



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



February 28, 2013

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

Narrative Report

As we embark upon the New Year BFP has launched several special projects and initiatives. Staff is working diligently to prepare and submit COA materials for the March electronic submission prior to the site visit. Board members will be requested to meet with the surveyors sometime during their on site visit scheduled for May 20 and 21, 2013.

In addition, there are several specific initiatives underway to advance the system of care. They include:

- BFP COA
- Budget reduction activities
- C.A.R.E.S. COA
- C.A.R.E.S. replication
- C.A.R.E.S. diversification
- Center for Innovation and Excellence infrastructure and capacity building
- Contracting: 2013 modifications/compliance
- CPA/Foster Parent management
- Child Welfare Transformation
- DCF Contract
- FSFN
- Human Trafficking coordination and compliance
- Grants and funding diversification
- Lawsuits
- Legislative activities
- Mindshare upgrades
- Pathway to Excellence: referral process improvements and credentialing
- Strategic planning
- Trauma Informed Care & & Positive Youth Development

BFP was recently informed that we are slated to receive another \$901,000 budget reduction this year if the current equity allocation law remains in place as is. The current law does not account for the family support cases and is calculated using metrics from a point in time of October 2012. There is the possibility of the law being amended using a 90/10 formula that would slightly reduce the impact of the reductions. Information regarding the 90/10 proposal can be found on our website under the Legislative tab. If the law remains intact the reductions to BFP will total over \$2 million dollars over the past three (3) years. With the increase in out of home care and the increased demand for services for these children and families and with the number of children being served through family support increasing to nearly 1000; an increase from an average of 650 per month, this additional reduction will most definitely cause a hardship to our system. The result will require the implementation of drastic measures as we have already paired down the budget to the extent possible and for the 1st time in our nine (9) years of operations did not make our monthly budget allocation last month. This reduction in funding will also result in driving up our Administrative Overhead and adversely impact our scorecard performance in this category.

To prepare for and address the possible reductions the BFP executive team held a budget workshop on February 19, 2013 to assess any and all opportunities to absorb the reductions with as minimal impact possible to the children and families served; and I have crafted a letter to be released to the community which is in your packet. The letter will request feedback via a survey monkey questionnaire to engage the community in finding proposed solutions. Additionally, we have engaged Ms. Dixie Sansom to represent the BFP system of care interests in Tallahassee.

Following the submission of Mr. Whitten's letter to DCF regarding the status of negotiations requesting clarification on any limitations imposed upon BFP during this interim timeframe, we were contacted and given assurances that the negotiations would begin again in the near future. We have been informed that the next negotiation meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb 26th at the Hurston building in Orlando. We have been informed that a placeholder has been put in place on the liquidated damages and task limits sections and that DCF intends to continue discussions regarding the 10% reinvestment. My response to DCF regarding the 10% reinvestment is in your binder.

Regarding the Attachment I, and specifically the areas of liquidated damages and penalties the Secretary discussed these items during the meeting on January 25, 2013. He acknowledged that certain of these items would require legislative actions and that his intent is to include these in the upcoming contracts to track the impact during the first year. It is important to note that in specific categories the penalties are extremely high - \$50,000 to \$100,000 per occurrence. What remains unclear is how these "failures" would be remedied as the language suggests that DCF would take these funds to rectify the failure.

The annual employee satisfaction surveys are complete and once again there is improvement and favorable results. The results will be shared with the Board at the February meeting. In addition the auditors will be present at the February meeting to share the results of the audit.

I am pleased to report that the National Center for Innovation and Excellence is currently in discussions with agencies on two (2) possible projects. The first is a time sensitive assessment of United For Families and the other is to conduct the statewide wraparound training and TA (Technical Assistance) and consultation for the Florida State Children's Mental Health System of Care (CMHSOC) Implementation Grant.

The March Trauma Informed Care Leadership forum has been canceled. A revised program and timeline will be forthcoming. The Summit to launch the system transformation initiative will be held in May to include the system of care partners and three very successful and impressive young adults who have aged out of foster care who will serve as keynote speakers. These include Lydia Joyner, Mark Anthony Garret and Lucas Daniel Boyce.

I will be going to Atlanta Georgia on April 27th to attend the Orange Duffel Bag Independent Living graduation. Information about the organization can be found at www.orangeduffelbagfoundation.org. We have invited representatives to attend the Summit and are considering forming a partnership to utilize this model in Brevard County. As the model includes the use of executive coaching and a partnership with a local university I have requested Ms. Kathleen Rich New and Ms. Brooke Deratany Goldfarb accompany me to the Atlanta visit. One of the Board members of this organization has a home in Melbourne Beach and we will be meeting with him in the near future to learn more.

Children's Week activities in Tallahassee will take place Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11. Travelers will arrive on Tuesday, April 9 and depart on Friday, April 12. Traditionally, we have taken part in the Children's Day activities that take place on Tuesday of Children's Week but this year BFP will be participating in activities built around events with the Florida State Foster Parent Association. This accounts for the later arrival and departure dates. Interested members should contact Geo Ropert to reserve your attendance.

The annual CAPTF Awards will be held on Thursday, April 18, from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. at Suntree Country Club. This year the decision has been made to change the venue and time and host an awards breakfast.

Eckerd's Brevard Walk of Fame and Children's Hero Awards 2013 will take place on Saturday, March 9 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. at the Holiday Inn Express/Space Coast Convention Center, in Cocoa. Congratulations to Judge McKibben and Jim Carlson as nominees for Children's Hero. If you are interested in attending any of these events please contact Geo Ropert.

Members will be presented with proposed revisions to two (2) GOV policies at the upcoming Board meeting for approval in preparation for COA.

At the next meeting the CEO annual performance evaluation will be provided to board members with a due date to return to Ms. Randall.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn for her efforts in identifying, arranging for, coordinating and managing the Board Retreat venue. I also want to acknowledge Ms. Kelly Tuttle for her attendance in order to respond to any IT concerns that may have arisen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius

Chief Executive Officer