services

Regional Budget Update – RM Erin Shidler reported for Katie Craft

- For region 4 our target was 100%. We spent 95.48% of our budget. Region 4 is doing a great job managing funds!

Services – Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator

- We have an RFP coming up for our Community Based Services. It will be all services and will be all state. It will be coming up in the fall, we have not set a date. Dion and his team are working on updating the service standards that need to be met to be in line with the State licensures and things of that nature

- Community Partners currently has an open RFP that opened on May 24, 2024. It will close on August 23, 2024. When an RFP is open no questions can be asked directly to Dion or any other State Personnel. Questions can be sent into the inbox for questions and answers and that will be posted for everyone to see
- As a reminder, Family Preservation has calls for our providers on the second Friday of every month. If you don't have that information to be involved with our family preservation calls for providers, Dion will send you that link
- New rates were posted for Community Based Services on 7/1/24 and should be active as of now
- Reminder for our providers. Please check your reports to make sure you have the proper people on those reports that you are reporting to us

County Updates

Allen – LOD Melissa Hayden

- Ashley Teitge is our new Assessment Division Manager. Ashley was an Assessment Supervisor and replaces our previous Assessment Division Manager Joe Sims
- We've reconfigured our pods:
 - We have two Division Managers over the Assessment Supervisors. We now have 9 to 10 Assessment Supervisors to try to lessen their case load and try to keep them with 5 Family Case Managers under them
 - We have Heather Rouns and Gary Jones who are our Permanency Division Managers
- Allen remodel – We completed the 2nd of 4 phases on the 2nd floor which is just the employee only area. October 1, 2024 is our updated timeline for the entire remodel to be complete

DeKalb – LOD Sara Herendeen gave update for LOD Andrea Hoy

- DeKalb currently has 2 supervisors and 8 FCMs. Two FCMs are in training and two in the hiring process
- DeKalb currently has 57 CHINS and 33 IA's. They're doing really well with their number of in-homes and IAs at 46%
- DeKalb is meeting their goal for engaging fathers and resource parents and just slightly below their goal for engagement with mothers

LaGrange – LOD Nick Molyneux gave update for LOD Paul Watson

- LaGrange is focused on hiring right now. We're hiring 3 FCMs. They're all in pre-hire at this point. Their anticipated start date is sometime in August if we can get a final offer going
- In-home cases have spiked in the last month, which is great. We jumped from 39% in June to 50% as of right now and our Timely initiation remains at 90%
- We have 54 focused children and 25 open assessments at this point
- Erin mentioned that they had 2 fatalities in LaGrange over the last month. Both involved children being hit in the road. We've been partnering with SCAN and some members of the Amish community to really focus on prevention efforts around those tragedies

Noble – LOD Jamie Pippin

- Noble county is kind of the same with staffing. In the past year, Noble has 1 staff member that is in the same position that they were. They've had a complete staff turnover
- Noble has 1 new FCM, 3 FCMs that are currently in Cohort and 1 transfer coming in. We're scheduled for 8 FCMs, we currently have 6 FCM. We are down to 1 supervisor and will not be filling our 2nd supervisor position at this time

- We're doing a lot of good work with adoptions and moving long-term children to permanency
 - A couple weeks ago we had a sibling group of 3 who had been in care for 3 years get adopted to the same family
 - We had a guardianship go through
 - In a couple of weeks 2 more long-term children will be adopted
- We currently have 29 CHINS; July has been lighter on assessments with school being out, but we are anticipating an uptick once school comes back in
- Timely Initiation is about 91%
- Assessment closure we're a little lower. In April we had some of our staff turnover hit so it kind of hit us there but overall case wise, we're doing well in Noble; it's just getting staffing where it needs to be

Steuben – Nicholas Molyneux

- We are currently fully staffed with 8 FCMs. We have 1 supervisor
- We've been helping Noble and LaGrange counties with some of their assessments
- We have 67 Focused Children. About 80% of those cases are either in the home or with relatives
- We have 3 adoptions coming up in August and most of those are pertaining to our longer term children
- Foster Care is putting on a Foster Care Appreciation Event for LaGrange and Steuben counties on August 1, 2024. There will be free haircuts and back to school supplies for our children

Whitley – Sara Herendeen

- Whitley currently has 2 supervisors and 7 FCMs. We have 3 FCMs scheduled to begin Cohort on August 5th.
- We have 100 Focused Children, 79 CHINS and 21 IAs. About 82% of them are either in-home IA or relative placement which is good
- We have been down over the summer in assessments averaging about 30. We anticipate that number to go up

Regional – Erin Shidler

- Amanda Herendeen left our agency to go into private practice. Sara Herendeen (not related to Amanda) is now the new Local Office Director (LOD) for Whitley County
- Our goal across the State is to hire to 120%. Our counties in region 4 have done a fantastic job of hiring. Right now, a lot of our counties are really feeling it.
 - Allen is technically fully staffed. They're working out a few adjustments between assessment and permanency that Melissa touched on
 - Steuben is fully staffed
 - Our other counties have been struggling to stay afloat with our staffing levels

Erin is grateful for the teamwork that is displayed between the counties in region 4. They do a great job with helping one another out and working collaboratively as a team to serve children and families here in Northeast Indiana

Provider Presentations (10-Minutes)

None

Providers, please contact Helen Garmon (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 July 16, 2024

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned

Signatures:

Secretary Helen Garmon

Date 10/15/2024

Approved hg (secretary's initials)

Chair Evin Thiddle

Date 10/15/2024