

**Regional Services Council Minutes
Region 7**

Date: March 12, 2010
Location: Region 7 Training Facility

Greetings/Introductions

Council Members Present:

Steve Cox, Betty Lyons, Jackie Fisher, Joseph Combs, Jeanell Sheffield, Kelly Kirby, Judge Jay Toney by Proxy Beth Krieg, Joy Woolf, Pat Ergle, Judge Randall Johnson by proxy Cindy Mccoy

Absent Council Members:

Judge Richard Dailey, Linda Marsh, Deb Tharp-McGriff, James Luttrull, Tina Coston, Sasha Dykes-Wilson

Others in Attendance:

Nikki Furry, Connie Rose, Rachael Stark, Hannah Hughes, April Knasinski, Yvette Hampton, Jill Hendricks, Jon Bennett, Reda Theurer-Miller, Yvonne Duff, Melinda Kirchner, Veda Morris-May, Scott Noel, Trish Crowe, Polly Craig, Dennis Malloy, Jared Quarles, Latisha Love, Sam Karlapudi, Josh Raines, Sarah Lee, Michael Thomas, Joanne Murillo, Michelle Burrows, Missy Snyder

Minutes of February 12, 2010 meeting reviewed:

Betty Lyons moves to accept February 12, 2010 minutes.
Kelly Kirby seconds the motion. All members voted in favor. Minutes are approved.

Community Partners – Children’s Bureau:

- ◆ Total Families referred 53
- ◆ Active families 81
- ◆ Engaging families 20
- ◆ Funds used for February: \$2615.16
- ◆ Total funds used for 2010: \$3681.95

Community Partners – Media awarded \$5,000

Spent on grants, car seats, a new crib, household supplies for families

Outreach - Cyber smart Child, Del Co CASA Ofc. Apt. complexes and housing authority, schools truancy officer Grant Co.

Polly Craig reported on the Respite for Prevention Program – Seven Respite Program 7 referrals to YTD, from most of the different counties. 4 placements into that program with 29 bed days. Spent approximately \$4,000.00 out of \$20,000.00 allocated. Kids in respite during the school day are being transported to and from school system. 3 of 4 kids have been out of county. Average length of stay is 3-4 days. Most of kids placed have communication problems within the family. Children’s Bureau is working with YOC to keep parents from backing out at the last minute.

Ball State was supposed to give a status report, but there was no one there to present it. They should be here in April.

Reallocation of Funds:

Instead of having \$40,000 in funds left to reallocate, there is \$14,900.00. Figures were checked by Children's Bureau. Last counsel meeting had a request to allocate \$25,000.00 to food pantries as a prevention activity. This did not pass through Central Office due to other funds are available to support food needs. Healthy Families in five counties has been a good program that has taken substantial fiscal cuts. Propose putting any money left toward Healthy Families prevention program. Target group is birth to age 5 and has no financial guidelines. Allocate any additional funds based on percentage of live births that any individual county has based on the total for the region. 2,855 live births in region. 148 (6%) in Blackford; 877 (30%) Grant; 295 (11%) Randolph; 1,229 (42%) Delaware; 306 (11%) Jay. We already have partial approval for this due to the total cut of state funding for Healthy Families. This would not be duplicating state money.

Motion: Give Steve the authority to distribute any funds that become available as leftover from the balance of this fiscal year to Healthy Families.

Moved by Cindy McCoy
2nd by Joseph Combs

Clarification, the 3 different providers which provide Healthy Families would be: Tri-County run by Youth Service Bureau of Jay Co. serves Jay, Blackford and Randolph. The Villages serves Delaware County and Family Services Society serves Grant. Money would be allocated to the county but distributed to the providers. Children's Bureau will be the MOU.

Restated Motion: Allow Steve to allocate any remaining prevention dollars based on percentage of births in the counties, both what's available now and what will be available at the end of the year. No further discussion. Motion passed.

Strategic Plan Update:

Two main action steps identified:

- ◆ Services to Fathers - Between now and end of June, convene a committee to determine what fatherhood needs to look like and what services are already out there. Steve asked for volunteers for this committee. Project will be ongoing for next two years.

- ◆ Adult and child mentoring project – Joseph Combs will facilitate. There are many mentoring programs in the community. He wants to identify them bring them together and have a centralized accessing program. A website is being discussed as central location for information. Volunteers are welcome.

Service Gaps:

Pat Ergle presented case of 2-1/2 year old former ward that was drug exposed and adopted by FP. FP is asking for post adoptive services. No one in our area who deals with her problems. Bethany Christian Services in Indy has contract with state, but does not accept Medicaid. Adoptive mother can't find services in this area. Mother has attended training and took initiative for services. BCS has agreed to accept her.

Motion: Jackie Fisher moved that the counsel accept this recommendation
Second by Betty Lyons. Motion passed.

Access Bethany contract out of Region 10

Sheffield. 16 years old to us due to Domestic Violence. Mom recently out of prison, but has no interest in relationship. Dad died unexpectedly. Is in 2nd Foster Home. Have behavior issues. We are trying to find service that can provide therapy for him and family. Tim King, thru SAFY provides Emotional Regulatory Healing Therapy and has been successful in other cases. Therapist works intensely with family and child. Offered through Madison County. We contract with SAFY here, but not for that standard. Sheffield is asking approval for payment for that standard so he can receive therapy.

Motion: Betty Lyons moved that counsel accept this recommendation
Seconded by Kelly Kirby. Motion passed.

Fisher Delaware Co Ward request is to access home based casework services in Madison County from the Children's Bureau. 1 year old in care most of life. Removed due to drug exposure. Reunification efforts focused on mom, but mom hasn't complied. Permanency plan was to reunify with father who lives in Madison County. Service need is assistance with parenting instructions, supervised visiting, personal hygiene basic home skills and home proofing the home. Child is currently in Foster Placement. Need access to Children Bureau's home base casework standard out of Region 11.

Motion: Joseph Combs moved that counsel accept this recommendation.
Seconded by Jeanell Sheffield. Motion passed.

Beth. 17 ½ year old boy in SAFY care in Wayne through SAFY. Came out of DOC. Plan is to give him as much IL care as possible for the next six months while he is in foster care. Probation ward. Would like to request IL services through SAFY in Wayne County. Case not closed when he went to DOC because mom is disabled and he had no where to go.

Motion: Betty Lyons moved that counsel accept this recommendation
Seconded by Cindy McCoy. Motion passed.

Fiscal Issues/Reports:

Region 7 in better shape than most. Regionally, spending is at 44.7%. Other regions are at 80 – 85% spent. CHINS 48.15% Probation 40.85% some money has been moved between counties. Spent so far: \$9,106,000 still left allocated is \$11,250,000. One provider is having software issues and is unable to submit claims.

Fiscal:

Will be doing fiscal operations in Central Office instead of each county. Plan was to centralize sometime between first of April and the end of May. Region 7 will be first, rolling out April 19. Central office is in the process of gathering applications, interviewing and hiring staff. Advice is to get in all the bills possible by April 1. Providers may not be paid as timely as usual. Budget wise, there isn't a problem. More communication will be coming to providers on where to send claims. No other questions on fiscal.

Provider Fair

Provider fair is April 30. Reminder next week to providers that they will get 1 table and 2 chairs per organization and it is first come, first serve. Contact Consuela Balfour for reservations (Consuela.Balfour@dcs.in.gov). Very much like last year. Hours will be 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Will probably have food available like last year. Lots of positive comments regarding last years fair.

Central Intake Unit

DCS is going to a centralized intake unit aka hotline. Marion and Lake Counties have been doing this for years. The 800-800-5556 was programmed such that wherever you are calling from it routed you to that local office. If calling on a cell phone, it will be from the cell tower that you are bouncing off of. Intake unit, all calls will go to Indianapolis. Regions 10, 9 and 4- already rolled out, Region 11 rolled out last Monday, next is Region 5 on 4/22, Region 6 on 4/5 and Region 7 on 4/12. Hotline will be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Local offices will no longer take any reports of abuse and neglect. Walk-ins will be able to use a phone to call the hotline. If LEA needs to make a report, they will have an access code so that they will go to the top of the list. If LEA faxes a report, we will fax it right on to Indianapolis. Reason for doing this is for consistency on what is screened in and screened out. On-call lists are computerized in ICWIS that shows whose on call, phones, supervisors, etc. Case managers being added as regions roll out. Each county director will be doing presentations in their counties as an outreach.

Reallocation of Prevention Money

Project with “40 Developmental Assets”. Stephanie Yoder and Juanita brought materials for council members to view. They are in the initial planning phase. One of the things that make the project a success is getting community partners on board. Will be asking FCM’s, probation officers, community partners and providers to go to training and become experts in the 40 Developmental Assets and then go perpetuate that through Region 7. Success of program in region 12 was due to the wide variety of partners involved. This is about engaging the community.

- ◆ National movement that there are 40 things that a young person needs to succeed and thrive
- ◆ 2.2 million students surveyed
- ◆ Program is not one size fits all
- ◆ Young people are resources
- ◆ Give them an opportunity to grow
- ◆ Acceptance of assets
- ◆ Must accept verbiage
- ◆ Starts with individual → organization → community
- ◆ Saturate the community with the language

Jon Bennett of Children’s Bureau is working on a memorandum with Indiana Youth Institute. Once that’s in place we will really go at this.

Any other questions or anything else that needs to come before the council.

Reminder that next meeting is April 9. Hopefully there will be more information about 40 Developmental Assets program.