Regional Services Council Agenda

Friday, January 17, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Department of Child Services—Tippecanoe County

250 Main Street, Suite 301

Lafayette, IN 47901

RSC Members Present: Angela Guimond, Penny Neal, Rhonda Friend, Jennifer Johnson, Coleen Connor, Julie Larson, Jennifer Steinsdoerfer, Iwona Morretino, Lois Logan Beard

RSC Members Appearing by phone: Judge Campbell, Judge Graham, Judge Reece

1. Welcome
   * Regional Updates
     + Penny Neal is the LOD for Tippecanoe County as of 12/2/2019.
     + Ambyr Wade is the LOD for White County as of 1/13/2020.
     + Darrel Noonkester is the DCS Special Investigator for Tippecanoe County as of 12/30/2019.
     + Housing Pilot in Tippecanoe started late last year that will provide housing opportunities for families in an effort to avoid DCS involvement, to aid in permanency efforts for families involved with DCS, or for older youth aging out of DCS system. Partnership includes DCS, court, Bauer, Valley Oaks, local housing authority, and other local entities.
     + Judge Graham reported receiving word of another pilot program for Tippecanoe County—Child Welfare Sequential Intercept Model; National Center for State Courts—that will enhance collaborative system improvement for child welfare.
       - Judge Reece provided some additional information on how this is a current court improvement process for criminal courts.

2. Community Partners Report (Cassie Wade)

* Averaging about 100 referrals/month which is slightly higher than this time last year
* Challenges with the case management system. Cannot provide an accurate number about on-going referrals.
* Spending on concrete services are primarily around housing and utility bills. Budget provided to RSC members via email
* Prevention contracts awarded. Detail provided to RSC via email.
* Cassie would like to start the prevention RFP in July 2020 and will be presenting the target areas in the next RSC in April 2020 based on the needs tracked in the region.
* Anecdotal observations that the families are presenting with more complex needs than in years prior—such as substance use—which has created a need to alter training for Bauer CP staff.
  + If Bauer has reached the limit with the family, Bauer will have the family sign a release of information to discuss concerns with the local DCS office unless a new DCS report is needed.
  + Talked about the possibility of sharing observations/concerns with the Region 5 management team at a later date if concerning trends are identified.
* Improved communication between Bauer and FCMs during the referral process.

1. Practice Indicators for the Region
   * Recap of 2019
   * Discussed practice indicators of note—total CHINS, IAs, length of stay, length of case, and absence of repeat maltreatment.
   * Provided some details about observations of the absence of repeat maltreatment detail that the RM completed for December 2019 which included 80% of the children listed in the detail had formal DCS involvement in place at the time of the repeat maltreatment.
   * RM and LODs are going to monitor the list moving forward to identify trends and determine if the quality of the services/interventions need to be addressed.
2. Budget Review (Lois Logan-Beard)
   * Region 5 is under budget (45%) overall.
   * All regions are under 50% (which is the current target) except for Tippecanoe County which is just above 50%.
   * All billing should be caught up as of January 2020.

5. Service Updates (Iwona Morretino)

* Biennial Plan—Review, discussion, and vote
  + Iwona Morretino went over the action plan with the RSC members.
  + Jennifer Johnson moved to adopt the action plan and Rhonda Friend seconded it. Members voted to approve the action plan.
  + Signature of members will be sought.
* Family Preservation RFP is open and will be up until 2/21/2020.
  + Video presentation posted on line if you were not able to attend.
  + Family Preservation services will be required for all in-home cases as of 6/1/2020.
* New drug testing vendor update
  + There is a delay in announcing the vendor contract for this fiscal year.
  + Questions were taken about how this will impact current practice in the local offices or providers. The general process will not change, just potentially the provider who will be handling the contract.
* FCT services in Region 5 – update and discussion
  + Iwona stated that she has engaged Lifeline (the contracted provider for Region 5) to train a new clinician for the service to be delivered in the region. This should take a few months.

6. Good of the Order

* 2020 meeting dates listed below
  + 4/17/2020
  + 7/17/2020
  + 10/16/2020
* Provider meeting to follow at 10:30 a.m.
* Meeting adjourned.