

## Regional Service Council (RSC) Meeting Notes

### Region 17

March 18, 2016

#### Welcome and Introductions:

- The New Regional Manager (RM) Jim Snook introduced himself.
- Jason Nelson introduced himself as the new Regional Services Coordinator (RSC) covering Region 17 until a replacement for Micci Frye can be sought.
- All other introductions were made.

#### Approval of Minutes:

- RM Jim Snook has not been able to locate the minutes from the last meeting that was held by RM Susan Lesko. Director Jessica Richardson may have a copy of the minutes and once they are located Jim will have copies for everyone and approval of the minutes can occur.

#### Budget Report:

- Regional Finance Manager (RFM) Keith Patterson reported out that he had emailed the budget information to members of RSC.
- Keith would like to get an updated email list for RSC members so that he can ensure he is sending the report to all members.
- There is a change in the budget reporting. One attachment excludes probation expenditures while the other attachment probation expenditures are included.
- All counties within the region are over budget with Perry County being the highest. This is partly due to increase in staff, workloads, and the budget only increased by 1% at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Expenditures 6.1 million and the region was allocated 5.1 million with April, May, and June still remaining in this fiscal year.
- RM Jim Snook commented that he has noticed that this region is busy and that the CHINS cases are high in some counties. There are some instances where we are not able to use families so we have to utilize foster care. We want to be financially responsible but also need to keep our kids safe.
- Keith stated that the budget does reflect that a lot of our money is spent on services which is a good thing as it shows that we are using them.

#### Services Coordinators Report:

- RSC Jason Nelson reported that his goals are to improve communication between providers and DCS; Providers and DCS need to be getting and communicating all information as we want everyone to be equipped with everything they need when

working with families; and Improve the quality of reports that DCS is receiving from service providers as there needs to be more depth to them.

- Jason is more than welcome to provide training to counties and/or providers in the region.
- An RFP was just closed in this region but nothing was submitted. There will be another one posted sometime in April. The RSC would be more than happy to consider any ideas.

#### Community Partners Report:

- Slightly under budget so looking at ways to service more families
- 33 referrals in February with 27 of them served
- See email from Ireland for more information on referrals
- Success story was shared at the Parent Involvement Night by a Dubois mother and her child
- Perry County DCS is informing schools and other providers of Community Partners
- Is there a way for DCS to know when a family that is referred by DCS doesn't engage in services? Ireland will remind their staff to follow up with DCS when a family does not participate
- Whenever possible FCMs should invite Community Partners provider to Child and Family Team Meetings

#### Foster Care/Relative Care Specialist:

- Currently have 90 relative placements in the region
- Currently have 96 licensed placements in the region
- The training class for licensure is filling up monthly
- DCS currently has 3 workers who are servicing these placements and attempting to license new placements
- April Foster Care Appreciation Event is coming up and DCS has received lots of donations
- Tawana Jackson, Peer Coach Consultant for the region, will be providing the training on the Practice Model for the event due to the change in the Quality Service Review (QSR) process. Now foster parents and relative placements are being reviewed as to: Do they have a Role and Voice in the process?; Are they engaged?; Do they feel like they know what is going on?; and Do they feel like they are a part of the team?

#### Programs/Services:

##### Fatherhood Engagement:

- Currently servicing 40 referrals: 6 from Perry, 13 from Spencer, 1 from Orange, 4 from Daviess, and 16 from Dubois

- Success story from Perry County

#### Indiana Trafficking Assistance Program

- Program funded by a grant/partnership of two non-profits and IU Bloomington School of Public Health
- Raise awareness and education on Human Trafficking and Exploitation as well as once a child is identified as being such, getting them the services that they need
- Trainings are available in the region for law enforcement, prosecutors, etc.
- Human Trafficking and Exploitation cases are increasing in Indiana (2015 there were 40 cases)
- Can provide Case Management with the victims as well
- Would like to attend Local Office staffings to provide an inservice (101 and 201 trainings that are available)
- RM Jim Snook advised that once the local DCS office is notified of a potential case Central Office should be notified and would advise as to decisions being made

#### Other Business

- QSR for the region is on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and there are some changes to the process from the previous years
- RM Jim Snook requested other ideas for location of future RSC meetings. Ideas that were presented were: Contacting the Hospital to see if they have a conference room that could be utilized; Dubois County Southern Hills facility may be able to accommodate; and the Habig Center in Jasper may be able to assist as well.
- RM Jim Snook advised that he would like to go back to having quarterly meetings instead of every other month. No one opposed this. Jim stated that he would provide notice of next meeting in advance.
- RM Jim Snook acknowledged that the new members of management at DCS would need to be added to the roster (Dale Stroud, Susan Ford, Kathy Anderson, Crystal Noble, Sybil Rodeck, and Lana Tobin); confirmed that Judge Ellis is the presiding Judge on the council; need to appoint another prosecutor to the council; the presiding CASA Director is still a member of the council; and it was decided that a new foster parent needs to be appointed as a member of the council

#### Public Comments/Announcements:

- The New Regional Manager (RM) Jim Snook introduced himself.
- Jason Nelson introduced himself as the new Regional Services Coordinator (RSC) covering Region 17 until a replacement for Micci Frye can be sought.

#### Next Meeting

- June 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at the Dubois County Office