



Regional Service Council Region # 2

Meeting Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. CST
Meeting Location: Porter County/Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. 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. Morgan Bradley introduced herself as a foster parent and a new member of the council. RM Brown thanked her for joining. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Chris Buyer, Brian Broek, Shawna Smith, Crystal Bradley, Sarah Fink, Morgan Bradley, Stacy Vaughan, and Angelina Brouillette.

3. March 7th, 2024, Minutes: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Brian Broek gave a motion to accept the March 7th minutes as written which was seconded by Shawna Smith and passed, minutes accepted.

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

Open Referrals – 126

New Enrollments – 78

Discharges – 97

DCS County Referrals – Total of 42

- Benton/Newton – 0
- Jasper – 6
- LaPorte – 18
- Porter – 14
- Pulaski – 2
- Starke – 2

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 36

- Benton/Newton – 3
- Jasper – 3
- LaPorte – 16
- Porter – 10
- Pulaski – 1
- Starke – 3

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 36

- Self – 15
- Community Agencies – 7
- School – 4
- Medical System - 1

- Family Resource Center – 4
- My Healthy Baby – 2

Flexible Funds

- Request – 19
- Approved – 19
 - ✓ Rent – 7
 - ✓ Beds – 6
 - ✓ NIPSCO - 6
- There were 1 CFTM request:
 - Porter – with 1 enrolled
- One safe sleep request completed in Porter.
- Kristin gave an overview of the successes and attended events.
- Upcoming events: Pulaski Safety Carnival is scheduled for April 22⁰th at Eastern Pulaski School, LaPorte Candlelight Vigil is scheduled for April 24th at LaPorte City Hall, and Starke Safety Carnival is scheduled for April 27th at Knox Community High School.
- Kristin gave a detailed report from LaPorte’s Family Resource Cener as reported from Amanda Satterfield:
 - ✓ Total attending the center:
 - Total Families - 55
 - Adults - 95
 - Children - 94
 - New Families -22
 - Returning Families - 33
 - ✓ Total tours given - 18
 - ✓ Computer usage - 2
 - ✓ Outside (the region) referrals - 4
 - ✓ Co-Locating Services – 17
 - ✓ Discussed community connections & collaborations, and outreach & highlights.

5.Services – Dion Smith: Dion stated RFPs for all services will be open during summer/fall. There will be an RFP for Community Partners as well. There is an open RFP currently for intensive foster care services that will close on April 18th. Providers can go to the proposal page for information on the RFP. Still conducting spot checks on monthly reports for accuracy. If you haven’t received the link to check your agency, please contact Dion.

6. Finance – Joni Tusing: Joni went over the financial report for March:

- Budget Target is 75%, Region 2 actual 76.32%.
 - ✓ Benton: 71.18%
 - ✓ Jasper: 83.67%
 - ✓ LaPorte: 77.42%
 - ✓ Newton: 69.30%
 - ✓ Porter: 76.25%
 - ✓ Pulaski: 73.51%
 - ✓ Starke: 68.97%

- Expenditures were \$1,339,945 (YTD: \$11,822,185 - up 41.3%, \$3,455,320)
- In-Home YTD was \$1,902,291: up 16.46% (\$268,882)
- Out-of-Home was \$9,919,896: up 47.32% (\$3,186,440)
- County expenses for:
 - Benton - \$34,757 (YTD \$388,891: up 12.92%-\$44,490)
 - Jasper - \$138,396 (YTD \$879,906: up 25.91%-\$181,090)
 - LaPorte - \$680,340 (YTD \$6,150,991 up 51.16%-\$2,081,831)
 - Newton - \$40,902 (YTD \$412,460 up 49.29%-\$136,185)
 - Porter - \$292,047 (YTD \$2,779,385 up 54.09%-\$975,648)
 - Pulaski - \$49,098 (YTD \$540,406 up 50.86%-\$182,188)
 - Starke - \$104,405 (YTD \$670,148 down 17.90%-\$146,111)

RM Brown discussed the increased cost of services and staying within the budget.

7. Biannual updates: Autism group and Foster Parent Engagement: LOD Lou Richey told of the autism training which was conducted by Lighthouse Services. The training was very informative, teaching FCM how to work with autistic children. A list of autism resources in the region is being compiled. Another training will be held on April 23rd. RM Brown discussed how the region's LOD's are going out to foster homes and engaging with the foster parents to find out concerns or complaints. Each FCMS and FCM will have foster homes assigned to them to visit each month. We are trying to build a better engagement/relationship with the foster parents. This program begins this month and will continue throughout the year. Morgan Bradley stated she believes the program is a good idea to help the newer foster parents become more informed.

8. Region 2 Outcomes: RM Brown discussed the regional data for the month. Region 2 is doing well overall. LOD's went over their counties explaining any issues they are experiencing. The counties are having issues with having so many new FCM's and they are still learning their job duties.

8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening: None

9. Next RSC Meeting: The next meeting will be held in the Porter County office or virtually on May 10, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. central time.

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