

Regional Services Council
Region 4 Meeting

Date: January 11, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Chair: Director, Kathryn Stephenson, proxy for Erin Shidler

Meeting Secretary: Helen Garmon

Call to order

Start time: 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Approval of minutes from last meeting

As read X As corrected

Recommended Correction:

Program/Committee Reports

Unfinished Business

None

New business

Welcome

Community Partners Update - Jennifer Ruthkowski Program Director with Community Partners and SCAN

Jennifer Ruthkowski-Smith shared her screen to review the following reports:

- Region 4 Network for Safe Families Report
- Region 4 Stats Report 11/1/20 to 11/30/20 Service Summary
- Region 4 Stats Report August 2020 Referral Summary
- Region 4 Local Prevention Dollars 7/1/20 to 6/30/21 Report

We brought on a new staff to assist on the Local Prevention Dollar side and that's MaKayla Gushing. MaKayla will start to reach out and meet the providers to help support them in providing those services.

Please pass on to FCMs – if you are entering those Kid Trak referrals please be sure to reiterate a phone number or address in the narrative section because sometimes that contact information that auto populates is not always easy for us to find them

Service Update - Dion Smith, Regional Service Coordinator

- **Family Preservation**

- **Reminder** – If you have a Family Preservation Case that's working with a non-CMHC or a non-Medicaid Provider; they need to be referred for Clinical Assessment. They can be referred for a Clinical Assessment through CMHC as a Medicaid Client and us as DCS would only need to make a referral to that CMHC with Reports and Courts only referral because they can bill everything else through Medicaid
- **Providers** – As you all know we've been having issues with Redwood. We do have Providers who have been trained in Forensic Fluids and Family Preservation Providers can do random drug screens with Forensic Fluids. These are done by courtesy, they can't bill for those
- **Father Engagement** - We have a lot of cases in Family Preservation that have split families. The Family Preservation Referral will always go to the parent who has the children. If the Court has ordered for everyone to have services, a good service for dad to have outside of the home would be Father Engagement because it provides a wealth of services
- **Changes** - We have changes to our Concrete Services and Concrete Assistance in the Service Standards. Those of you who are Family Preservation Providers please make note of those changes to the Service Standards, we have updated the language in there
- **Round Table** - We are also doing a Round Table for Family Preservation Providers. As of now that is going to be on January 20th from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 pm. Erin Murphy of DCS Communication will be the contact. You can reach out to Dion and he will get you her information so you can be included. We're trying to understand the good things, the bad things that are going on with Family Preservation and get everyone's input so we can make this better
- **Survey** - Starting on January 1, 2021 for Family Preservation; you will need to complete a survey. We are working to build up our understanding of the Evidence Based Practices you as providers are using and servicing our clients with. The survey is open so you can play around with it until January 15, 2021, after that it will actually go live
- **Family Preservation Active Cases** - As of January 7, 2021; Region 4 currently has 92 Family Preservation active cases

- **Billing**

- This is more so for our Visitation Referrals. Our Billing Department has been asking for multiple referrals if you have a large sibling group so if you're seeing providers request another referral, our Billing Department is asking for that. If you're having more than 1 worker working on the same case; they're asking that each of those workers have a referral for billing purposes

Regional Budget Update – Katie Craft, Regional Financial Manager

- Katie shared her screen to review the Region 4 – December 2020 CHIN Financial Status Report
- For 6 months we've spent just over 15 Million. That's actually low compared to where we were last year. Last year at this time we spent over 19 Million
- Things are going well financially in Region 4. For the first 6 months the target that was set was to hit 52% or below. Region 4 as a whole was at 44%. That's almost 7% lower than the target

County Updates

Allen - (Melissa Hayden, Director) – Staffing we're kind of status quo. There's a big push for Permanency in Region 4 ending out 2020 and into 2021. For Allen County specifically did excellent work. We focused on Kids in Home 6 Months or More and the last 3 months of 2020 they decreased by 19%. We closed out 28 kids. Looking at our 2 plus year children; they were able to decrease 37 kids from November to December which is almost a 10% decrease. With Residential from November to December, Allen County was able to decrease 11 kids which was about 20%.

DeKalb – (Wesley Husselman, Director) – DeKalb is seeing some turnover. We had 1 FCM transfer to Allen County and 1 resignation. We were able to establish Permanency for 5 kids and we were able to close the case. Two of those kids had been in care for over 1,000 days

LaGrange- (Kathryn Stephenson, Director) – We lost 2 FCM's since our last meeting so we are down to 8 Case Managers at this time. Our Assessment load pretty much stays the same fluctuating between 25 to 35 Assessments each month. Our caseload right now has also hovered between the 65 to 70 kids range. We've closed out some Informal Adjustments and we have some really big Adoptions coming up in the near future as well to achieve Permanency

Noble County (Joe Sims, Director) – We're fully staffed with 18 FCM's. We have 1 FCM transferring to Allen County and another FCM leaving the Agency in February so we will be down a little bit. Assessments are hovering around 70 Assessments a month the last couple of months. We're staying at about 100 CHINS. We're seeing a lot more Relative Placements vs Foster Care. We're seeing a lot of utilization of the Family Preservation Services and just that overall Safely Home Families First has really increased. Since November 2019 to November 2020 we've increased sibling placements by 30% so we're doing a great job keeping those kids together. Same push as everybody else with Permanency; we struggling with a couple of our long term adoptions that we've had kids TPR on for a while that we're struggling to find permanency for them

Steuben – (Ron Lahmeyer, Director) – We are fully staffed. We've seen an increase in Assessments recently. We're closing cases out, brought a few children back from Residential the last few months

Whitley - (Amanda Herendeen, Director) - We're down overall in cases from a year ago this time. We're seeing an increase of cases opening. We've been able to utilize Family Preservation a lot in Whitley County. In the month of November and December we had 3 Adoptions that we

were pretty excited about. One was a long term case. We have 1 staff member that has resigned and is going to a new position so we will be at 10 Family Case Managers which is fully staffed

Next Meeting – Virtual Meeting April 12, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

With no other business meeting was adjourned.

Signatures:

Secretary *Helena Harmon* Chair *Evin Thidde*

Date *4-12-21* Date *4-12-21*

Approved: *hg* (secretary's initials) Date: *4-12-21*