

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
December 3, 2015 BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Mr. Eric Smith, Vice Chair, Dr. Greg Howes, Treasurer, Ms. Kathleen Rich-New, Ms. Brooke Goldfarb, Ms. Barbara Loftus, Ms. Ruth Long, and Ms. Andrea Betting.

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Paula Creed-Smith, Mr. Mark Peterson, and Ms. Catherine Wright

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Patricia Nellius, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Sr. Executive of Compliance, Mr. Jim Carlson, Sr. Executive of Administration, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Sr. Executive of Programs, Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn, Board Liaison. Also in attendance were: Ms. Amy Hammett, DCF, Ms. Anna Baznik, IMPOWER, Ms. Malak Hamad, PNC Bank, Ms. Michele Wiersma, CHS, Ms. Phebe Powell, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Ms. Amanda Dawson, IMPOWER, Ms. Jennifer Secor, BFP Ms. Tracey Kinsley, BFP, and Ms. Melissa Breckenridge, BFP

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the December 3, 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Whitten then asked all to state their name for the record.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve the December 3, 2015 agenda as presented. This was seconded by Ms. Loftus and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then reminded members that if they had a conflict of interest to please complete the Conflict of Interest form (available at meeting) and provide it to Ms. Blackburn. Ms. Betting reported her company Florida Adoption Center has entered into a foster care contractual agreement with Brevard Family Partnership and has remitted her Conflict of Interest disclosure to Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn in advance of the board meeting.

Mr. Whitten then moved to introduce the guests.

Mr. Carlson began by commending the Gala committee for their year-long commitment and dedication hosting a signature event that has received raving reviews. He then recognized Ms. Brooke Goldfarb, committee chair and asked Ms. Kinsley, to do the introductions. Ms. Kinsley first recognized: Mr. Whitten, Ms. Blackburn, Dr. Nellius, Ms. Holmes, and Mr. Smith for their participation at the event. She went on to introduce committee members in attendance: Ms. Brooke Goldfarb, Ms. Barbara Loftus, and Ms. Malak Hamad, Mr. Jim Carlson, Ms. Jennifer Secor, Ms. Melissa Breckenridge and herself. The committee members not in attendance are: Ms. Deborah Buza, Ms. Ayonna Andrews, Ms. Susie Parante, Ms. Leeanne Saylor, and Ms. Enie Windle. She then reported the event was a big success with 250 attendees. She shared that the agency will hold the event annually in the month of October. Board members and committee members agreed it was well organized, and the feedback from attendees was that it was a fun time and one of the best community events held. The board applauded the committee members. Dr. Nellius commended the BFP staff for a job well done. She then extended her great appreciation to Ms. Goldfarb and Ms. Hamad for their outstanding commitment, dedication and leadership to engage community leaders and partners making this a stellar event. Dr. Nellius then asked the committee members Ms. Goldfarb, Ms. Hamad and Ms. Loftus to join her to be awarded a framed print of artist George Miller's, "Champions for Children" and to have their pictures taken.

Mr. Whitten then asked the board if they had an opportunity to review the October 22, 2015 minutes. Ms. Loftus commented that the minutes did not include discussions for putting together a risk mitigation plan as discussed at the last Board meeting. She then added for clarification, a motion is required for all

formal board action items. Mr. Whitten confirmed and suggested any motions be taken under the financial section of the agenda.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve the October 22, 2015 minutes as presented. This was seconded by Ms. Rich-New and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Consent Agenda:

Mr. Whitten then referenced the Data Report and reiterated the consent item is presented for review and directed board members with questions to consult with Ms. Holmes off line.

#### CEO Board Report:

Dr. Nellius was pleased to report that BFP raised \$109,380.03 in gross revenues as a result of the Decade of Difference annual campaign. Mr. Carlson shared that it was an exceptional event with raving reviews and thanked Ms. Goldfarb for sharing her home and for introducing BFP to the Henegar Center; increasing the Agency's exposure within the community. Ms. Goldfarb added that it was an amazing experience and she is looking forward to the next year event.

Dr. Nellius announced that the final 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary monthly event will take place at the Duran Tradewinds Restaurant on December 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm to recognize our donors and volunteers. She encouraged members to attend to recognize and be recognized for the generous contributions in support of the agency over the past year.

Dr. Nellius then spoke about the Humanitarian Awards Ceremony that took place on November 5<sup>th</sup> sharing the agency received an award for its contributions to the community. The award was then passed around to board members.

Dr. Nellius was pleased to report in recognition of National Adoption month, the Mass Adoption Ceremony took place on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> with 8 children being placed with their forever families. She then extended kudos to IMPOWER for their role in the adoption coordination and commended Judge McKibben for her outstanding job presiding over the ceremony.

She then reported the annual Run/Walk for Love took place on Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup> with over 250 participants present. She thanked Mr. Smith and Ms. Long for their portion of the corporate sponsorship. Dr. Nellius then acknowledged Ms. Holmes, Ms. Goldfarb for running and Mr. Carlson for walking the course.

Dr. Nellius shared that she and Mr. Whitten met with the new Brevard Public School Superintendent Dr. Blackburn and they have been invited to participate in the Brevard Public School's (BPS) Strategic Planning process. She was excited to share BPS and BFP will be working together to advocate for the academic success of Brevard County students.

Dr. Nellius then reported the Mindshare Predictive Analytics workshop has taken place and thanked board members for their review and input on the draft Mindshare Revenue sharing agreement. She shared that the agreement is under attorney review and once finalized the agreement will be sent to Mindshare for negotiations.

Dr. Nellius shared that board officers and the executive committee have been reviewing and advising her on strategies to address the current financial position of the agency. Dr. Nellius then referred members to review her report for details and to contact her directly with any questions.

Dr. Nellius then reported the agency will be submitting a Risk Pool application to DCF on February 1<sup>st</sup> with a request to cover the projected shortfall caused by the increase in the number of children entering

out of home care. She added that when the agency submitted their request for the back of the bill, DCF validated the agency's defending data analysis and she feels confident submitting the Risk Pool application.

Dr. Nellius spoke about the agency's procurement for banking services to include a 1 million dollar line of credit and that the details are outlined in her board report.

Dr. Nellius then reported that BFP has responded to the DCF \$200,000 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Enhanced Prevention Services for Child Welfare and stated the decision is still pending.

Dr. Nellius spoke about Mr. Carlson's meeting with the legislative delegates while attending the Rally in Tally, and was pleased to report that the agency has been advised to resubmit the special appropriations request for an amount exceeding the original ask of \$1.3 million. Mr. Carlson added that Speaker Crisafulli and Representative Goodson are in support of resubmitting the special appropriations request and Representative Goodson's office recommended a submission of \$1.58 million. Dr. Nellius pointed out combining the \$850,000 in revenue from the Governor's proposal with the \$1.58 million ask, the total is the amount of the projected shortfall.

Dr. Nellius shared she will be attending a meeting with the DCF Secretary, CBC CEO's and FCC in Tampa on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Then on December 8<sup>th</sup>, she and CEO, Ms. Teri Saunders will be presenting the framework for building an Adequacy Cost Model to the CBC CEO's.

Dr. Nellius was pleased to report that the November NCFIE went very well with positive feedback from the 17 attendees.

Dr. Nellius then announced the Annual Board Retreat and Business meeting will be held on January 28, 2016 at The Courtyard by Marriott in Cocoa Beach. She thanked Mr. Whitten for securing the in kind space and lunch donation from the Courtyard by Marriott and for personally sponsoring the breakfast. She then reminded the board that BFP Staff will present the system of care from entry to exit.

Dr. Nellius then asked board members to complete and return their self-evaluations to Ms. Blackburn by Noon January 4, 2016.

Dr. Nellius shared that On November 30, 2015 Mr. Carlson, Ms. Powell, and two staff members from Brevard went to Tallahassee to attend the Rally in Tally. Mr. Carlson added that Ms. Shan Jackson, C.A.R.E.S. family partner and Ms. Tracey Kinsley were the staff who attended. He shared the team met with the FCC board to learn the best ways to advocate for system of care needs, then met with legislators, and attended the Governor's budget presentation. In addition, they met with Senator Altman and Representative Workman; who will be proposing the special appropriations requests within their respective platforms. He then mentioned Children's week is scheduled for January 25 – 27<sup>th</sup> and by then the agency should know where we stand with the one time funding allocation request.

Dr. Nellius announced that the holiday gift drive is in full force and that the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Winter wonderland family holiday event is scheduled to occur on December 16, 2015, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Brevard C.A.R.E.S. She then shared the CMA holiday gift drive drop off is scheduled to occur on December 7 – 12, 2015 at The Flex Glen warehouse located at: 280 Wickham Road, Melbourne. Please contact Marcie Dearth of IMPOWER at: [mdearth@impowerfl.org](mailto:mdearth@impowerfl.org) or Melissa Breckenridge of BFP at: [melissa.breckenridge@brevardfp.org](mailto:melissa.breckenridge@brevardfp.org) for drop off schedules.

Dr. Nellius then mentioned the annual DCF Contract Oversight will take place from January 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Dr. Nellius was pleased to report BFP received a \$2,000 grant from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) to fund for two members of the Brevard Youth Thrive to attend the 2016 Ready by 21 event.

Dr. Nellius then presented Ms. Lydia Joyner's new book, *Little Wild Thing, a Diary by Lydia Joyner* and suggested the board contact Ms. Blackburn for details should anyone wish to purchase a copy. She then provided new board members with Ms. Joyner's background and history while in foster care. Dr. Nellius then announced, February 12, 2016 the NCFIE will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brevard Youth Thrive Summit (Trauma Informed Care, TIC) where Ms. Lydia Joyner, Ms. Davina Merritt, and Mr. Lucas Boyce will be the key note speakers. Ms. Rich-New shared with new board members that the key note speakers share their foster care experiences prior to privatization. Mr. Whitten shared he will initiate getting copies of the book into the Brevard County public libraries.

Mr. Whitten extended his appreciation to Mr. Tom Hermansen for donating the meeting space, the lunch and the significantly discounted breakfast for the board retreat and asked board members to send a note thanking him as well.

Mr. Whitten then moved to the C.A.R.E.S. Board Report

Ms. Powell began by reporting the annual COA maintenance report was submitted at the end of November and review of operating procedures is under way.

Ms. Powell then shared, Brevard CARES has partnered with the Federation of Families of Central Florida to convene quarterly and invite Family Partners, Family Advocates, and Youth Liaisons from Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Flagler counties for the purposes of sharing best practices and training opportunities. The first meeting occurred on October 3, 2015.

Ms. Powell then spoke about the submission to DCF for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Enhanced Prevention Services for Child Welfare and stated the decision is still pending. She shared efforts for the second Safety Management Services Team is underway and should be up and running in January 2016. She then shared since inception of the first team, a total of 78 children have been diverted from coming into the child welfare system. She then explained the risk mitigation process and the extensive support initiatives to keep children safe in their own homes. Dr. Nellius added that the Safety Management Services Team is one of the risk mitigating initiatives with DCF to jointly devise a program that will reduce the number of children entering into care.

Ms. Powell then shared the Winter Wonderland family holiday event is scheduled to occur on December 16, 2015, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Brevard C.A.R.E.S. She then thanked the Sheriff's office for donating all of the bikes listed on the wish lists received from children in our care.

Ms. Powell then presented the new Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Data report format. She added that the new design was developed to capture useful data and to provide an easier read of the information reported to include a month to year comparison.

Questions were raised concerning the number of toy drives competing for the same gifts within the community and where should the donations be made. Ms. Holmes shared that the agencies within the community work in partnership to supply the children with gifts and donations can go to BFP, C.A.R.E.S or IMPOWER.

Dr. Nellius announced that BFP's employee appreciation week runs from December 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Whitten then asked if Mr. Carlson had anything to add to the legislative report.

Mr. Carlson added that the FCC has recommended CBC's advocate for the Senate and House to propose funding in excess of the \$22.9 million, encourage legislatures to consider the long term investment into the child welfare system, and advocate for all allocations proposed by the Governor be recurring funds. Dr. Nellius shared after an analysis was performed last year, the actual need is in excess of \$11 million which was the motivating factor for building the adequacy funding formula and moving away from the equity allocation model.

### New Business

#### Financial Report:

Mr. Carlson then directed the members to the October Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and reported on the month end variances highlighted in yellow. He ended his report by commending Ms. Holmes and her staff for their outstanding efforts in assessing and assigning children to the appropriate continuum of care which reduced out of home care expenses by approximated \$3,500 a day.

Mr. Whitten then reminded board members to complete their board self-evaluations and turn them in to Ms. Blackburn by January 4, 2016.

Mr. Whitten then announced annually board members are required to complete an Affidavit of Good Moral Character. He asked the members to complete the form provided and return it to Ms. Blackburn immediately following the board meeting and she will notarize their signatures.

Mr. Carlson then reported estimated revenues generated from the Gala alone will net from \$45K - \$50K and the Walk/Run for Love event raised \$6,000. In addition, BFP raised \$109,380 in pledges from the Decade of Difference endowment campaign. He expects to have a full accounting by the end of January.

Ms. Holmes then reviewed Strategic Plan Year 3 - Goal 8a - Independent Living

Involve Youth, Foster Families, guidance Counselors and others in Family Team Conferencing to Develop Transition Plans.

Priority 1.c: Any family that is Court ordered to receive a Family Team Conference.

100 Percent of 16 1/2 to 18 will be availed the opportunity to participate in a Standing Team Conference or Family Team Conference (FTC) 100% of Youth aged 17 will have transition plans that they have participated in developing.

Ms. Holmes then reported the several different options for independent living:

- Extended Foster Care to age 21 and 22 for persons with a disability.
- PASS Program, where they will continue to receive a monthly stipend as long as they remain enrolled in school full time
- After care support

There were discussions concerning the Brevard Youth Thrive Initiative and the focus is to assist youth aging out of foster care with transitioning successfully into independent living.

Public Comments:

Miss Goldfarb shared on behalf of the Brevard Bar Foundation she will be presenting Mary Ann Sterling, CEO of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren a \$500 donation at the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting with DCF and IMPOWER.

Ms. Rich-New commended Dr. Nellius for her dedication, leadership and forwarding thinking in setting the trends within the local system of care. The board applauded Dr. Nellius.

Mr. Smith commended BFP for its support of other organizations such as Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. He expressed his appreciation for being part of such a unique organization.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Betting suggested that the password to access the Board Portal be changed. Mr. Carlson will facilitate that change.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Anna Blackburn  
Board Liaison

Approved at the January 28, 2016 Brevard Family Partnership Board of Directors Meeting.