



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



May 23, 2013

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

Narrative Report

May is National Foster Care month, a time to celebrate and recognize foster parents and families from across the Brevard community who serve in our system of care. These are our heroes and champions who go above and beyond on behalf of Brevard's abused, neglected and abandoned children each and every day. I would also like to acknowledge the foster care team at Devereux Florida for the support they provide to our foster parents each and every day, and for the outstanding job they have done recruiting new foster homes this year, leading the state in the charge.

This fine team is comprised of Laura Higginbotham, Service Center Director, Donna McLaughlin, Office Manager, Lisa Nelson, Program Manager, Stacey Fox, Licensing Supervisor, Joyce Brang, Educational Liaison, the Licensing Specialists Ariel Prothro, Deborah Harp-Coaston, Dawn Townsend, Katie Foley, Maunelle Gibson, Nina Buchanan and Monica Martin who serves as Support Staff.

On Saturday May 11 BFP held its annual foster parent training picnic at Wickham Park. This was a wonderful event and time to recognize and celebrate our outstanding foster families.

On May 1st the DCF review and selection team met and unanimously voted in support of BFP as the Lead Agency in Brevard. At that time we were informed the contract was being routed through the internal approval process and had been signed off on two (2) levels. However, there was a delay. and on Thursday May 16th we were informed that the Attachment1 we negotiated was being replaced with the new Attachment 1 used for the C-19 procurement. Given the short timeframe to execute subcontracts and sign leases and more importantly to ensure continuity of care for those we serve we are in a vulnerable position as time is of the essence. Our staff attorney will review the terms and conditions and modifications with members at the May Board meeting.

The Legislative session ended on May 4, 2013. I would like to thank Geo for his leadership through the session as well as Dixie and Jerry Sansom for their outstanding representation of BFP. Dixie was relentless and responsible for several successful outcomes. Kurt Kelly the President of the FCFC personally acknowledged the role Dixie played throughout the session. Senate Bill 1036, passed and is named the "Nancy C. Detert Common Sense and Compassion Independent Living Act," in recognition of the bill's sponsor, Sen. Nancy C. Detert (R-28) which promotes normalcy for youth in care, extends the timeframe in which young adults, over the age of 18, can remain in care and simply stated, "lets kids be kids."The law will be put into effect in January of 2014. The 90/10 formula also became law to replace the 25/75 formula. This decreased our losses by approximately \$200,000.

However BFP still incurred a \$632,000 reduction. As a result of the reduction and the need to drive down our administrative overhead for July 1, 2013 we have laid off six (6) staff members, effective June 28, 2013, all of which were billed as indirect and served in an administrative role. This will result in the BFP administrative office staff absorbing the functions thereby increasing the workload and demands upon staff.

We have worked diligently to hold children and families harmless by absorbing nearly 100% of the reduction in house at the administrative level.

The only direct impact on our providers was the request of our case management partners to assume oversight and/or find a creative solution to staff the reception desks at the Care Centers. As BFP has assumed an 8% reduction in funding over the past three (3) years and the CMA's have received an 8% increase over this time period it was determined this is a reasonable request that can be achieved through the CMA's partnering with AARP, the WDB, and/or their development depts. to recruit volunteers. However, our COO was able to identify alternative funding available at the BWDB for IL youth to secure employment and vocational training that will be made available to Crosswinds to work with our youth to place and employ them at the Care Centers in the reception positions.

Given the diminished performance and scorecard ranking over this past year and the new strategic plan goal of modifying contracts to be performance based, BFP will be modifying the CMA contracting methodology July 1 to promote compliance as well as incentivize performance. For this reason we have opted to hold our partners harmless to the extent possible enabling them to use their resources to focus on improved performance. We are optimistic this will enable them to draw on the support of their corporate offices to more closely monitor their daily performance, collect and analyze data, and implement measures to meet required targets in order to earn up to 110% of their contract funding. Unlike in the past where we withheld funds to be earned, funds under the new model will be paid by unit performance. This will enable the CMA's to more closely assess their staffing model, performance, and best practices and make any necessary adjustments prior to the CMA ITN being released next year.

Additionally effective on July 1, 2013 all major providers will receive a monthly scorecard that will be posted on our website.

The form 1023 for the National Center for Excellence was submitted to the IRS on April 27, 2013. Kudos to Kelly Swartz for her diligent efforts in completing this vital function. The NCIE is making progress in its development and infrastructure. The Heinz and Skillman Foundations have agreed to fund the NCIE in the amount of \$60,000. Dr. Munoz is spending a great deal of time building capacity and traveling to meet with foundations and national leaders to secure funding as well as applying for several grants. Dr. Munoz has been invited to testify at a Congressional Hearing in Washington DC to share the state of positive youth development. The contract for statewide wraparound training at the three (3) innovations sites began on Monday May 6th.

I am pleased to announce that on Thursday May 16th, the court dismissed the lawsuit. Our staff attorney will provide more information at the upcoming meeting.

On Thursday May 2, 2013, BFP convened a community wide Trauma Informed Care meeting comprised of cross sector leaders including GAL, Juvenile Justice, BPS, providers, etc. In addition I have been meeting with key community leaders to provide an introduction and overview and to garner support and commitment.

On Tuesday May 7, 2013 Kelly Sweat, Director of Child Protection Transformation came to Brevard to meet with the leadership to provide an overview of the Child Protection Transformation project being rolled out statewide.

On May 16, 2013 Carol Emig president of Child Trends came to BFP to conduct a site visit and learn about the work we are doing with TIC and PYD. Also the lawsuit hearing to dismiss was held on May 16, 2013. An update will be provided to the members at the meeting.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has been nominated as an exemplary national model for a potential pilot site to implement the Thrive framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy in Washington, D.C. This is a very competitive process with more than 120 applicants from every region of the country. The Thrive framework utilizes the latest advances in developmental science to deliver high quality strength-based practice.

The BFP Finance Director will be making a presentation requesting approval to close the Merrill Lynch investment account. This is a good time to sell as the market is high and we do not have sufficient funds to retain the account at this time as we have used some of the funding to invest in the startup of diversification projects.

COA will be at BFP on May 20 and 21 conducting their recertification. Thank you to the members who agreed to participate in the process.

Please also be aware of the upcoming Celebration of Adoption which will be held on June 7, 2013. The adoption event will begin at 12:30 at the Brevard County Courthouse, Courtroom 4G located at 2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL. An open reception will take place after the adoption ceremony. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Valerie Randall no later than Friday, May 31, 2013.

I am pleased to announce that we are partnering with Eckerd to bid on the DJJ Managing Entity Contract. The Secretary is holding a meeting in Orlando on June 14th to unveil his new child welfare model. It is tentatively slated from 12 noon -500 PM.

I would like to alert members that Mr. Ryder has submitted his resignation effective April 27, 2013. I would like to thank Mr. Ryder for his years of outstanding service and advocacy on behalf of Brevard's children and families. His work as a Board member, Board Vice Chair, Board Chair and GAL has left a lasting impact on many lives.

I would like to encourage members to consider potential applicants for the Board by completing a Prospective Board Member form. Areas of need identified include: a north county representative, a philanthropist, a wealth management/financial institution leader, and a pediatrician/medical practitioner. I would like to request the Board recruitment subcommittee convene over the summer to begin the process of exploring potential prospects.

Kudos to our Finance Director for successfully negotiating reduced lease costs at several sites. This year I plan to focus on an aggressive fund development plan leading up to a campaign to be launched prior to our 10th anniversary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius

Chief Executive Officer