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# Brevard Family Partnership

*A Community Based Care Agency*

## Board Report



July 20, 2017

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

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## Narrative Report

I am pleased to report that there will be 3 guests attending the July Board meeting. Dixie Sansom will be present to provide a Legislative update and report to members and Mark Slager and Kellie Sweat Darnell will also be present to meet the Board to share their experience participating in the NCFIE Certification Training and to discuss the partnership between the new company, Sikamore Technology Group, LLC and NCFIE.

There was a statewide meeting with DCF and the FCC leadership in May. The following provides a summary of the meeting agenda:

- 1. Legislative Updates/Next Legislative Cycle:** DCF reviewed the legislative updates and discussed the strategy for the anticipated loss of Title IV E Waiver and of Safe and Stable Families Block Grant funding. Florida is preparing to apply for a waiver extension over the next month. The CBC's are advocating for DCF to take back the eligibility function in the non -waiver environment to ensure maximization of the penetration rate. This is under consideration. The FCC is preparing for next session's legislative agenda. Training is planned for the Judge's on new Legislation during upcoming Dependency Court Summit.
- 2. CCWIS (The new Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System):** These changes are expected to further enhance data quality, timeliness and accuracy. DCF needs to make a decision about adapting CCWIS or staying with current model by August of 2018. To prepare for this a Feasibility Assessment is in progress; CBC's will provide input into this (there is also a draft white paper in circulation about CCWIS). DCF supports streamlining with other state mandated systems such as ACHA, Department Of Education, etc. A LBR is expected on this in next session.
- 3. Group Care:** There is some disparity amongst providers with regard to the newly proposed Quality Rating Pilot and Placement Assessment Tool. Group care providers expressed concern with duplication of effort in monitoring and that poor ratings negatively impact funding sustainability with future grants and local fundraising efforts. Smaller group homes will not be sustainable under the new rating model at a time when CBC's are being inundated with children entering licensed OOHC.
- 4. Child Welfare Funding:** \$18 million including \$10.4 million non -recurring for CBC core services; \$6.3 million for MAS, \$1.6 million to fund three pilot sites approved for specialized treatment programs for dually served youth and families dually (DJJ and CW); pilot sites not determined so potential opportunity here; \$2 million for Results Oriented Accountability and Data Analytics, \$5 million for Risk Pool. This year there is a projected deficit of \$16 million for those that applied for the Risk Pool.
- 5. Financial Viability Plans:** Will be required ongoing; all lead agencies must develop and maintain a FV plan; new plans for next year will go to Governor's office by November 1, 2017 so I am sure the deadline will be much sooner for CBC's submission to DCF.
- 6. Quality Child Care Work Group:** Flagged as potential LBR request for next session; not enough funding/access or slots for at risk populations and for foster children.
- 7. IV E Training and Documentation:** Workgroup formed to simplify the documentation process to meet the Federal requirements.
- 8. CBC Bond Requirement:** The performance bond requirement in the Attachment 1 has been removed and replaced with FV language.

Of importance BFP received and executed the new A1. Included in it was a change removing the requirement for 100% of the Board to be local residents to 51%. BFP negotiated this change with DCF and was able to keep the local requirement of 100% in the contract for this fiscal year.

On June 2, 2017, Judge McKibben and the Dependency Court hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual reunification celebration with 30 in attendance. The event was inspirational as families shared their stories of overcoming the obstacles they had experienced resulting in the removal of their children.

As you aware the Governor has released the budget and veto list; and the Special Appropriation request for the Replication of C.A.R.E.S. in Volusia Flagler County has passed. However, the request was originally for \$300,000 and it was approved for \$50,000. To date, the draft implementation plan has been developed, a conference call with the CEO has been convened, the leadership from NCFIE has met with the assigned principal staff member to learn more about their current SOC and resources, and there is a leadership team conference call scheduled in July to discuss the launch of the implementation process in August.

BFP has received its 2017-18 Funding Allocation and I am pleased to report that we are slated to receive \$900 thousand dollars in restored funding. A copy of the funding formula is included in your packets. The budget has been drafted for the Board's review and approval at the July Board meeting along with the Family Allies, C.A.R.E.S. and NCFIE budgets.

I am also pleased to report that projections for the year end indicate BFP ending the year with a balanced budget. Staff are to be commended for their outstanding efforts in executing initiatives and practices to reduce costs and spending while ensuring quality services to those we serve.

Over the past 6 years BFP has had to make some difficult but necessary decisions to contain costs due to the 6 year fiscal impact of the funding reductions we experienced. As a result there has been some departure from the SOC as designed and intended by the community. It is the intent of BFP to devise a plan to prioritize and restore staff positions and services SOC systematically over the next 3 years as funding continues to be restored.

To ensure we assess the current landscape and prioritize needs accordingly the new Senior Executive of Strategy and Performance (SESP) will be charged with leading a 3 month process mapping exercise with the Family of Agencies Leadership Team. This will also enable the new SESP to become educated and acquainted with our local SOC. The new SESP has been selected and will begin service on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Kevin Maloney comes to BFP from Kids Central in Ocala where he has served as Director of Operations. Kevin has advanced data and performance analysis skills, serves as a Sterling Examiner, and has served as a CM Supervisor and provided oversight and support to the Kids Central CMA's.

To date it has been determined the key priority areas and positions to be restored include:

- Dependency Care Coordination
- 2 Family Partners
- An Assessment Specialist
- A Data Integrity Specialist
- A QA/Trainer
- Parenting With Love and Limits (EBP)

The Mass Adoption event took place on June 16, 2017 with 21 adoptions finalized. This was the largest adoption event to date. There were over 300 in attendance to celebrate our children being adopted by their forever families. This year IMPOWER has exceeded the adoptions target by 31 children. The staff has done an outstanding job ensuring Brevard's children find permanency through adoption.

Last month the Board expressed interest in reinstating the Annual Walk and Run for Love. We are in the process of recruiting a PR Coordinator who will assist with the events and outreach. Once we have filled the new position the plan is to begin holding the Walk for Love event again.

At the July meeting members will be presented with the new 5 year Strategic Plan for approval along with current year Strategic Work Plan results. Leigh Holt will call in to walk members through the final draft.

In accordance with COA standards it is required that at least annually, the governing body of the parent organization is required to review its relationship to its subsidiaries to determine whether the relationship(s) continues to serve the best interests of both the parent organization and its external stakeholders, including persons and families served. To that end, below you will find a summary for your consideration and discussion under old business on the agenda.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S.: was created as a separate 501 c 3 in 2012 with the goal of assisting BFP in meeting its tax exempt purpose of child abuse prevention. The CEO designed and piloted the program in house under BFP under the leadership of Valerie Holmes and Tracy Little. Following a national study validating the positive outcomes of the program and to embed C.A.R.E.S. in the community as a local provider the BFP Board voted to separate C.A.R.E.S. The leadership believed that by separating Cares BFP would be more successful in diversifying funding through grants and program development and capacity building.

NCFIE: The NCFIE was created January 2012 as the research training and technical assistance arm of BFP. The NCFIE was organized for charitable and educational purposes, for the benefit of BFP, to include: 1. National replication of prevention, diversion and intervention programs, 2. Training and credentialing of human service workers and programs, 3. Provision of consultation and technical assistance, 4. Developing criteria and standards for evaluation and monitoring services for acceptance as evidence-based programs, and 5. Engaging in other charitable or educational endeavors from time to time. The NCFIE grew out of BFP's 2009-2012, 3 year Strategic Plan Goal 5: Diversify funding for the System of Care. Objective 5b: Develop, promote and capitalize on programs that are good candidates for replication. Strategies:\* Develop and promote replication of the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. program once AED has completed validating the model.\* Establish an Institute to provide wraparound services training and other technical assistance.

This was the final goal to be reached at the conclusion of the 2012 SP in December 2011. At the time establishment of a Center of Excellence was conceptualized by the community as local providers were opposed to BFP/CBC's competing with them for the limited resources within the community. It was determined the best way to address this concern was for BFP to leverage its expertise nationally to diversify revenue. Since that time the NCFIE has gone through some growing challenges with the departure of the Chief Advancement Officer, the delay in the C.A.R.E.S. EBP status, limited seed funding and staff capacity and a slow start to replication and the Federal Finance Reform Delay. The establishment of the NCFIE has fulfilled the intent of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Goal through its formation as a supportive entity by providing a Biannual Wraparound Conference, National Certification Training, IVE training and delivering Wraparound and SOC Technical Assistance and Consultation to agencies nationwide.

I am pleased to report that Family Allies assumed case management on June 26th. I would like to recognize Bill Bucher and Katie Guemple along with the BFP executive team, staff and Cyndi Hernandez for their tireless efforts in making this transition as seamless as possible. Bill will be providing a more detailed report on the transition and activities to date at the Board meeting.

The annual Gap Analysis has been completed and Debbie Davidson-Cooke will be present at the Board meeting to report the findings to the Board.

The Dependency Court Summit will be held on August 29-31, 2017 at the JW Marriott Orlando. Members wishing to attend should contact Laurie Anna ASAP.

In conclusion I would like to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Baptiste, BFP Foster Parents for receiving the Caring Hearts Award at the Statewide Foster and Adoptive Parent Conference in May. Below is an excerpt of their award nomination:

Mr. and Mrs. Baptiste have been foster parents in Brevard County since 2013. Not only are they a traditional foster home, Mrs. Baptiste has been trained to care for medically fragile children. The Baptiste family knows the true meaning of partnership and maintaining connections while the children are in their home and once they are reunified. They have taken siblings groups over the past couple years and enjoy keeping siblings together to maintain their connection and bond. They also have a history of working with biological family's to keep the connection and bond intact while the children are in their care. They accept kids that most other foster parents are

unwilling to take because of their complex behavioral or medical needs. They meet all the needs of the children placed in their home and go above and beyond. They previously had a sibling set of four that they planned to take to Haiti with them if they were not able to be reunified prior to the trip as they do not like to leave the children and treat them just like family. These same siblings were reunified and remain in constant within the Baptiste family. Mrs. Baptiste supports the mother and speaks with her multiple times a week. Mrs. Baptiste expressed they are there whenever the mother needs them. They drive to Cocoa from Palm Bay at least once a month to pick the children up to take them to church and spend time with them. They have taken the mother places if she needs a ride and provided her with any needed necessities to assist her in meeting the needs of her children. They currently have children in their home that are of elementary age that have delays due to neglect and medical needs outside of most people's comfort zone for their age group. They have made a commitment to help these children learn to age appropriate skills and catch up academically with their age group. They don't ever complain about the numerous doctors' appointments, tremendous amounts of therapy and services these children have had in the handful of months they have been in foster care. The Baptistes have always maintained that positive attitude of "whatever it takes". Mr. and Mrs. Baptiste have expressed their motivation to continue being foster parents is their love and compassion to help. They expressed their love for children and having their home full of them.

The next Board meeting will occur on August 24, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius  
Chief Executive Officer