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# Brevard Family Partnership

*A Community Based Care Agency*

## Board Report



June 1, 2016

Patricia Nelli-Guthrie, CEO

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## **Narrative Report**

May is National Foster Parent month. On Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> BFP held its annual foster parent picnic with over 313 in attendance. Foster parent partners and foster youth will join us at the June 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting to share their experiences with the local System of Care. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of Mother's Day, I had the privilege to attend the Phi Sigma –Fraternity Pre Mother's Day recognition breakfast with 2 of our foster parents where BFP was recognized.

In recognition of Mother's Day we also had a wonderful Mass Adoption ceremony at the Courthouse on May 6, 2016 with 5 children being adopted. As always, Judge McKibben led a beautiful event. The next Mass adoption ceremony is scheduled for June 22, 2016 at the courthouse and an invitation will be e-mailed once the time and courtroom have been secured.

I am pleased to report that we have received the amendment for the \$2.7m in Risk Pool Funding and have submitted the invoice with a projected receipt date of May 19<sup>th</sup>. A special word of appreciation goes to Bill Bucher for his leadership with the RPA and to the executive team and staff for their exemplary efforts.

BFP has received its funding allocation which includes \$1.3 m in additional funding as compared to last year. Staff are working diligently on the 2017 budget for presentation and approval at the June 23, 2016 Board meeting. As a requirement for receipt of the Risk Pool Funding, BFP has submitted a plan to DCF that outlines the implementation of several initiatives aimed to reduce the number of children entering and exiting care. On Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup> BFP kicked off the 1<sup>st</sup> of several initiatives with Casey Family Foundation training on Permanency Round Tables with over 60 in attendance from across the community of practice. It is important to note that while BFP has received an additional \$1.3 million in funding this year, the Out of Home Care budget has increased by \$2 million dollars. This includes accounting for \$733 k in reductions resulting from the initiatives. Impacts to the proposed budget include: \$100k in increased healthcare costs, increased liability insurance costs, and adjustments made to comply with the new Labor Law revisions enacted on May 18, 2016.

After 7 years of research, evaluation, and development of the C.A.R.E.S. Replication Toolkit Manual, the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse Application has been submitted. There is a brief annual open enrollment period with reviews beginning in July and decisions made in September. In addition, Valerie Holmes submitted an abstract to the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse San Diego Conference for the 2 of us to present the C.A.R.E.S. model in January 2017 and it was selected. Kudos goes to Valerie for the outstanding submission. We will also begin marketing the replication at the National Wraparound Conference in June.

Cyndi Hernandez, the BFP Board Chair appointee to the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Board of Directors recently accepted a position at BFP as the new HR Manager. We are pleased to have Cyndi join our team. She has been an exceptional volunteer over the years. Cyndi has tendered her resignation at C.A.R.E.S. resulting in a vacancy and the need for the BFP Board to appoint a new Chair. I am pleased to report that Dr. Howes has graciously agreed to serve in this role and lead the Board as C.A.R.E.S. continues to grow and evolve. This will require a motion at the upcoming meeting.

Additionally, the C.A.R.E.S. Board has voted on and approved Dan Rogers, former Regional Director for DJJ as a new Board member. The BFP Board will also need to entertain a motion to approve Dan's seat.

I am also pleased to announce that Dr. John VanDenBerg, Wraparound Pioneer and expert and Keynote speaker at the National Conference, has agreed to serve on the NCFIE Board. The BFP Board will need to entertain a motion to approve Dr. VanDenBerg to serve on the Board.

As directed at the January 2016 Board meeting I have drafted a revised Board annual self-evaluation tool for the Board's consideration. Additional old business includes the Board determining and voting on its annual fund raising goal for FY 2017.

As we are preparing for the 2017 June COA site visit and April document submission, the Board will need to review its Governance policies and complete the demographic worksheet. Each month leading up to COA members will receive draft policies for review in advance of the Board meeting. In order to expedite the process, please share any suggestions with Patricia in advance of the meeting.

BFP will be participating in Mediation to settle 2 lawsuits in July. Given BFP has never been subject to lawsuits in the past, we do not have a policy on authority to settle. Patrice has conferred with external legal counsel and has drafted a policy for the Board's consideration at the June 1 Board meeting. Please review this policy in advance of the meeting as authority needs to be delegated in order to proceed with mediation.

The Board subcommittee Charters will be presented by the subcommittee chairs for approval at the upcoming meeting. Thank you to the chairs and committee members for your contribution to advance the agency to meet the needs of those entrusted to our care.

In follow up to the discussion at the April Board Strategy Session, Ruth Long, Jim Carlson and I met with Enie Windle and Deb Buza, the 2016 Gala Committee Chairpersons to thank them for their dedication, commitment and leadership of the 2016 Gala scheduled to occur on October 29, 2016 and to discuss integration under the Donor Relations Subcommittee of the Board.

The Wraparound Conference planning is progressing nicely. There are 180 registered to date. We have secured 11 in sponsorships. This event draws attendees from across the US and Canada. Members interested in attending should RSVP with Laurie Anna.

As May is my 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as the CEO of BFP, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve the children and families of Brevard. It has been a distinct honor and a privilege to work for such a dedicated, stellar Board of Directors who truly exemplifies what it means for a community to care for its own. I am also fortunate to work alongside a consummate team of professionals who go above and beyond every day to "*Protect children, Strengthen families and Change lives.*"

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius  
Chief Executive Officer