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Description automatically generated **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, August 11, 2023 – 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:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RM Brown asked if anyone was attending for the first time to introduce themselves: Jade Hall introduced herself from Willow Tree Therapeutic Services and Lisa Blanchard from SCAN. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Chris Buyer, Crystal Bradley, Brian Broek, Shawna Smith, Brandi Spear, Meghan Finn, Angelina Brouillette, and Sarah Fink.

**3**. **July** 14**th, 2023, Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Brian Broek gave a motion to accept the July 14th minutes as written and was seconded by Crystal Bradley.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Kristin Smith announced Nicholas Neal was unable to attend today but will be in person next month. Kristin stated they successfully had the Grantee luncheon, and the grants were in full effect. The Provider Fair will be held on September 20th at the Westville Purdue Northwest Campus. The ribbon cutting event was held on August 7th for the new Family Resource Center located at 1230 State Road 2 in LaPorte and was attended by many. Kristin went over the Community Partners report:

Open Referrals – 125

New Enrollments – 81

Discharges – 88

DCS County Referrals – Total of 44

* Benton/Newton – 4
* Jasper – 9
* LaPorte – 22
* Porter – 5
* Pulaski – 0
* Starke – 4

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 37

* Benton/Newton – 1
* Jasper – 2
* LaPorte – 14
* Porter – 16
* Pulaski – 2
* Starke – 2

Non DCS Referral Sources: Total of 37

* Self – 19
* Community – 10
* School – 2
* Faith-Based – 2
* Mental Health – 1
* Legal System – 1
* Medical System - 2

Flexible Funds

* Request – 18
* Approved – 18
* There were 4 CFTM requests:
* LaPorte – 2 with 1 enrolled
* Jasper – 1 with 1 enrolled
* Pulaski – 1 with 1 enrolled
* No safe sleep request.
* Kristin gave an overview of the past events and announced the following events are coming up:
* Provider Fair – September 20th at PNW
* Bubble Bash – LaPorte County, August 23rd at the new LaPorte County Family Resource Center.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion announced there is an open grant currently for DCS Workforce Stabilization and information can be found on the DCS request proposal website. Dion stated Willow Tree Therapeutic has expand into Region 2 for counseling, visitation and home-based therapy starting on September 1st. There will be a Family Preservation/Probation meeting online this afternoon starting at noon with Don Travis who is with probation and will cover the probation aspect. Dion discussed a provider, not by name, who’s CEO was arrested. The state is still working with the provider but the person in question will not be covering cases for the state.

Dion went over the data for Family Preservation:

* Total cases: State – 10,931: Region 2 – 491
* In the last 90 days: State – 7,712: Region 2 – 346
* Total children: State – 21,972: Region 2 – 975
* In the last 90 days: State – 15,639: Region 2 – 695

Dion has been working with each provider and when he has met with each provider, he will release information and work with the providers to become more efficient. RM Brown asked providers to look at the hours that are being put into family preservation. The state has begun to pull random cases and check if the hours breakdown are being completed as requested.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni was unavailable, RM Brown went over finances for July:

* Budget for 2024 Fiscal Year is $15,490,359.07.
* Expenditures were $1,080,322 (up 53.86%, $378,196)
* In-Home was $166,821: up 30.94% ($39,420)
* Out-of-Home was $913,501: up 58.95% ($338,777)
* County expenses:
  + Benton - $28,100 (YTD $28,100: up 18.26%-$4,339)
  + Jasper - $73,947 (YTD $73,947: up 13.49%-$8,787)
  + LaPorte - $504,028 (YTD $504,028 up 72.48%-$211,807)
  + Newton - $49,085 (YTD $49,085 up 48.79%-$16,097)
  + Porter - $297,009 (YTD $297,009 up 85.97%-$137,301)
  + Pulaski - $54,679 (YTD $54,679 up 90.99%-$26,050)
  + Starke - $73,474 (YTD $73,474 down 26.27%-$26,184)
* Budget is good but cost is increasing.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown went over the data for the region talking specially about absence of repeat maltreatment. The local county office are investigating in depth the reasons for the repeat maltreatment. RM Brown asked for each county Local Office Director (LOD) to give an overview of their county which gave a good insight of each county.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** Sarah Fink inquired of the vision and focus of the RSC meetings which RM Brown agreed to address. Kara Crippen, FCMS Starke County, informed every one of the Stakeholders Practice Discussion scheduled for September 12th, 9:00 a.m. at Aberdeen Manor in Valparaiso. asking for providers to attend.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next regular RSC meeting will be held in person and virtually on September 8th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Porter County office. Please join us in person if possible.

**10.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown adjourned the meeting.