



Regional Service Council Region # 2

Meeting Date: Friday, April 11, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. CST

Meeting Location: Virtual

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 are present: Brian Brown, Chris Buyer, Crystal Giacolona, Shawna Smith and Angelina Brouillette.

3. March 14th, 2025, Minutes: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Crystal Giacolona gave a motion to accept the February 14th minutes as written which was seconded by Shawna Smith, minutes were accepted and passed.

4. Community Partners – Geminus: Nicholas Neal discussed events for prevention during the month of April. Several events have occurred and have been successful. There are more events scheduled. The Provider fair is scheduled for September 24th at Aberdeen Manor. More information will be forthcoming. Nicholas announced Doug Thames, program director in Region One will be coming to Region 2 and Brittany Caraballo will be going to Region 1 within the next few months. Brittany Caraballo discussed the Community Partners report:

Open Referrals – 112

New Enrollments – 81

Discharges – 69

DCS County Referrals – Total of 48

- Benton/Newton – 2
- Jasper – 5
- LaPorte – 26
- Porter – 11
- Pulaski – 3
- Starke – 1

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 33

- Benton/Newton – 2
- Jasper – 5
- LaPorte – 14
- Porter – 10
- Pulaski – 0
- Starke – 2

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 33

- Self – 13
- Community – 7

- Family Resource Center – 2
- Juvenile Probation - 2
- School – 9

Flexible Funds

- Request – 14
- Approved – 14
 - ✓ Rent – 5
 - ✓ Beds – 4
 - ✓ Water – 1
 - ✓ NIPSCO – 4
- There were no CFTM requests.
- One safe sleep completed in Porter County.
- Overview of the successes and attended/upcoming events.
 - ✓ Safety Carnival, Eastern Pulaski Elementary School on April 5th from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
 - ✓ Safety Carnival, Knox Community Middle School Gym on April 12th from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - ✓ Child Abuse Vigil, LaPorte City Hall on April 16th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
 - ✓ DCS Pinwheel Ceremony, Porter County DCS office on April 17th at 1:00 p.m.
 - ✓ Easter Event, Advancing Christ's Kingdom Ministries in LaPorte on April 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Amanda Satterfield discussed the LaPorte's Family Resource Center report:

- ✓ Total attending the center:
 - Total Families - 39
 - Adults - 65
 - Children - 88
 - New Families -8
 - Returning Families - 31
- ✓ Total tours given - 2
- ✓ Computer usage - 3
- ✓ Outside (the region) referrals - 2
- ✓ Co-Locating Services – 30
- ✓ Overview of community connections & collaborations, outreach & highlights, events & groups and Susy's Store items dispensed.
- ✓ Discussion on how to make the foster parent support group be more successful.

5. Services – Dion Smith: Dion stated letters went out last night to providers either confirming or denying their proposals. There was a total of 86 proposals and 18 of them were not approved. Those who were not approved also received a letter on how to reach out to get more information on why they were denied as well as the RFP 2.0 which is how to resubmit a new proposal. Those who were approved will be contacted by the state in the near future with more information. RM Brown stated the management team will be reviewing the scoring sheet next week

6. Finance – Joni Tusing: Joni went over the financial report for March (3rd quarter):

- Budget Target is 76% (\$16,715,885), Region 2 actual 102%.
 - ✓ Benton: 72%
 - ✓ Jasper: 121%
 - ✓ LaPorte: 90%
 - ✓ Newton: 99%
 - ✓ Porter: 127%
 - ✓ Pulaski: 82%
 - ✓ Starke: 104%
- Budget Target for Quarter 3 (Jan-March): 100% (\$4,095,392), Region 2 actual 135%
 - ✓ Benton: 85%
 - ✓ Jasper: 161%
 - ✓ LaPorte: 117%
 - ✓ Newton: 154%
 - ✓ Porter: 170%
 - ✓ Pulaski: 104%
 - ✓ Starke: 148%
- Expenditures were \$1,910,916 (YTD: \$16,972,107 - UP 44%, \$5,149,921)
- In-Home was \$2,778,643: UP 46% (\$876,352)
- Out-of-Home was \$14,193,465: UP 43% (\$4,273,569)
- County expenditures:
 - Benton - \$35,410 (YTD \$439,360: UP 13%-\$50,469)
 - Jasper - \$177,924 (YTD \$1,579,429: UP 80%-\$699,523)
 - LaPorte - \$842,157 (YTD \$7,568,880 UP 23%-\$1,417,889)
 - Newton - \$77,417 (YTD \$580,940 UP 41%-\$168,480)
 - Porter - \$600,160 (YTD \$5,193,811 UP 87%-\$2,414,426)
 - Pulaski - \$76,667 (YTD \$564,174 UP 4%-\$23,768)
 - Starke - \$101,181 (YTD \$1,045,513 UP 56%-\$375,365)
- RM Brown discussed the region's budget and how there are going to be changes with the new administration but assured everyone that the children will not do without. The children are DCS's top priority, and their wellbeing is the upmost importance. RM Brown explained we need to be financially responsible and two major areas are residential care and the impact of services. We need to make sure we provide services in a timely manner to help us with overextending cases and overspending increasing amounts of money.

7. Region 2 Outcomes: RM Brown discussed the outcomes of the region explaining how the region is doing in each category. County directors went over their counties' data and overall, the region is doing well.

8. Open Discussion, Questions: No issues or barriers were discussed.

9. Next RSC Meeting: The next meeting will be held May 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. central time virtually on teams.

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