



Regional Service Council Region # 2

Meeting Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 – 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. Judge John Potter and Jasper Probation Officer Stacey Vaughan introduced themselves to the council. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Brian Broek, Chris Buyer, Shawna Smith, Sarah Fink, and Angelina Brouillette.

3. November 17th, 2023, Minutes: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Brian Broek gave a motion to accept the November 17th minutes as written which was seconded by Angelina Brouillette, motion passed, minutes accepted.

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

Open Referrals – 124

New Enrollments – 81

Discharges – 64

DCS County Referrals – Total of 42

- Benton/Newton – 4
- Jasper – 2
- LaPorte – 16
- Porter – 14
- Pulaski – 4
- Starke – 2

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 39

- Benton/Newton – 0
- Jasper – 6
- LaPorte – 20
- Porter – 7
- Pulaski – 2
- Starke – 4

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 39

- Self – 19
- Community Agencies – 5
- School – 11
- Medical System - 1
- Family Resource Center - 3

Flexible Funds

- Request – 13
- Approved – 13
 - ✓ Rent – 3
 - ✓ Beds – 3
 - ✓ Water – 4
 - ✓ NIPSCO - 3
- There were 1 CFTM request:
 - LaPorte – with 1 enrolled
- One safe sleep request completed in Jasper.
- Kristin gave an overview of the successes and attended events.
- RM Brown discussed how well the region is doing with the help of the community.

5. Services – Dion Smith: Dion stated they are working on updating service standards at this time. They are focusing on condensing, changing some components, and making it simpler. Hoping to open RFPs in the fall. Dion gave a friendly reminder they are conducting weekly checks on family preservation reports. Specifically looking at if treatment plans are being followed, and reports reflect it. Every family preservation case should have evidence-based models. Please make sure reports are being sent in a timely manner and completed. Dion informed providers they can contact him for a link that will report how their agency is performing.

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

- Budget Target is 50%, Region 2 actual 48.98%
 - ✓ Benton: 47.94%
 - ✓ Jasper: 47.87%
 - ✓ LaPorte: 49.45%
 - ✓ Newton: 44.20%
 - ✓ Porter: 51.50%
 - ✓ Pulaski: 50.16%
 - ✓ Starke: 39.44%
- Expenditures were \$1,354,772 (YTD: \$7,839,606 - up 38.59%, \$2,365,610)
- In-Home YTD was \$1,293,234: up 18.41% (\$201,063)
- Out-of-Home was \$6,546,372: up 49.40% (\$2,164,547)
- County expenses for:
 - Benton - \$51,536 (YTD \$269,998: up 9%-\$29,717)
 - Jasper - \$111,350 (YTD \$528,430: up 1.38%-\$31,891)
 - LaPorte - \$680,403 (YTD \$4,064,250 up 50.37%-\$1,451,087)
 - Newton - \$55,218 (YTD \$275,979 up 73.61%-\$124,446)
 - Porter - \$319,868 (YTD \$1,914,089 up 61.36%-\$750,787)
 - Pulaski - \$65,474 (YTD \$380,277 up 60.52%-\$150,574)
 - Starke - \$70,923 (YTD \$406,583 down 33.87%-\$172,891)

RM Brown discussed the increase in the budget of \$5 million we received this fiscal year but is going to the high cost of residential and increase of services from providers.

7. Strategic Objectives: RM Brown discussed Region 2's Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan and work groups that was created to focus with the following objectives and goals:

1. Increase parental engagement, understanding and knowledge of the services available and roles of the providers.
2. Improved tracking and assessing, that services are meeting the individual needs of each family member on every DCS case.
3. Improving the capacity of services with the ability to meet the cultural, linguistic, and developmental needs of families.
4. Increase in foster homes through retention and recruiting.

Each work group leader went over the action steps planned for the next two years. If you are interested in joining a work group, please inform RM Brown.

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 March 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. central time.

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