

***Regional Services Council***

***Region 4 Meeting***

**Date:** October 16, 2017

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

**Location of Meeting:** Allen County DCS – 201 E. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46806

**Meeting Chair:** James Pippin, Region 4 Regional Manager

**Meeting Secretary:** Helen Garmon

**Call to order**

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

**Roll call**

**Members Present:**

James Pippin  
Austin Hollabaugh  
Wesley Husselman  
Kelly Moorman  
Michelle Savieo  
Angela Vachon

**Phone:**

(260) 458-6167  
(260) 636-2021  
(260) 925-2810  
(260) 356-4420  
(260) 458-6480  
(260) 824-3530

**Members Absent:**

Amy Richison  
Judge Pratt  
Judge Heuer

**Non-Members Present:**

Alexys Vosmeier  
Addie Brandell  
Kate Stephenson  
Dani Boykin  
Jennifer Rutkowski-Smith  
Millie McDonald  
Laura Hoffman  
Elena De La Cruz  
David Mullins  
Angel Metro  
Trish Fox  
Tanya Custer  
Julie Ensinger

Kim Hollabaugh  
Joshua Gerardot  
Liz Terveer  
Brittney Collins  
Kelly Roe  
Betsy Kuhn  
Carla Kilgore  
Sandy Wilson  
Bridgid Funk  
Charles Redwine  
Gabrielle Putt  
Dion Smith Sr

Kelsey Middaugh  
Jeff Bedree  
Ron Lahmeyer  
Maureen Prebyski  
Chelsea Patton  
Bill Stephan  
Deane Holderman  
Alicia A. Johnson  
Kris Wise  
Dee Szyndrowski  
Rachael Glaser  
Mary Holliday

**Approval of minutes from last meeting**

As read   X  

As corrected

Recommended Correction:

## **Program/Committee Reports**

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New business**

#### **Network for Safe Families:**

Jennifer Ruthkowski-Smith distributed and reviewed the following handouts:

- Network for Safe Families - Services August 2017 Financial Report
- August 2017 Program Statistics
- Local Prevention Fund August 2017 Financial Report
- 04/01/17 – 06/30/17 Local Prevention Dollars Outcomes Report. This is the first time this report is being submitted. If you have any feedback, questions or additional information that you're wanting to see on this report; please let her know so they can make revisions

#### **Regional Fiscal Report/Mary Holliday**

- As of September 2017 Region 4 spent 9.6 Million Dollars which is 25.3% of the budget. Most of the money is being spent on Community Based Services and Residential Services. Last year spent at this time was just under 7 Million Dollars so cost is up significantly from last year

#### **Regional Services Coordinator Dion Smith**

- The Home Based Services Mandatory Training has been updated. We've created different modules:
  - If you're a Para Professional Bachelors Degree you have certain requirements that you need to complete
  - If you're a Therapist you have certain requirements that you need to complete
  - If you provide transportation you have certain requirements that you need to complete
  - There were changes to Legislation 1391 which has a stipulation in it for DCS Services saying all Therapists need to be licensed by a certain time frame. The final cutoff date to have your people licensed is January 1, 2018. If they are not licensed and/or have their temporary permit to do therapy; they will not be able to do therapy. However, if your agency can become accredited that changes the rules for being a Licensed Therapists
- November 1, 2017 we will be updating Service Standards for all of our visitation. Anything that has a visitation component to it; Home Based Services, Comprehensive Services (still debating on Father Engagement) will be updated to clarify the transportation language

## **County Updates**

**Adams** - (Melissa Hayden, Director) – We have 2 new Supervisor's. Office space is an Issue. There's an increase in the number of cases we serve.

**Allen** - (Michelle Savieo, Director) – We've been hiring Family Case Managers (FCM's). We have 5 FCM's starting in October, 3 FCM's starting in November and 4 FCM's in December. Office space is also an issue. We've also seen a drastic increase in the number of cases that we serve. We're meeting with the Judges, looking at cases and what it's going to take to move some of these cases through so they don't get stuck in the system.

Typically we've been divided into Assessment and Permanency Units and have two different divisions. We're going to create more work groups where we have Assessment and Permanency working together under the Division Manager's and one group under Director, Michelle Savieo. to see if that will help with communication and transferring cases more smoothly. This will help us look at cases from a broader perspective with Assessment and Permanency Supervisors working together to figure out how we can do things better. This will start next week.

**DeKalb** – (Wesley Husselman, Director) – Our construction is just about finished. Our Fifteenth case worker begins later this month. Interviews will begin for a slot that's opening in December. Our cases the last several months have been edging up with drugs and Domestic Violence.

**Huntington** – (Alexys Vosmeier, Director) – We have a new Attorney, Jill Petersen our Judge is retiring at the end of the year so we anticipate some change with that. We had our newest worker start about 2 weeks ago and we have one opening

**LaGrange**- (Kathryn Stephenson, Director) – We currently have 7 Case Managers with an opening to fill. Our newest Case Manager will start at the end of September. We have a higher assessment load. Meth is definitely our main issue

**Noble County** (Austin Hollabaugh, Director) – Workspace space is still an issue. We are losing our Attorney, not sure if we will be getting another Attorney or sharing. We have a new Judge. Like everyone else our assessments are high. We had 112 assessments last month which is the most we've ever had.

**Steuben** – (Ron Lahmeyer, Director) – We are down 1 FCM. We have 1 FCM to start in November and 1 leaving so we'll have a slot to fill in December. We've had 2 transfers to another County this year. The percentage of assessments turning into cases has really increased due to drugs. Everybody is using Meth and Pot.

**Wells** – (Deane Holderman, Director) – We’re in pretty good shape. We remodeled last year so we have our extended space. We’re currently at full staff. We have a new Attorney, Christian Mitchell. Our numbers for assessments have been stable but the trend is still the same primarily Meth and a little Heroin

**Whitley County** (Jeff Bedree, Director) – As the other counties have indicated our volume has gone up as well. Staff are doing the best they can give the space we have. Staffing wise we’re good.

**Regionally** (James Pippin, RM)

Mary Holliday went to each of the counties and did a budget overview for new staff. With referrals; she talked a lot about making sure the information is on there so providers have what they need to help our families.

Vacancies: We will continue to fill “Front Line Case Managers positions” Supervisor positions are a little different.

Attorneys: As a Region; we’re full as far as Attorneys. We’re just trying to figure out where everybody is going to land.

Quality Service Review (QSR): We’ve gone away from the QSR. We’ve moved to a Federal Model which is called the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR). There’s a certain amount of cases that’s going to be pulled so we could have some pulled each month. The Local Office Director’s (LOD’s) are going to be the reviewers from around the State. Your LOD can answer any question you may have.

Foster Parent complaints are diminishing. RM Pippin has been going to the counties and speaking with them about DCS and what’s going on. RM Pippin told providers he would be willing to come in and speak with their staff and answer any questions their staff might have.

**Next Meeting**

To be determined at a later date. Please check our DCS website

**Adjournment**

With no other business meeting was adjourned.

**Signatures:**

Secretary Helen Harmon Chair J.P.

Date 1-8-18 Date 1/8/18

Approved: hg (secretary’s initials) Date: 1-8-18