



Regional Service Council Region # 2

Meeting Date: Friday, October 13, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. CST
Meeting Location: Porter County/Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting Called to Order: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by LOD Brian Broek, due to RM Brian Brown being unavailable.

2. Introductions: LOD Broek welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. LOD Broek asked if anyone was attending for the first time to introduce themselves: April Greetham, director of LaPorte County CASA and Charles Lobaugh from Promising Futures introduced themselves. RSC members present: Brian Broek, Chris Buyer, Shawna Smith, Meghan Finn, and Sarah Fink.

3. September 8th, 2023, Minutes: LOD Broek asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Shawna Smith gave a motion to accept the September 8th minutes as written which was seconded and approved.

4. Community Partners – Geminus: Kristin Chamberlain, director of Geminus, went over the Community Partners report:

Open Referrals – 144

New Enrollments – 66

Discharges – 73

DCS County Referrals – Total of 34

- Benton/Newton – 4
- Jasper – 6
- LaPorte – 10
- Porter – 10
- Pulaski – 3
- Starke – 1

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 32

- Benton/Newton – 1
- Jasper – 1
- LaPorte – 20
- Porter – 6
- Pulaski – 0
- Starke – 4

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 32

- Self – 17
- Community – 2
- School – 7
- Faith Based - 1

- Families/Neighbor - 1
- Family Resource Center Agency - 4

Flexible Funds

- Request – 12
- Approved – 12
- There were 2 CFTM requests:
 - LaPorte – 1 with 2 enrolled
 - Porter – 1 with 1 enrolled
- No safe sleep requests.
- Kristin gave an overview of the successes and attended events. Kristin announced the following events are coming up:
 - ✓ LaPorte County Trunk or Treat – October 25th at the Family Resource Center in LaPorte.
 - ✓ Porter County Trunk or Treat – October 30th at the Porter County DCS office.
 - ✓ Starke County Trunk or Treat – October 27th at the Knox Bible Baptist Church.
- Amanda Satterfield gave an update of the Family Resource Center located in LaPorte. There were 59 adults and 69 children that have gone through and helped 28 families. There were 12 new families, 16 returning families, and 17 tours of the facility. A change was made to the Safe Sleep program from a scheduled class to as needed due to requests, and they would like to remain flexible for the community. Changing parent café to a meal trying to get more attendance from the community plus more advertising on social media. Having an attorney program has been a huge hit and have inquired with another local attorney from Michigan City who is interested in helping. Starting a laundry program to help families with their laundry alternating between LaPorte and Michigan City. Amanda discussed the recent success stories and answered questions. The Family Resource Center is on the road to being successful and are implementing many needed programs for the community.

5.Services – Dion Smith: Dion gave an overview of the upcoming Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan which needs to be completed by the end of January. The four items required by the state to focus on is:

- ✓ Prevention services
- ✓ Maltreatment after involvement
- ✓ Permanency for children in care 24 months or more
- ✓ Substance use disorder

Dion stated what the region needs to do to complete the plan. Work groups will be created to work on the focus items and a public meeting will be held. More information will be forthcoming with RM Brown involvement.

6. Finance – Joni Tusing: Joni was unavailable, LOD Broek over the financial report for September:

- Budget Target is 25%, Region 2 actual 24.37%

- ✓ Benton: 26.78%
- ✓ Jasper: 20.0%
- ✓ LaPorte: 24.91%
- ✓ Newton: 21.33%
- ✓ Porter: 25.93%
- ✓ Pulaski: 28.82%
- ✓ Starke: 18.10%
- Expenditures were \$1,321,103 (YTD: \$3,870,300 - up 41.3%, \$1,198,412)
- In-Home YTD was \$606,271: up 22.43% (\$111,075)
- Out-of-Home was \$3,264,029: up 49.95% (\$1,087,337)
- County expenses for:
 - Benton - \$43,963 (YTD \$127,372: up 35.64%-\$33,910)
 - Jasper - \$71,327 (YTD \$232,870: down 13.53%-\$28,970)
 - LaPorte - \$728,785 (YTD \$2,032,221 up 57.6%-\$776,306)
 - Newton - \$42,399 (YTD \$138,931 up 68.52%-\$58,802)
 - Porter - \$296,479 (YTD \$934,361 up 63.38%-\$371,785)
 - Pulaski - \$70,567 (YTD \$191,072 up 102.8%-\$98,482)
 - Starke - \$67,583 (YTD \$213,473 down 38.25%-\$111,903)

7 Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes: PI Overview data was discussed with an overview of the achievements/barriers each county is experiencing.

8. DCS Policy/Practice/Outcomes discussion, questions: LOD Broek asked if anyone had question or wanted clarification on any DCS policy, practice, or procedures. Sarah Fink did state she likes the item on the agenda. Krystal Pollard stated on October 17th there will be the next Partnering on Practice Webinar. Lyndsay Flores encouraged people to attend the event, she would be able to send the link for the meeting.

8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening: LOD Broek discussed the Internal Provider Fair which will be held in the Porter County office on October 19th for FCM's to attend and learn more of what is available for them to utilize within the state. Meghan Finn reminded everyone about the Porter County Trunk or Treat on October 30th if providers would like to get involved.

9. Next RSC Meeting: The next regular RSC meeting will be held in person and virtually on November 17th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Porter County office. Please join us in person if possible.

10. Adjournment: LOD Broek thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.