

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 BOARD MEETING

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Mr. Eric Smith, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Mel Broom, Ms. Kathleen Rich New, Ms. Paula Creed-Smith

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Samuel Gutierrez, Board Treasurer, Ms. Christa Bailey, Ms. Brooke Deratany-Goldfarb, and Reverend Dan Walker.

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Patricia Nellius, CEO, Mr. James Carlson, Sr. Executive of Administration, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Sr. Executive of Compliance and Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn, Board Liaison. Also in attendance were, Mr. Geo Ropert, Chief Director of Communications, Ms. Anna Baznik, President and CEO IMPOWER, Lisa Summers-Peyton, COO IMPOWER, Mary Ann Sterling, Grand Parents Raising Grandchildren.

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the September 25, 2014 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Whitten then requested all present to state their names for the record.

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. Laurie Anna Blackburn.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich-New moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Smith and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Mr. Broom moved to approve the August 28, 2014 minutes with the correction removing Ms. Paula Creed-Smith from the Board Members in Attendance as she was not present for the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Kathleen Rich-New and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius introduced Ms. Mary Ann Sterling who runs Grand Parents raising Grandchildren and commended her for her tireless efforts serving Brevard's grandparents and their grandchildren. She then acknowledged September 7<sup>th</sup> as National Grandparents day and said it is an honor and privilege to have Ms. Sterling share her background and history with the Board. Ms. Sterling began by thanking the Board for having her speak about her organization. She shared her personal experience with raising her own grandson after the death of her daughter and then said she started the organization 20 years ago in an effort to provide resources to grandparents. She reported, currently there are 8,500 children in Brevard County being raised by someone other than their parents; 500 are in foster care and the remaining are with her organization. She then said that the majority of the children who come into their grandparents care are the result of drug and alcohol abuse. Ms. Sterling shared one of the many struggles grandparents are faced with is the lack of authority to make medical decisions for their grandchildren and that through grants and funding from agencies like Brevard Family Partnership, her organization is able to get the legal assistance and other resources in support of the Grandparents. She referenced two brochures; one describes the organization and the other is a step by step process for grandparents to follow when they receive custody of their grandchildren to include information on a 6 week training program. Ms. Sterling concluded by thanking the board for allowing her to share. Mr. Whitten commended the organization for their efforts and thanked Ms. Sterling for sharing her story with the board.

Consent Agenda:

The next agenda item was the Board Data Report. Mr. Whitten asked if there were any questions. None were raised and the next item was addressed.

CEO Board Report:

Dr. Nellius spoke about the case management transition with IMPOWER and their continued focus on strategizing and strengthening the system of care. She added that one of the unexpected challenges with employee turnover is associated with DCF receiving funding to increase the number of Protective Investigators in Brevard by 55. The investigators starting salary is higher than that of a case worker manager and the caseloads are lower. IMPOWER has started to ramp up recruiting for case managers and DCF leadership has agreed to hold off on any further recruitment of case managers until January 2015. She then added BFP and IMPOWER leadership will hold quarterly convening's with case managers to convey appreciation to the staff for their diligent efforts and dedication throughout transition.

Dr. Nellius spoke about Eckerd and its proposal beginning in January 2015 to pilot a six bed licensed group home facility in Brooksville with unconditional acceptance for ungovernable male youth, who are either involved in the Juvenile Justice system, struggling with complex issues or, waiting for or exiting detention. She said that BFP needs to build capacity for this particular population in Brevard but have the option with Board approval to contract with Eckerd to place youth in their Brooksville facility temporarily with the long term plan to open a facility in Brevard County. Dr. Nellius then informed the Board that 10 years ago one of the community priorities was to bring Brevard's children back into Brevard and to keep Brevard's Children in Brevard. Consequently, she is seeking the Board's approval before proceeding with a plan to place youth out of county while building capacity in Brevard. The request is for the Board to consider allowing the placement of 6 Brevard County youth at the pilot program in Brooksville temporarily. She added just recently she received a call from an organization called Friends of Children located in Orlando who are considering opening a facility in Brevard County to serve this particular population. Pending further discussions with the organization, she would like the board to entertain the request to move forward with the Eckerd Pilot scheduled for January 2015 in the event an agreement is not reached with Friends for Children. Board discussions took place with regard to the contract, age of youth, services, location, and utilization of the facility.

Mr. Whitten moved the agenda item out of order to address the motion.

Mr. Whitten then asked the board to understand that the System of Care is based on keeping Brevard's Children in Brevard and due to the lack of capacity, as a temporary measure, there may be a need to enter into a 9 month contract with Eckerd and the pilot program located in Brooksville, Florida, Hernando County, if an agreement has not been developed with Friends for Children for the group home initiative in Brevard County.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich-New moved to approve, if an agreement has not been developed for the group home initiative in Brevard County with the organization Friends with Children, effective January 2015 Brevard Family Partnership may temporarily enter into a 9 month contract with Eckerd to pilot a six bed licensed group home facility for ungovernable male youth located in Brooksville Florida, Hernando County. This was seconded by Mr. Smith and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius was excited and pleased to announce that Ms. Jennifer Secor has been selected for the Sr. Advancement Director position and she will start October 6<sup>th</sup>. She added Ms. Secor was recently employed by the Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless and served as Vice President for Brevard Achievement Center.

Dr. Nellius then spoke about the 2014 Dependency Court Summit saying that this year the event was outstanding and Secretary Carroll has set a new tone for the relationship between DCF and the CBC's. She finds his vision and support of community based care refreshing. She added that he is expected to visit the Brevard Family Partnership on October 8<sup>th</sup> and she will keep the Board apprised of his agenda. She then expressed her eagerness to work with the Secretary in developing the Equity Allocation Plan and she was pleased to report that as part of the LBR he is looking to create parity in salary and caseloads between CPI's and Case Managers.

Dr. Nellius than said Ms. Deratany Goldfarb, Dr. Howes and herself are working on the formation of a Brevard Youth Foundation. Ms. Deratany will take the lead on the initiative to go out into the community and market the foundation. The initiative will provide a resource for youth to visit for assistance, direction and guidance as they

move to independent living. She then directed the board to review the draft concept paper located behind her board report in their binders. More on the initiative will be discussed at the next board meeting when Ms. Deratany Goldfarb will be present.

Next, Dr. Nellius reported today was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final day of Trauma Informed Care Train the Trainer training held down at the Crown Plaza. The Center for the Study of Social Policy provided two of their top trainers who are experts on trauma informed care and 20 community volunteers are training from the train the trainer model.

Dr. Nellius announced that the annual Faith Based Symposium will be held at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and if any wishes to attend to contact Ms. Blackburn.

#### Brevard C.A.R.E.S Report:

Dr. Nellius reported that Ms. Holmes is away performing wrap training. She added that the Executive Director, Kimah Burrell will start on October 6<sup>th</sup> and that the workforce is close to capacity.

#### New Business:

#### Financial Report:

Mr. Carlson reported that the July and August Financials will be posted to the Board Portal once received from the Agency's accounting firm; James Moore, and going forward financial statements will be posted monthly in advance of the board meeting. He then proceeded to review the graphs and charts for the major expenditures saying Case Management is under budget and will increase as Brevard C.A.R.E.S build their workforce to capacity and IMPOWER fully earns their performance incentives. He then shared that that the Out of Home Care is over budget due to the annual clothing allotment issued in July and the adoption subsidy is slightly over budget but that the department is expected to fully fund in March or April of 2015. Mr. Carlson ended his report stating that the Agency receives \$1.8 million monthly under the DCF contract and monthly expenditures are running under that amount at \$1.7 million. The board was pleased with Mr. Carlson's reporting and thanked him for presenting the financials in a way that was clear and easy to understand. Mr. Whitten then asked if there were any questions and none were expressed.

Mr. Whitten then asked the members of the Board Recruitment Subcommittee to introduce the three new prospective board members.

Mr. Gutierrez Chair of the Board Recruitment Subcommittee has endorsed the following new board member recommendations:

Mr. Smith reported that Ms. Rich-New, Mr. Gutierrez and he met with Dr. Greg Howes and concluded that he has a strong successful strategic business background, and a passion for independent youth. Ms. Rich-New added that he has the time, the skills and passion to serve the community and the Board Recruitment Subcommittee is recommending Dr. Howes be approved for a seat on the BFP board of Directors.

Ms. Rich-New presented Mr. Mark Peterson as an active volunteer in the community. He currently volunteers at CHS and is a Guardian Ad Litem. Ms. Rich-New stated that Mr. Peterson's legal expertise would significantly assist with the potential BFP and Promise merger. The Board Recruitment Subcommittee recommends Mr. Peterson be approved for a seat on the BFP Board of Directors.

Ms. Rich-New presented Ms. Andrea Betting as very active in the not-for-profit community shown by her involvement with Catholic Charities and domestic violence. She added Ms. Betting is financially astute and has developed a women's investment group, in addition to opening her own adoption agency in Brevard. The Board Recruitment Subcommittee recommends Ms. Andrea Betting be approved for a seat on the BFP Board of Directors.

Mr. Whitten asked the board if there were any questions and none were raised.

**Motion:** Pending background clearances, Ms. Rich-New moved to approved Dr. Gregory Howes, Mr. Mark Peterson and Ms. Andrea Betting for a seat on the Brevard Family Partnership Board of Directors. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius then petitioned the board for their recommendations on trainers for the Annual Board Retreat and business meeting to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, in January 2015. She added that Mr. Whitten and Mr. Smith agreed that the training should remain centered on philanthropy. The board agreed.

In addition she reminded the board that in a former board meeting, it was agreed that BFP's staff attorney would take an additional 90 day due diligence review period and defer discussions on the Promise Strategic Alliance for the Annual Board Meeting. In line with that recommendation, Dr. Nellius asked the board to consider extending an invitation to Jane Callahan from Dean Meade, who is BFP's attorney and an expert on mergers and acquisitions. The board agreed.

#### Old Business

Dr. Nellius then said she wanted to alert the board of the revisions she had made to the Annual Board Meeting calendar to include board guests and the faith based initiative.

Before proceeding with the 10 year anniversary plan update, Mr. Ropert mentioned that the legislative platforms and general session calendar will be available in January 2015. He added that he and Ms. Dixie Sansom met with Representative Steve Crisafulli's aide to discuss CBC priorities. Ms. Rich-New shared that she had the opportunity to meet Representative Steve Crisafulli, House Majority Leader at an event where he was the guest speaker and she was impressed with his speaking presentation. She added she used that forum to publically acknowledge and thank him for his support of \$1.5 million onetime special appropriations granted to BFP.

Mr. Ropert then announced Ms. Creed-Smith has agreed to chair the Kickoff subcommittee. The date is set for February 7<sup>th</sup>, designers are working the save the date notifications and the event will be held at Heritage Isles. He then asked the board to provide him by Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, three corporate sponsors who will be the point of contact within their organizations to raise donations. He then thanked Mr. Whitten for donating one of the 45 days designated to the county for use of the Space Coast Stadium.

**Action Item:** Mr. Whitten then asked Mr. Ropert to generate a letter that can be forwarded to Space Coast Stadium to ear mark a day for the community event.

Mr. Ropert then said Mr. Gutierrez has offered to volunteer where needed, Ms. Deratany-Goldfarb has offered to chair the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary Gala, Mr. Eric Smith has offered to chair the Run for Love 10K event and there is a big need for volunteers to assist with fundraising. Mr. Ropert ended his update by saying that the BFP Leadership Team has been charged with hosting special events recognizing community members, foster parents, and partners throughout the System of Care and a board member is needed to participate in the planning process and to report back to the board.

#### **Year 2: Goal 1:**

##### **GOAL 1:**

**PARTNERSHIPS/RESOURCES** – Facilitate collaborations and partnerships to meet the unique needs of the families served in the community

##### **OBJECTIVES:**

Identify and target schools with highest BFP enrollments to improve educational outcomes and school transitions for children in care

**STRATEGIES:**

1d. Prepare community awareness and outreach program to increase public involvement and investment in child safety

**ACTION PLAN:**

The Director of Child and Family Services will partner with schools:

1. Target children 6-10 to work with schools to conduct educational assessments as needed and include designees to communicate with BFP around academic needs of children in care.

2. Work with CPA to ensure adherence to contract provision of Ed consultant to review individual Educational Plans (IEP) and request IEP meetings for children presenting with academic need.

**MEASURES:**

All children in licensed care ages 6-10 will be screened for grade level within 30 days of placement and any below grade level will receive an educational plan to improve academic standing to be assessed and reported quarterly.

Dr. Nellius reviewed the summary report provided by Ms. Holmes reporting Effective July 1, 2014 Devereux CPA was required to provide (as part of their Performance Measures documentation) that 100% of children aged 6 to 10 in licensed foster care have been screened for grade level within 30 days of their placement. Any child determined to be performing below grade level must be offered an Education Plan which demonstrates increased academic achievements. The school year began on August 18 and since this is a new performance measure, a baseline of children meeting the above criterion is current being established during this first Quarter (ending on September 30). Devereux will include this data in the Quarterly Outcome Measures report (due on 10/15/14.)

In addition, included is an information summary from Michelle Bayer, Foster Care Guidance Counselor on the end of the school year report from last year for the 13-17 population in foster care.

Out of 92 students (Age 13-17) in Foster Care, 80 Students were promoted and 12 Students were retained.

Additionally, 8 students who Aged Out of Foster Care received their High School Diploma or GED and 3 students were promoted to Seniors seeking a Standard Diploma while 2 students are seeking a Special Diploma. Dr. Nellius then referred the board to the concept paper and reported that 43 young people are currently enrolled in college.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Baznik introduced Ms. Peyton as her Chief Operations Officer. She then thanked Dr. Nellius and her staff for their support as the agency continues to transition and she is looking forward to continuing to build a strong partnership.

Mr. Whitten then requested a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Ms. Kathleen Rich New moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Mel Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Anna Blackburn  
Board Liaison

Approved at the October 23, 2014 Board meeting