



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



May 22, 2014

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

Narrative Report

The Foster Parent picnic was held on Saturday May 17th at the Brevard Zoo and was a great success with over 200 in attendance. We are very grateful to the strong partnerships we have with our foster parents and Child Placing Agency, Devereux Florida for the difference they make in the lives of our children.

This month our Board meeting guests will include a representative from Lead Brevard and an Independent Living Youth who will share their experiences with the Lead Brevard project to launch the Youth Advisory Council that had disbanded since CBY25 ended their program. Ashley Carraro, the BFP Director of Child and Family Services will be present to update the board on the Trauma Informed Care Initiative which is now Brevard Youth Thrive.

I am pleased to share that Mr. Zach Gibson; Chief Child Advocate in the Governor's Office came to visit Brevard C.A.R.E.S. on May 16th. I would like to especially thank Ms. Christa Bailey and Ms. Paula Creed Smith for being present to share their personal experiences with the program.

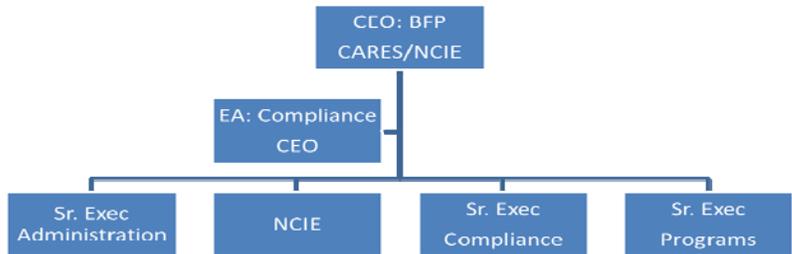
On May 3, 2014, we received a request from the Governor's office to provide supporting documentation to defend our \$1.5 million dollar special appropriation request. On Tuesday May 13th DCF followed up with an additional request for information as the Governor's Office contacted them to ascertain their position on our request. Please take time to thank Senator Altman and Representative Crisafulli for their support this session and particularly around this request. Mr. Geo Ropert has prepared a letter for the Brevard delegation on behalf of the Board and staff. Unfortunately the Equity Allocation Formula did not pass so BFP will once again lose funding. Even with the approximately \$120,000 earmarked for Case Management BFP will still lose approximately an additional \$220,000.

DCF has announced a new Interim Secretary, Mr. Mike Carol. Secretary Carol is a long term highly regarded DCF leader from the Suncoast region. On May 19th over 30 DCF staff and partner agency leaders gathered at BFP for a quarterly meeting with our Regional Director, Bill Diauto. On May 28th, 2014 Pete Digre from Tallahassee will be visiting Brevard.

The reorganization transition plan was launched on Wednesday May 7, 2014 beginning with Valerie Holmes giving her resignation as the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director. Valerie has accepted the position of Sr. Executive of Programs at BFP to begin August 11, 2014. In her new role Valerie will oversee the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. program as part of the child welfare continuum. On Thursday May 8th I met with the Leadership Team and agency Directors to inform them of the impending transition. Staff who are impacted by the reorganization were informed one on one Monday May 12th and new positions were posted that day. At the end of the day a letter went out to all staff. Jim Carlson has accepted the new position of Sr. Executive of Administration and Debbie Davidson Cook has accepted the new position of Sr. Executive of Compliance. In order to enact the new organizational structure Patrice Grier has researched the Bylaws and Articles of the three (3) agencies to ascertain if I am able to be removed from the role of Board Chair of the NCIE and Brevard C.A.R.E.S in order to enable Gloria Hensler to begin to allocate a portion of my salary to each entity I oversee.

Once Patrice verifies that this is an action that is permissible, the Bylaws will need to be amended to reflect my resignation from the Board Chair role and BFP will need to appoint a new Board Chair to each agency.

All agency functions have been aligned under these 3 divisions as illustrated below.



The Impower transition is going well. I have begun sending weekly updates to stakeholders to keep the community apprised of progress. To date all positions have been filled and the May 12 certification class is at capacity. The Impower contract will need to be approved by the Board in June and executed prior to July 1.

Under Valerie Randall's leadership BFP conducted a competitive analysis of PEO's and we have retained Insperity, our existing PEO. This was a very comprehensive and time consuming process that resulted in over \$30,000 in savings by remaining with Insperity.

Patrice Grier will brief the Board on the status of the lawsuit at the upcoming meeting. There is a motion to dismiss hearing in the afternoon of May 22, 2014. We have been approached to settle and have declined at this stage of the litigation.

The Board Recruitment subcommittee will be convening following the Board meeting on May 22, 2014 to review a proposed candidate that I met with on April 30, 2014 who was recommended by Sam Gutierrez.

The Mass Adoption event is scheduled to occur on June 27th at 11:00 AM. We plan on having 15 adoptions occur that day. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this wonderful event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius
Chief Executive Officer