



## Regional Service Council Region # 2

**Meeting Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. CST  
**Meeting Location:** Porter County/Virtual Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

**I. Meeting Called to Order:** Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by RM Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions - Welcome:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Brian Broek, Crystal Bradley, Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, Meghan Finn, and Angelina Brouillette.

**3. October 13th, 2023, Minutes:** RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Meghan Finn gave a motion to accept the October 13<sup>th</sup> minutes as written which was seconded by Shawna Smith, motion passed, minutes accepted.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Kristin Smith went over the Community Partners report:

Open Referrals – 128

New Enrollments – 88

Discharges – 104

DCS County Referrals – Total of 41

- Benton/Newton – 2
- Jasper – 6
- LaPorte – 13
- Porter – 14
- Pulaski – 4
- Starke – 2

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 47

- Benton/Newton – 1
- Jasper – 0
- LaPorte – 26
- Porter – 12
- Pulaski – 2
- Starke – 6

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 47

- Self – 24
- Community Agency – 6
- School – 12
- Legal - 1
- Family Resource Center Agency - 4

Flexible Funds

- Request – 12
  - Approved – 12
  - There were 2 CFTM requests:
    - Porter – 2 with 2 enrolled
  - No safe sleep requests – mainly going through Family Resource Center.
  - Kristin gave an overview of the successes and attended events. Kristin announced the following events are coming up:
    - ✓ LaPorte County Christmas event scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.
    - ✓ Jasper County Christmas event scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Kristin gave a detailed report from LaPorte’s Family Resource Center as reported from Amanda Satterfield:
    - ✓ Total attending the center:
      - Adults: 80
      - Children: 90
      - Total Families 41
      - New Families 20
      - Returning Families 21
      - Total tours were 29 during open hours
    - ✓ Details of food/products given away.
    - ✓ Overview of events, connection/collaborations, and outreach/highlights.
- RM Brown questioned if there is a bus for Michigan City residents to get to the Resource Center in LaPorte which Kristin stated it is in the works to get the bus to stop at the center.

**5. Services – Dion Smith:** Dion clarified the objectives for the upcoming Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan which needs to be completed by the end of January. The goals in which the state will focus on are from the PIP:

- ✓ Increase parental engagement, understanding and knowledge of services available and the roles of the provider.
- ✓ Improving tracking and assessing the services that are meeting the needs of each family member on every DCS case.
- ✓ Increase engagement with the community resources and providers to increase the ability to meet the needs of cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs of the family.

We need to have work groups from the region to come up with three action goals and hold a public meeting for the public’s input. RM Brown stated the management has met to start procedures and Krystal Pollard gave an overview on the development teams approach to the biennial and a survey will be coming out soon.

**6. Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni was unavailable, RM Brown over the financial report for October:

- Budget Target is 33.33%, Region 2 actual 31.89%
  - ✓ Benton: 37.08%
  - ✓ Jasper: 27.46%
  - ✓ LaPorte: 31.60%
  - ✓ Newton: 28.61%
  - ✓ Porter: 34.66%

- ✓ Pulaski: 39.21%
- ✓ Starke: 25%
- Expenditures were \$1,214,401 (YTD: \$5,084,702 - up 38.32%, \$1,513,203)
- In-Home YTD was \$858,986: up 23.84% (\$165,332)
- Out-of-Home was \$4,225,716: up 46.84% (\$1,347,870)
- County expenses for:
  - Benton - \$51,607 (YTD \$178,979: up 21.10%-\$34,036)
  - Jasper - \$89,454 (YTD \$322,323: down 11.18%-\$27,550)
  - LaPorte - \$555,964 (YTD \$2,588,186 up 50%-\$914,371)
  - Newton - \$48,671 (YTD \$187,602 up 73.25%-\$83,044)
  - Porter - \$316,702 (YTD \$1,251,064 up 62.10%-\$492,968)
  - Pulaski - \$70,222 (YTD \$261,294 up 94.09%-\$129,680)
  - Starke - \$81,781 (YTD \$295,255 down 32.06%-\$113,346)

**7. Strategic Objectives:** RM Brown discussed the five high level objectives for the region:

1. Improve child safety.
2. Reduce the average time to permanency for children exiting foster care.
3. Raise improve relationships with foster and adoptive families.
4. Increase the number of counties within compliance with FCM caseload standard.
5. Increase the percentage of children who receive 100% of child support obligation.

This ties in with the Biennial Plan in which Dion was speaking about, a meeting was held, and we will now focus on the three Dion has mentioned. RM Brown gave an overview of items which could improve and enhance each objective.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** Krystal Pollard asked if there was any churches, community programs or support that would be willing to work with the older youth after school to help foster homes expand to take older youths. Any thoughts or ideas would be appreciated. Krystal mentioned there are providers that are contracted to provide foster home support which are not at this time. Krystal will be reaching out to RM Brown and Dion soon about the situation.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The December RSC meeting is cancelled, the next meeting will be held virtually on January 12, 2024. A new link for the 2024 meetings will be sent out in December.

**10. Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.