



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency



Board Report

December 5, 2013

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO



Narrative Report

November was National Adoption Awareness Month which is always a highlight at BFP. The Annual Run and Walk for Love took place on Saturday November 16th at the Church at Viera Thanks to Eric Smith and Indian River Networks for their \$2,500.00 Title sponsorship of the Run for Love. It was an awesome event with tremendous support from the community. I had the opportunity and privilege to present to and meet with the Melbourne Beach Rotary on Tuesday November 12th. At that time BFP was presented with a \$109.00 check from the Roto Kids who held a bake sale to raise the money for the children in care. I would also like to thank the Brevard Bar Foundation for its generous donation of \$1000.00 for Christmas presents and other needs of children receiving services from BFP and its affiliates. This was presented at the Walk for Love. The Brevard Bar Foundation is a philanthropic organization of local lawyers, of which Brooke Deratany Goldfarb is an officer and director.

The Mass Adoption was held at the Court on November 22nd *National Adoption Day* with 12 children being adopted. To date we have finalized 26 of the annual goal of 72 adoptions and anticipate another 5-7 by year end. The Mass Adoption event was one of the highlights of the year. A special thanks to our four board members who were present. It was exciting to have the a sibling group of six (6) children adopted by their Aunt and Uncle as this was the largest adoption of a sibling group in BFP's history. Wesh News was there to cover the event and it was highlighted on the 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM news reports. We are fortunate to see our children achieve permanency and be placed in their forever families. I would like to offer special recognition to LaChrista Jones, Kelly Swartz and the Impower staff for their dedication and commitment to all of the children in Brevard who are available for adoption and have been adopted as a result of the outstanding work they do to find loving homes and forever families for our children.

It is hard to believe the end of the calendar year is quickly approaching. Holiday activities and gift solicitation for foster children and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. families are well underway. This year we have restructured the process slightly with our CMA partners and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. assuming direct oversight with BFP support.

The auditors were present on November 7-8th to finalize their on-site compliance review. By all reports the findings were favorable. A special thanks to Gloria Hensler and her team for the outstanding work done to ensure our financial management exceeds standards. Given the audit is complete and the report due to the state by Dec. 31st, Gloria Hensler has been diligently trying to coordinate an Audit committee meeting. For members of this committee please note it is vital we find a time to convene to review and approve the audit.

The annual DCF Contract Oversight visit is scheduled to occur in January 2014. The FCC Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee this year on January 14 and 15, 2014. It will be held at the Florida State University Turnbull Center

The Georgetown University Certificate program was outstanding. The information and knowledge gained will definitely serve to improve the quality of care we provide to cross-over youth. While at Georgetown we received word that DJJ will be funding Georgetown staff to assist in the implementation of the practice model in Brevard. This is very exciting and will enhance the work we are currently doing to divert cross-over youth from entry into the child welfare system. Over the past 12 months Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has served over 700 cross-over youth. As part of the certificate program Valerie and I have to submit a capstone project for approval to be implemented in Brevard over the next 12 months. Our project will focus on analyzing the profile of the youth, our means of

identifying them at all critical junctures and strategizing how to best serve these youth to prevent deeper penetration into either system.

We will use this information to enhance the efforts that will be employed to implement the model in March of 2014 when Georgetown begins their technical assistance and consultation to DJJ, the courts and BFP.

The Child Welfare transformation is now referred to as the Child Welfare Practice Framework. The CWPF is scheduled to be implemented in January in Brevard. This new model will include use of a structured decision-making process and risk assessment tool that will be used to make disposition decisions and will likely result in many children remaining in home with non-judicial or judicial in home services verses out of home care. Once fully implemented the Protective Investigator will staff a case over to BFP with the family present including a better assessment of need that will be carried on over the life of the case. I have been asked by DCF Central Office to co-chair the statewide oversight committee as a result I will be tracking and monitoring the implementation as it impacts the CBC's and CMA's across the state to identify trends, needs and potential solutions that can be presented to the DCF administration.

I am pleased to announce that the initial meeting of Independent Living youth and Lead Brevard was a success. A team from this year's Lead Brevard class has selected BFP as their project with the goal of implementing the Youth Advisory Council. As a result of the first meeting there have already been four (4) commitments to mentor our youth. Additionally I am pleased to report that one of our IL youth, Trenton Miller who the Board has had the opportunity to meet in the past has been selected by Foster Club a national awareness group as a Foster Club Outstanding Young Leader! This is an award to recognize him for giving back to the community and to celebrate his many successes.

On Sunday November 10, 2014 the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. COA site visit began and wrapped up a day early given the stellar condition of the documentation and materials submitted and provided. While the process takes 30-45 days to receive notification of accreditation, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. received an expedited accreditation within 48 hours. I would like to recognize and congratulate Valerie Holmes and her team for the fine job done.

We have met and exceeded the goals set to improve the scorecard performance. Our goal was to rise to the top 10 by Sept and among the top 5 by January. This month we ranked 4th statewide. However DCF is no longer including the ranking in the scorecard distribution. We also have decreased our administrative overhead to 2.7%.

As members are aware the CMA contract went out for competitive procurement with a deadline for submission of November 15, 2013. The selection is scheduled to be announced mid-January. Six (6) proposals were submitted from the following agencies:

- CHS
- Devereux
- Eckerd
- Impower
- Crosswinds
- Key Assets

The Board Retreat location has been secured. It will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 from 8.45 AM – 3:00 PM at the Crowne Plaza in Indialantic. Ms. Emily Furlong, Senior Program Manager

from Rollins College, Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Center will present board activities relating to fundraising.

Geo Ropert and Dixie Sansom had the opportunity to make a legislative presentation to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on November 12, 2013. The FCC Legislative priorities are included in your packet.

I would like to alert the Board that we are currently operating with a growing deficit. All of the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. services funds are slated to be exhausted by January 2014. This is attributed to the influx of children being diverted from entry into the child welfare system and the growing number of DJJ youth being diverted. This number is likely to continue to increase with the roll out of the child welfare transformation model as a new structured decision-making model will be in place that will be used to determine the needed services at the point of contact with the family. We have been exploring options such as screening out community referrals and some of the lower risk DJJ clients however this could result in this population entering the judicial side of dependency. Another alternative is to charge an intake fee to the non-DCF referred clients. We are hopeful this will be addressed through a one-time special appropriation and with a revised equity allocation model. If this is not resolved, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. will have to access their line of credit and then BFP will use funds from the reduction in the new case management contract and from the one time appropriation to pay off the line after the new fiscal year. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. intends to begin billing for Targeted Case Management and charging a sliding fee on July 1, 2014 which will also offset the rising costs.

The planning for the National Wraparound Conference is well underway. It is scheduled to be held at the Hilton Cocoa Beach, 1550 N Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL on March 11-13 2014. We have secured a stellar line up of national experts and keynotes and are already beginning to receive registrations. I would like to solicit volunteers from the Board with event planning experience to assist us with the preparations for this very important event. With BFP operating below 3% administrative cost and in a deficit we are in great need of volunteers to support this effort.

The Board Recruitment Subcommittee will be meeting for 15 minutes following the Board meeting to consider a former IL youth and employee for Board membership.

Finally, Gloria and I had the opportunity to meet with the Promise Board of Directors on November 17, 2014 to review their financial status and make a series of recommendations in an effort to prepare them for receipt of the 11 M in tax credits. Stockton Whitten, Judge McKibben and the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer from Promise are scheduled to meet on Dec 9th to begin the merger exploration process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Nellius
Chief Executive Officer