



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 3

Meeting Date: July 1, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Location: St. Joseph County DCS Local Office
300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601

Council Members Present: Kathryn Stephenson - Regional Manager, Teresa Zornig – St Joseph County LOD, Amanda Egger – Marshall County LOD, Dion Smith – Regional Service Coordinator, and Christi Robbins – SCAN.

Council Members Absent: Judge Curtis Palmer - Marshall Circuit Court, Judge Karin McGrath - Kosciusko Superior Court, and Tamara Perkey – Elkhart LOD.

Others in Attendance: Tonya Douglass, Libby Martin, Kelli Deisler, Bre-Anna Hall, Lori Harrington, Andrea Hoover, Jamie Brown, Kristine Chamberlan, Nicholas Neal, Debbie Schrieber, Allyssa Quick, Terrera Wilkerson, Kandyce Emmendorfer, Jim Cornish, and Kiana Jackson.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:03am by Kathryn Stephenson.

1. Welcome/Introductions Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from the July 1, 2024, meeting reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Kelli Deisler, seconded by Teresa Zornig. Approved.
3. Community Partners Update: Megan Sechrist, Regional Manager.
 - Referrals continued to dip in April and slightly increased in May.
 - New enrollments continued to decrease in April with 40 and a larger increase in May at 61.
 - Flex funds reviewed. Funds decreased for rent in March, increased over double in April and decreased substantially in May. March showed an increase for Utilities, a decrease in April by approximately \$2100 and an increase again in May by double. Since February the overall total each month since has decreased. It was stated that after February the trends would decrease.
 - Successful Goals Achieved continued to increase in April and dipped in May.
 - Ongoing Case management, initial contact dropped 1% in April and increased by 2% in May.
 - Local Prevention dollars reviewed for Community Education.
 - Local Prevention dollars reviewed for Service and Support.
 - Local Prevention dollars reviewed for Gear Up. It was stated that Gear Up will continue to fund for next year.
4. Service Update: Dion Smith, Service Coordinator.
 - Open RFP as of 5/24/2024, will close on 8/23/2024, can be found on the DCS website.
 - In the process of continuing updating the Service Standards.
 - Keys Counseling now is Optum.
 - As of today, new rates are 2% more for everyone, these were posted today.

- Geminis has a Back To School Giveaway (Backpacks with school supplies) to be held on July 30th, from 11AM to 1PM ET at 2002 Ironwood Circle in South Bend.

4. Regional Budget Update: Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager (on vacation)

- Print out was provided
- Budget Target was 91.67% - All counties were above the budget target, St Joseph County was the lowest at 92.45% and Marshall County had the highest at 100.9%. Kosciusko was at 96.79% and Elkhart was at 97.63%.
- YTD for Region 3 for In-Home was down overall at 12.27%, for Out-of-Home it was up 21.41%.
- County Expenditures – Elkhart, Kosciusko, and Marshall counties total Child Welfare Services expenditures for May were down from April's numbers. St Joseph County total Child Welfare Services expenditures for May were up from April's numbers (see handout for a break down of each area of expenditures).

5. County Updates:

- Jim Cornish, Elkhart County – currently hiring new staff, new FCM candidates going through background checks, also hiring 1 FCMS and 1 clerical.
- Teresa Zornig, St. Joseph County Director – 8 FCMs in background checks. Fully staffed FCMS, 2 FCMS out on Medical Leave.
- Kosciusko County Director – not present.
- Amanda Egger, Marshall County Director- 2 FCMs waiting – 1 starts Monday, 1 is in background checks, and interviewing for 1. Posting for 1 vacant attorney spot.
- New LOD for Kosciusko is Mark Kelly.
- Teresa Zornig will be retiring at the end of October, Tamara Perkey will replace her as the new LOD for St Joseph County. Tamara will be shadowing Teresa to get acclimated to the position.

6. Other Business – None

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:24am by Teresa Zornig, Kelli Deisler seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next RSC Meeting on October 21st in South Bend.