



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 3

Meeting Date: April 18, 2016
Meeting Location: St. Joseph County Local DCS Office
300 N Michigan Street, Ste 418
South Bend, IN

Council Members Present: Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager DCS; Michael Carroll, Director Marshall County DCS; Erin Shidler, Director Kosciusko DCS; Amanda Herendeen, Kosciusko DCS; Teresa Zornig, Director St. Joseph County DCS; Bill Horton, Division Manager St. Joseph County DCS; Philice Hutchen, Marshall County DCS, Jessica Lambert, Elkhart County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Judge David Cates, Kosciusko County Superior Court; Judge Curtis Palmer; Joe Wine, Foster Parent; Magistrate Deborah Domine; Don Phillips, Bashor; James Pheilbush; Janet Bohner, Elkhart Probation.

Others In Attendance: Joni Tusing, DCS; Paige Hamilton, SCAN; Janet Rathberger, DCS; Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator; Amy Prosser, Lifeline; Shotunus Peterson, YSB; Sean McCrindle, Bashor; Leah Plank, The Villages; Cheri Lintz, The Villages; Betsy Kuhn, The Villages; Debbie Branfield, Crossroad; Terry Poindexter, White's; Alisia Rodgers, Oaklawn; Emily Robinson, Oaklawn; Sharese Swafford, Oaklawn; Tosha Gearhart, Safy.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Jamie Pippin.

1. Welcome/Introductions of Members and Guests.
2. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 1-25-2016 reviewed. Erin Shidler motioned approval of the minutes. Philice Hutchen seconded. Vote taken. All in favor. 0 Opposed. Motion carried.
3. Community Partners Update. Paige Hamilton, Program Administrator, Community Partner's budget for February 2016 was \$124,305. This was the highest February we have ever had. The mild winter put us up a little and we are keeping a close eye on it. 1810 families served CTD, 201 total referrals, 67 families enrolled in March, discharges on target, and 2238 individuals served. We are meeting all program outcomes. St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties are the largest referral source and we have seen an increase in community agency referrals. Local Prevention dollars YTD at 68%. We are meeting with people that are behind in their billing.

Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, when we did the biennial plan earlier this year we were looking at drug prevention. We had decided that we would be putting on some kind of conference bringing in service providers and talking about the different ways we can work together. We are partnering with Paige and Rachel to host a provider symposium with a possible provider fair on the first day. Looking at sometime in October to include DCS staff, service providers, faith-based workers, and those that work with individuals on a grassroots level because that is where we will see the difference. Paige and I will be meeting later to discuss this further. Limited to Region 3 and we will be sending out more information as this takes shape.

4. Service Update. Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator, Open RFP, Healthy Families Indiana, closes April 22nd, questions posted online.

5. Regional Budget Update. Joni Tusing, Regional Financial Manager, expenses in March for CHINS In Home & Out of Home Care was 1.8 million. March was the end of third quarter. Total spent YTD 15.9 million. Goal at this point is not to exceed 75% of budgeted amount and we are at 52.38%. Comparison Report reviewed and we remain constant. Probation Comparison Report; FY 2015 11.5 million, FY 2016 12.8 million, residential increase seen. Probation does not factor in the County budget any longer. Probation monitored by the State level.

6. County Updates.

Elkhart – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, Tony Sommer's is retiring end of April/May. We will be going through the process to hire a new Local Office Director. Jamie will be helping out until a new Director is hired. Pinwheel garden is set-up at CAPS in Elkhart. Elkhart is at full staff. Elkhart has not had any turnover this year. Information out soon on Tony's retirement party.

Kosciusko – Erin Shidler, Director, Pinwheel planting on the courthouse lawn, had a really nice turnout. At full staff, last FCM graduating cohort. Looking forward to office expansion.

Marshall – Michael Carroll, Director, we are at full staff. New Attorney started that transferred in from the Lake County local office. Pinwheel event on April 28th at Centennial Park in Plymouth. CHINs cases are up, and IA's have increased.

St. Joseph – Teresa Zornig, Director, space at a premium, several new staff started today. Pinwheel for Prevention PCA and South Bend Cubs safe at Home night. Planning for Hero Night at Roofsit.

Regional – Jamie Pippin, Regional Manager, big push at the State level on employee retention. Region 3 is the 2nd best in the State. Region 2 is the best. This line of work is hard to do and my local office directors and supervisors do a really good job keeping folks here. When looking at the biennial plan one of the things we talked about was that we have a lot of kids in care for a long time, 3 plus years. I put out to my local office directors that we will be focusing on the kids that have been in care the longest and to start staffing these with supervisors. These kids deserve permanency. What that means to providers is that we will be putting more emphasis on these kids. You may be getting more requests and being asked what recommendations can be made. We are also focusing on drug epidemic. In this region we see a lot of meth and heroine. A program called Start may be coming up to our area, this program is working in the southern region now. Start is a mentoring type of program that pairs recovering addicts through a mental health provider. It is an idea, something we are looking at. Provider fair/conference will try to play on ideas and resources we have. We have our QSR coming up. Jamie Brown is our Regional Liaison. You may be contacted to participate. Also, we had a Federal Child and Family Service review.

7. Other Business. None

Erin Shidler motioned to adjourn. Philice Hutchen seconded. Meeting adjourned 10:32a.m.

Next RSC meeting is Monday July 18th 10:00a.m., at the Joy Rose Center, CAPS, 1000 W Hively Ave, Elkhart, IN.