**Region 17 Service Council**

**September 18, 2020**

**Minutes**

Regional Service Council was called into session at 9:30 A.M. on September 18, 2020 by Regional Manager Jim Snook

Present: Jackie Foley, Nancy Rennie, Gwen Girten, Stephanie Helton, Jennifer Ramey, Andrea Bennett, Jennifer Tyra, Jason Holt, Casey Newton, Angie Phillips, Laura Greulich, Lisa Smith, Jim Snook, Melinda Berry, Shannon Blaize, Jennifer Ramey, Jessica Richardson, Nicole Amenta, Dedra Watkins, Crystal Noble, Jonda Bowers, Joshua McGan, Tyler Bittner, Paula Rasche, Jennifer Hamilton

Jim welcomed everyone to the September Region 17 Council Meeting.

Jim asked for a motion to approve the June 19th, 2020 minutes. Melinda Berry made a motion to approve the minutes from June’s meeting, motion was seconded by Jessica Richardson. No changes or additions to the minutes, motion passed to approve the June minutes.

**Regional Service Coordinator-** Gwen Girten-They are still adapting to the new services. The new service standard Family Pres Service started June 1st. This was the new service added for all new IA’s and In-Home CHINS that started after June 1st. Region 17 is keeping up with referrals with 55 active referrals. They are having provider service calls for Family Pres. Providers, any questions and answers obtained during this meeting are posted on the DCS Family Pres. Site. They are still having regular Covid calls, though these are slowing down. The questions and answers addressed during these calls are always posted on the DCS Covid site. There is an RFP open in limited counties for Child Advocacy Centers, but this does not impact Region 17. They are still allowing virtual contacts whenever that is needed, if the Child and Family Team is in the best interest of that person. A lot of providers are moving back to face to face over the past few months.

We are continuing to operate by appointment only at local offices. This will last until at least the end of the month. In terms of Residential visits, we will continue to do those as we have done the past few months. There are individuals assigned to each facility that meet with kids in bulk, then send summaries to the FCM and/or probation officer. This will continue until at least the end of the year and potentially into next year.

**Regional Finance Manager**- Debbie Daily- Not in attendance. Jim Snook gave a brief update: Target percentage of the budget to be spent through August was 19% and Region 17 spent 16.25%. All counties were within the target expenditures, with exception of Dubois County. Dubois County was at 20.5%. We continue to work with budget cuts. We are limiting the number of FCM’s being hired at the present time. There is not hiring freeze, but the number of Cohorts we are being assigned is limited to just a few Regions at the present time. We continue to find ways to trim our budget, as much as possible. We continue to work with our Finance Manager to strategize ways to stay under budget.

Jim Snook shared a special note with those in attendance: The Department was honored yesterday (September 17th) with an award from the Feds. This was in respect to the work we have done in the last two years in terms of the effort we have put forth in adoption. We are leading the country in the number of adoptions we have been able to do through our Foster Care programs. We have worked hard and put many resources into these programs. Including starting a whole division just for Foster Care and Adoption a couple of years ago. We were awarded a 5-million-dollar grant. Jim thanked DCS workers and the partners in the community for their help in this as well.

**Community Partners Report**-Jonda Bowers- Community Partners currently has 74 open referrals: 13 in Crawford, 13 in Daviess, 14 in Dubois, 3 in Martin, 6 in Spencer, 12 in Perry, and 13 in Orange. They are slightly over budget for July, but with July being a 3-payroll month they had anticipated this and expect things to even out. At this time, they are not overly concerned. They are working to close out families that do not necessarily need services after getting them through the summer. As those families get into stabilized routines, they are working to close them, which should help even out their budget.

They still have plenty of resources for Community Partners Families, that they were able to purchase through the extra funding that the state gave last fiscal year. They have pack and plays, car seats, box fans, hygiene supplies, and cleaning supplies.

Jonda shared a recent success story (please see attachment)

The floor was then opened for questions for Community Partners.

At this time Jim asked for an update from all local offices:

**Martin**-Jason Holt- Martin just had a few kids adopted. These kids had been in care for multiple years, so they are happy to have this completed.

**Orange**-Crystal Noble- Orange has had a few adoptions last month, for a total of 4 kids adopted. They have 7 scheduled in September for adoption. Most of those children have been in care for at least three years.

**Daviess**- Mendy-With the courts opening back up, they have been able to close some cases successfully. Daviess has had 4 adoptions go through within the last month.

**Spencer**- Jessica Richardson- Spencer has had 10 kids reach Permanency this month, so far. They have also had five IA’s closed successfully, one In-Home CHINS close successfully, and one adoption this month. They have also received several new CASA members on their CASA board.

**Perry**- Nancy Rennie- Perry has had several adoptions this year. Next month they have a child being adopted that has been in care for 7 years. They are losing one staff member in October; she will be leaving to become the Relative Specialist for the Region.

**Crawford**- Lisa Smith- Crawford just had an adoption of a boy who had been in care for four years. He was adopted by his original CASA worker. Over the next couple months, they will have another adoption of a child they have had in care for two years.

**Dubois**-Shannon Blaize- Dubois has had an extremely busy month. The Assessment side has done 8 removals since Labor Day. They have been able to utilize the new Comfort Zone that CASA has provided. When a child is removed, the FCM can take the child to the Comfort Zone to be watched by volunteers while they work on finding placement. The Comfort Zone provides several things: shower facility, games, food, clothing, blankets, etc. This Is a fabulous tool that helps not only the local office, but also the children.

Jim shared that our Permanency Teams are doing a good job and our Round Table has achieved Gold Standard the last two quarters.

Jim opened the floor for updates by the public/providers:

**Youth villages**-Nicole Amenta-They have been working hard to get some family admission cases up and ready. They had two admissions opened yesterday in Region 17 and two more that will be opening today.

Jim opened the floor for questions for Youth Villages- There were none

**Abuse Awareness and Accountability**-Andrea Bennett- They are not currently serving Region 17, but they are still trying. They are on the process of getting a few more facilitators certified so that they can relieve the stress of other facilitators and get into new areas. There are facilities in Evansville and Vincennes. They are still doing in person group classes, holding to the CDC standards for Covid. Numbers have gone down with participation, but now that courts are opening back up, group sizes have started to increase. The class offered in Vincennes is for men only. They now currently have 12 active locations across the state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Andrea.

**Youth Villages**-Dedra Watkins- They are still accepting Family Pres and Comprehensive referrals in Region 17 for Home Based Services -Youth Villages. Please feel free to contact Dedra, Nicole or Megan to staff any cases.

**Abbott/Redwood Toxicology**-Tyler Bittner- They recently subcontracted with Liberty Labs in Perry County. That is now an option for anyone that has clients in that area or that need to be held to higher accountability by going to that facility to be tested. As always, if anyone needs staffed or training Tyler can be available for a virtual training. Feel free to contact Tyler if you have any questions.

**Raintree**-Jackie Foley-They are continuing with Family Pres and regular services in Region 17. They do have opening for Family Pres Services and would like to get their additional staff trained and providing those. They are continuing to move forward with Family Pres process. They are back to face to face services, but still screening for Covid prior to every session. They have started regular scheduled DCS meetings. They have reached out to Perry and Orange county to begin services with them as well.

**The Villages**-Jennifer Hamilton- They are still doing virtual and have a private Facebook page for the adoption group. There are extra trainings on that as well as the ability to connect with other families. They have not seen a huge increase with Covid, but any families they get they put in this group. They have seen an increase in post adoption referrals. Due to all the adoptions, their foster care caseload has decreased. The families they currently have are not open to sibling groups or older children. They are hoping to cultivate a more open group of foster parents soon.

There will be a virtual conference held by the Villages on November 7th. This will take place via Microsoft Teams. This conference is for all families who have adopted or who are in the process of adopting.

Jim opened the floor for any questions- There were none.

**Valley Vista Health System**-Jennifer Ramey- They are primarily mental health and substance abuse facility, but they do offer girls residential. This is an all-girls unit with ages 12-17 and no conduct disorder. They are also going to be offering both adult and adolescent intensive outpatient programs through Zoom. If you have families that cannot get into programs, they highly encourage you give them a call. The adolescent IOP is for girls and boys ages 12-17. The chemical dependency program for adults and a regular IOP for mental health care. For inpatient services: the acute side of it is both male and females ages 12-17, the adults there is a dual diagnosis unit, detox unit and just regular mental health issues.

For inpatient services the acute side of it is both male and female ages

They have a detox movement. They have a regular mental health issue.

Contact Information:

Jennifer Ramey Valle Vista Health System:

[Jennifer.Ramey@uhsinc.com](mailto:Jennifer.Ramey@uhsinc.com) or 317-775-8255. To make referrals call: 1-800-477-1348

**4C Southern Indiana-**Jennifer Tyra- They are still taking referrals for childcare, if you have a family in need of childcare they can assist. They are focusing on SIDS awareness next month and will be hosting several safe sleep programs. They are doing one in person in Crawford county. There will be four others held virtually. In November, they will be focusing on developmental milestones. The month of December the focus is on developmentally appropriate play and toys. Workshops are open to families across southern Indiana. These are all virtual at this time.

**Fatherhood Engagement**-Jonda Bowers- Currently 38 open fatherhood engagement referrals: 7 from Crawford 7, Daviess 3, Dubois 3, Martin 3, Perry 9, Spencer 13, and Orange 0. If they identify through a family preservation referral that a dad could benefit, they will still providing that service under the Family Pres Referral. This will not show as a Fatherhood engagement referral. Still accepting referrals through family preservation. Still providing parent café virtually, if you need the flier each month so that she can get that to you.

**Volunteers with America Fresh Start**-Joshua McGan-Operating as normal and still taking in referrals under CDC Covid guidelines. All therapy is in person. They are a 24/7 facility. They do still have a few beds available but are coming close to having a wait list. They will work around the clock if there is a wait list to get clients into bed as quickly as possible. If they cannot get them in, they will work with other facilities to find an open bed for that client.

Jim opened the floor for questions- There were none.

Jim opened the floor for those in attendance to share any additional information—there was no additional comments or information.

Jim expressed his appreciation for the support and work that everyone does to help the Department.

Jessica Richardson wanted to remind everyone that November is National Adoption Month. Some of the local offices may be reaching out to the local organizations and agencies to participate in that.

Jason Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Melinda Berry seconded.

All in Favor at 10:24 A.M.

Jim wished everyone a good weekend

**Ireland Home Based Services**

**Community Partner for Child Safety**

**September 1, 2020**

As of September 1, 2020, a total of 105 referrals had been received since June 1, 2020. A home-based caseworker (HBCW) was assigned to 105 cases, a home-based therapist (HBT) was assigned to 1 case.

There are 75 levels currently being serviced through Community Partners for Child Safety to assist 74 families.

Region 17 received a total of 35 referrals during the month of June. Of these referrals, 4 cases came from Crawford County, 17 from Daviess County, 3 from Dubois County, 1 from Martin County, 3 from Orange County, 3 from Perry County, and 4 from Spencer County.

Region 17 received a total of 34 referrals during the month of July. Of these referrals, 2 cases came from Crawford County, 14 from Daviess County, 2 from Dubois County, 1 from Martin County, 5 from Orange County, 2 from Perry County, and 8 from Spencer County.

Region 17 received a total of 36 referrals during the month of August. Of these referrals, 8 cases came from Crawford County, 8 from Daviess County, 6 from Dubois County, 0 from Martin County, 8 from Orange County, 5 from Perry County, and 1 from Spencer County.

**June 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County | Referrals | Referral Source |
| Crawford | 4 | DCS (2) Self (2) |
| Daviess | 17 | DCS (15) Other (1) Self (1) |
| Dubois | 3 | DCS (2)) Self (1) |
| Martin | 1 | DCS (1) |
| Orange | 3 | DCS (2) Self (1) |
| Perry | 3 | DCS (2) Self (1) |
| Spencer | 4 | DCS (4) |
| Total | 35 |  |

**July 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County | Referrals | Referral Source |
| Crawford | 2 | DCS (2) |
| Daviess | 14 | DCS (13) Self (1) |
| Dubois | 2 | DCS (1) Other (1) |
| Martin | 1 | DCS (1) |
| Orange | 5 | DCS (5) |
| Perry | 2 | DCS (2) |
| Spencer | 8 | DCS (6) Self (2) |
| Total | 34 |  |

**August 2020**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| County | Referrals | Referral Source |
| Crawford | 8 | DCS (5) Self (3) |
| Daviess | 8 | DCS (6) Other (1) Self (1) |
| Dubois | 6 | DCS (3) Other (1) Self (2) |
| Martin | 0 |  |
| Orange | 8 | DCS (5) Self (3) |
| Perry | 5 | DCS (4) Other (1) |
| Spencer | 1 | DCS (1) |
| Total | 36 |  |

**Current Open Referrals**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| County | Referrals | Percentages (%) | Service Level |
| Crawford | 13 | 17% | HBCW (12) HBT (1) |
| Daviess | 13 | 17% | HBCW (13) |
| Dubois | 14 | 20% | HBCW (13) HBT (1) |
| Martin | 3 | 5% | HBCW (3) |
| Orange | 13 | 17% | HBCW (13) |
| Perry | 12 | 16% | HBCW (12) |
| Spencer | 6 | 18% | HBCW (5) HBT (1) |
| Total | 74 | 100% |  |

Current Open Referrals