



Regional Service Council Minutes Indiana Department of Child Services Region # 14

Meeting Date: December 15, 2009

Meeting Location: DCS in Bartholomew Co. (United Way Boardroom)

Council Members Present: Heather Angebrandt, Shana Bolden, Mala Corley, Debra Traylor Davis, Laura Gentry, Tammi Hickman, Heather Mollo, Penny Pitcock and Jack Tandy

Council Members Absent: Mark Loyd and Karen Munson

Others in Attendance: Dennis Carmichael, DCS Jackson Co. Director; Dan Banks, Region 14 Coordinator; Christine Bratton, Youth Connections; Sarah Hall, Family Services & Prevention Program; Joshua Herndon, Gibault Children Services- Shelbyville; Nicole Holland, Adult & Child; John Nickoll, White's Family Services; Karla Davis, Julie Stewart, Community Partners; Jeff Catlett, Resource, Option & Resolute; Becky Kime, DCS Probation Consultant; Ann Galloway & Anita Sanders, Password Community Mentoring; Abby Sharp, Cummins Behavioral Health; Gabriella Brown, Wellstone Reg. Hospital; Michael Frye, Columbus Behavioral Center; Chris McNeely, Bloomington Meadows Hospital; Chris Haibieb, Three Springs; Norm Smith, Wernle Youth & Family Treatment.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:36a.m.

- 1. Welcome:** Laura welcomed members and audience.
- 2. Approval of October 20, 2009 Minutes:** Debra Davis made a motion to approve minutes for the October meeting & Budget, Heather Angebrandt seconded and members present approved.
- 3. Biennial Regional Services Strategic Plan:** Laura mentioned that there was a work meeting regarding the plan. Dan gave an update as to the needs assessments. He handed members a summary of the needs & gaps in the following services for Region 14. (see below) Dan mentioned that they would have another work meeting and talk about what services that Region 14 does not have. Karla asked if college interns could be utilized for

interpreter services. Laura mentioned that certification is needed for interpreters although an awesome suggestion. Karla mentioned that if County directors contacted Department Heads to see how many hours interns needed to complete their certifications. Debra Davis mentioned that VIM (Volunteers In Medicine) in Monroe County help with the healthcare issues. Laura mentioned this is a Medicaid issue with doctors. They only have so many slots per county that kids have been to doctors in other counties. Transportation has also been an issue. Judge Tandy mentioned that Shelbyville High School has opened a clinic. He also mentioned that courts have interpreters paid through the state that maybe can use not only for court cases, but also DCS cases. Karla asked if interpreter services were needed for more than assessment cases. Laura replied that they would be needed for more than assessments. DCS has used Su Casa before, but due to DCS timelines they don't allow for a week for 5 hour to 24 hour assessments. Dennis mentioned that Jackson County is allowed in writing from Judge to use the county interpreter. Judge Tandy also made mention of the certification that he was unaware of through the court system. Dennis replied that the state requires interpreters to be certified in order to get a stipend. Judge Tandy also made mention that there is an Interpretation Hotline that is available for many languages. Laura mentioned that counties are looking at specific roles of the CPP (Child Protection Plan), which will be included with the Biennial Regional Strategic Plan. She mentioned that Region 14 should be done by January 4, 2010 as to what is involved with this plan. She mentioned that the outline is 150 pages. Laura mentioned that the Call Center (Hotline) will rollout taking its first calls on January 1, 2010 with the entire state to be rollout by July 1, 2010. She mentioned that Region 14 may rollout by either spring or summer of 2010. Laura mentioned to members that if they feel something is missing in the needs assessment to bring to the counsel. Also, if they find a service gap (use form and guide that were handed out to them) bring to counsel.

4. **DCS Administration letters to Providers, LCPA's, Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents:** Laura explained to members that letters were sent out to the parties above regarding the reduction in Monthly Foster Care Payments, Reduction in Your Monthly Adoption Assistance Payments (see press release below).

5. **Community Partners for Child Safety Report:** Karla gave members an update as to the Child Welfare Funds not taking a cut at this time. She mentioned that CB (Children's Bureau) has been busy with assisting Jenny Kinnaman in implementing Families for Families. There were five families (3 from CPCS) that met at FFY-BBBS with CPCS doing childcare. Families made Christmas gifts from household items and were very active. Karla is

looking for a parent to lead and help run groups with a team strategy. She mentioned that she will start dialogue with Jackson and Johnson with the next two meetings. She is working on a project with Shelby County on a centralized school supply drive. Laura mentioned that Luke Messer may also be able to help with this drive. This drive is by invitation only for those on free/reduced lunches/books. They have to go through booths in order to “shop” for supplies. She wants to centralize one location for all schools. She hopes to get it up and running soon. Karla updated members regarding the provider fair that was held at the NCC, with 35 booths. She reported feedback to members in regards to break out sessions and attendance. She mentioned that she would like the next fair to be done in the summer (so teachers can attend) and also call it a Resource Fair in order to have the smaller providers attend and not be scared off. And possibly hold at North, East or Central middle school. Karla gave members a summary of the October and November referrals for CPCS. She mentioned that the intern working with them did a fundraiser with Applebee’s and made \$100, and gave her experience. Karla gave members a spreadsheet showing the Prevention Services for Region 14 July 1, 2009 through May 30, 2010. This spreadsheet showed subcontractors names, service provided, counties served, grant terms, grant amount, amount billed (thru November), and balance remaining. Karla mentioned that maybe some of the money could be moved in order to keep from losing it. Laura replied that it could be moved from one service to another, if needed. Laura also asked Karla what month she started receiving bills. Karla replied she started receiving July bills in August and some in October. Next month Karla will do a month to month breakdown spreadsheet.

- 6. Regional Budget:** Steve gave members an update as to Region 14’s budget. He gave members a spreadsheet that showed Region 14 and each counties individual budget. Steve noted that Jennings is high in the spending area and he will meet with Laura & Melissa to see if funds can be shifted between counties. He mentioned overall the region allocation is not over spent. Steve also mentioned that amounts may flex through the 35 day payment schedule in January & February, but will pick back up in March. He mentioned that in January we will be half way through 2010 funds, and as a region we should be looking closely at the costs and services. Judge Mollo asked about the feedback regarding the reimbursements. Steve mentioned that our region is over 51% on paper. Laura mentioned that she had pulled numbers for Bartholomew and they looked ok. She also mentioned that Jennings just had an audit and they were also doing ok. She also mentioned that reductions will continue and noted that State of Indiana is paying Foster Parents more than other states even with the 10% reduction.

7. Current Counsel Membership: Laura mentioned to members that Natasha Leahigh, who went to DOC and Candice McDaniel, who was promoted DCS Hotline Center have left vacancies with the RSC. She also mentioned that there is also a need for an additional foster parent, a child who aged out of system and a parent who has received DCS services. She also asked current members to let her know if they had any questions. Traci Eggleston, Director from Decatur and Ripley, is also helping out in Shelby.

8. Public Comment and Adjourn: Judge Mollo mentioned that State Welfare will be meeting December 16, 2009 on dual cases.

Next Meeting Dates, Location and Time:

January 19, 2010 8:30-10:00 United Way Boardroom

February 16, 2010 8:30-10:00 United Way Boardroom

March 16, 2010 8:30-10:00 United Way Boardroom

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:00 a.m.

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Monday, December 14, 2009

Foster Care

- There is a need for more support groups and retention programs.
- Recruitment remains a challenge. Bartholomew county has a unique program.

Drug Abuse Services

- Inpatient services are cost prohibitive.
- Outpatient services are not uniformly available in all counties.

Parent Education

- Parent education is often a component of other home based services.
- Johnson county offered parent education classes but attendance was low.

Interpretive Services

- Jackson County has one interpreter and no backup.
- In Bartholomew county there are long waits.

Safe Housing

- Shelters – Most counties have little capacity except Bartholomew county.
- Other counties often send clients to Bartholomew county.
- Transitional living apartments are unavailable throughout the region.

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Services

- Services for perpetrators are not available in any of the five counties.
- There is a nationally certified program, but it is not currently offered by any of our providers.
- Our DV victim provider has no interest in working with perpetrators.

Sex offender *Perpetrator* Services

- There are some services available for children.
- Services are only needed by DCS in reunification situations.
- Although there are some services offered to incarcerated perpetrators, the services cease upon release.
- Shelby county does have a program that is run through community corrections.

Engaging Fathers

- This is ongoing problem that has been previously discussed.
- There is funding available, but it has not yet been accessed.

Special Populations – Ethnic, Gay and Lesbian, different religions.

- The goal is not to have special programs for these clients, but to allow latitude in existing programs to recognize and adapt to individual cultures and situations.
- This issue is being addressed in the current QSR.

Suspension / Expulsion

- Bartholomew county has the STOP program, which is also preventative.
- Day Treatment programs are not readily available. Valle Vista has a program in Johnson county.

Health Care

- There is a lack of adequate medical and dental care for the uninsured.

For immediate release: Dec 04, 2009

Posted by: [DCS]

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Indiana Department of Child Services Announced Foster Care and Adoption Rate Reductions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indiana Department of Child Services Announced Foster Care and Adoption Rate Reductions

Indianapolis, IN - The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) announced the 2010 foster care per diem rates and corresponding maximum monthly payments for new adoption assistance agreements today. After difficult deliberations, DCS determined that a ten percent (10%) reduction in all current foster care rates and adoption payments is necessary beginning January 1, 2010.

In arriving at these decisions, DCS considered many factors in addition to the need to reduce overall program expenses. Those factors included an analysis of current costs and a comparison of Indiana's foster care rates to those of other states. After the 10% rate reduction, Indiana's regular foster care per diem still remains the highest in the Midwest and among the highest in the United

States according to the Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for Children (Foster Care MARC) published in 2007.

The maximum monthly adoption payments are required by law to be based on a percentage of the applicable foster care per diem rate. Therefore, all monthly adoption payments will be reduced by ten percent (10%) of the amount DCS is currently paying under existing adoption assistance agreements and subsidy orders.

"These were incredibly difficult deliberations and everyone involved recognizes the magnitude of the decisions made. At the heart of the discussion was the focus on our primary responsibility - protecting Indiana's abused and neglected children," said DCS Director James Payne. "Like other state agencies and business entities, we have spent countless hours trying to find ways to reduce expenses and be good stewards of tax dollars while providing safe, quality care for children. Cost containment efforts are being implemented in virtually all service areas. This rate reduction, while unfortunate, still keeps Indiana foster care rates higher than most states. DCS places a high value on foster parents and we believe they are an essential part of the team of professionals providing the highest quality service for children in our care. These are difficult times for everyone and we hope that state revenues will begin to rise soon."

Earlier this week, DCS announced reductions to other programs and services contracted through the agency. The Healthy Families Program, Youth Services Bureau, Project Safe Place, Residential Services, and Child Welfare Services will see reductions in their rates beginning January 1, 2010. Internally, DCS has cut staff positions totaling more than \$2.8 million during the past year. The Agency also reduced overtime allowances, travel allowances and reimbursements, and communication costs and is evaluating other cost reduction measures.

DCS will evaluate all reductions as economic conditions warrant. DCS remains committed to its mission to protect Indiana's abused and neglected children and to partner with families and communities to provide safe, nurturing and stable homes for children in our care.

Foster and adoptive parents can contact DCS at 317-234-5437 or Communication@dcs.in.gov for more information about the per diem rate reductions. For media inquiries, please contact Ann Houseworth at 317-234-3924 or Amy Miller at 317-234-5753.

As you may have heard, Governor Daniels announced in October that the SFY 2010 (the budget year that began on July 1, 2009) revenue collections were down significantly from the forecasted figures. As a result, he tasked all state agencies to create a cost containment plan amounting to 10% of the agency's budget. The 10% reserve is made up of two components: the original 5% reserve requirement that was requested in June when the state budget passed and a second 5% reserve that was requested in November. Director Payne therefore tasked the Executive Team with developing a plan to satisfy these reserve requirements. These were incredibly difficult deliberations and everyone involved recognizes the magnitude of the decisions being made. At the heart of the discussion was the focus on our primary responsibility – protecting Indiana's abused and neglected children.

Some of the necessary cost containment actions affect the rates and contracts of our partners who in turn serve and support our children and families. Communications will soon be sent to each provider about changes made to their contracts/rates. To keep you in the loop, here is a brief overview of today's cost containment announcements:

Child Welfare Services

Providers of Child Welfare Services, who provide family support and intervention services to children and families involved with DCS and Probation, will see a 10% reduction in their rates effective January 1, 2010. This will impact approximately 400 contracts.

Healthy Families Program

Healthy Families will experience an average 14.25 % reduction, as the state funding for the program will be eliminated. This reduction is in addition to reductions previously announced due to decreased availability of TANF funding. Approximately 50 contracts will be impacted.

Youth Service Bureaus

Youth Service Bureau contracts are being reduced 5% for July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 and a 10% reduction for July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

Project Safe Place

Project Safe Place is experiencing a 5% reduction for July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 and a 10% reduction for July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

Residential Services

Contracts for residential service providers will be reduced for a second time, this time by 4% across-the-board.