 **Regional Service Council**

**Region # 2**

**Meeting Date**: Friday, October 8, 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. Jim Burns introduced Family Focus new COO Rocio Payne. Tara Andrews from the Bowen Center introduced herself.RM Brown introduced Jacqueline Jennings as Region 2’s Adoption Specialist. RSC members present: RM Brian Brown, Magistrate Jonathan Forker, Marc Brown, Sharon Mathew, Angelina Brouillette, Brian Broek, Shawna Smith, and Meghan Finn.

**3**. **August 13, 2021 Minutes**: RM Brown asked for additions or corrections to the minutes, none were made. Brian Broek made a motion to accept the August 13h minutes as written and was seconded by Shawna Smith, minutes passed.

**4. Community Partners – Geminus:** Nicholas announced the recent staff changes for Community Partners. Darnitha Woods is now Director of DDCF Program and Kristin Smith is the new Program Manager of Community Partners. Kristin’s new email address is: Kristin.Smith@Geminus.care. Nick discussed the Provider Fair in which 60 agencies participated in the event and how to get more DCS staff to attend. Nicholas talked about the upcoming events. Kristin Smith discussed the Manager Report for Region 2:

DCS County Referrals – Total of 47

* Benton/Newton – 2
* Jasper – 5
* LaPorte – 20
* Porter – 16
* Pulaski – 0
* Starke – 4

Non DCS Referrals -Total of 21

Closures - 49

Flexible Funds

* Request – 19
* Approved – 19
* Denied – 0
* There was five CFTM requests: Starke: 1, Porter 3, LaPorte 1. All in which resulted in the families successfully completed and enrolled.
* Success story from Porter County
* There is concern for the need of flex funds due to spike in new Covid cases and the Covid Variant.

**5.Services – Dion Smith:** Dion discussed the new upcoming Family Preservation app that will be able to better serve the FCM’s. It is being piloted at this time and will help when creating referrals. Dion reminded everyone that home based case work should not, is not, for mentoring and/or tutoring. FCM’s should not make referrals for tutoring and/or mentoring, and providers should not accept those referrals. Providers, please complete and return surveys if you have received one. RM Brown asked about Family Reunification and when it will be available in which Dion stated it will not be until next year. RM Brown also reminded providers to be mindful for the visitation costs.

**6.** **Finance – Joni Tusing:** Joni discussed the regional finance report:

* Budget target is 27.13%, region is at 23.20%
* Expenditures YTD is $3,133,920 which is up 2.39% from last year
* In-Home is up 183% (up $501,464) and Out-of-Home is down 15.38% (down $428,407) from last year
* Discussed each county expenses

RM Brown praised all the providers and community support for their great work and discussed how Region 2 providers are ranked number one in the state.

**7. Region 2 Child and Family Outcomes:** RM Brown discussed the PI Overview showing the regional goals and how we are above state averages. The region is doing fantastic and is because of great providers and employees working together to get permanency for the children.

**8. Open Discussion, Questions, Information, Good Things Happening:**

Jim Burns talked about how long it is taking to close the case and providers are not getting into the home as much due to pending closure. Jim believes it would be more financially responsible is to get the case close quicker to save cost. RM Brown agreed but the transition is time consuming.

**9. Next RSC Meeting:** The next RSC meeting will be held virtually on November 12th, at 9:00 a.m. central time.

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