 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, June 11, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. CST

**Meeting Location**: Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**: Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by Regional Manager, Brian Brown.

**2. Introductions:** RM Brown welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Magistrate Jonathan Forker, Marc Brown, Sharon Mathew, Crystal Bradley, Lou Richey, Brian Broek, Shawna Smith, and Sarah Fink. It was noted that a quorum was present.

**3**. **May 14, 2021 Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Brian Broek made a motion to accept the May 14th minutes as written and was seconded by Crystal Bradley.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Nicholas Neal informed the RSC the grant procedure is completed and those receiving the grants will be notified. Nicholas stated their office was moving to Valparaiso starting the beginning of July. They will be leaving their current office on June 28th and working remotely until they are in the new office with internet capabilities. Nicholas discussed the upcoming Back to School and Bookbag events. Nicholas told each county they are receiving $7,000 for outreach expenditures in the upcoming fiscal year.

Darnitha Woods discussed the Manager Report for Region 2:

DCS County Referrals – Total of 31

* Benton/Newton – 1
* Jasper – 1
* LaPorte – 18
* Porter – 11
* Pulaski – 0
* Starke – 0

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 17

Flexible Funds

* Request – 17
* Approved – 17
* Denied – 0

There were two CFTM requests from LaPorte which resulted in both families being successfully enrolled. Darnitha also shared a success story which took place in LaPorte County.

**Services – Dion Smith:** Dion informed the current RFI for Family Reunification Service has been extended to the 15th of June. Dion discussed the upcoming service standard for Home Based Case work change by taking out the need for a degree. This change will enable qualified worker to perform casework. More information will be sent to all providers for when this change takes place. The state is aware of the slow return times for Cordant drug screens and is working on the issue.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni discussed Region 2’s financial report:

* Budget target is 93.15%, region is at 100.33%
* Expenditures YTD is $12,575,072 which is up 4.05% from last year
* In-Home is down 46.04% and Out-of-Home is up 28.98% from last year

RM Brown stated the region is over budget due to billings from last year and we should see the new budget by August.

**7. Region 2 Data:** RM Brown went over the PI Overview and how the region is working towards reach our goals. RM Brown thanked everyone for their participation, hard work and caring about the children’s safety.   
  
**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:** RM Brown talked about state offices will be fully opened on July 6th. All state employees will be expected to attend meetings in person, but non-state employees will still be able to attend virtually. The next RSC meeting will be scheduled at a physical location and will be announced later. The state will be following the CDC guidelines.

**11.** **Adjournment:** RM Brown thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2021 at 9:00 am thru Virtual Teams and physical location TBD. Provider meeting will follow for 1 hour 10-11 am CST.