



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



December 7, 2017

Valerie Holmes, Executive Director

Narrative Report

The Together in Partnership (TIP) Resolution was reviewed at the 11/20/17 meeting at which time members unanimously voted to extend the resolution for one year (through December 2018). This has been placed as an agenda item on the Brevard County Board of County Commissioner's Meeting scheduled for 12/5/17. The purpose of TIP is to build partnerships, conduct ongoing planning to improve the service delivery for youth and families and prioritize recommendations for community action by individuals, private and governmental agencies to make systematic and programmatic improvements as well as facilitate long term planning for youth and families in Brevard County.

The Children's Services Council of Brevard County (CSCBC) is currently soliciting applications for council member appointments which must be subsequently confirmed by the Florida gubernatorial Appointments Office. Judge Kelly McKibben is chairing the Council. Some of the major duties and responsibilities of the CSCBC are to 1) Determine the roles, mission, and major objectives of the Children's Services Council and 2) Research and collect local data to determine the needs of children in Brevard. Currently, CSCBC is unfunded. Should the council become funded, additional fiduciary responsibilities would be added. A Children's Needs Assessment was conducted and the suggested focus areas are Prenatal to Five Care, Behavioral Counseling for students of all ages with an emphasis on adolescents and high school students, childhood health and reducing the juvenile crime rate. It is expected to go to ballot for a 2018 referendum. Once approved by voters, a Children's Services Council would be officially created by the county commission through a local ordinance and would operate as a local government body; overseeing funding for programs and services for children and their families. Chapter 125 of Florida Statutes (F.S.) (passed in 1986) governs the creation and operation of the Children's Services Council and contains an expanded description.

The Brevard County Opioid Task Force has been formed as a subcommittee of the Brevard Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. This was precipitated by the feature of a documentary titled "Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict" along with the subsequent panel discussion and training about the opiate epidemic and spurred interest and advocacy to do more to address the issue locally. Participants from the FBI, DEA, United States Attorney's Office, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Brevard County Health Department, Orange County Drug Free Coalition, Circles of Care and professional representation from the substance abuse treatment/mental health field served on a panel to discuss the epidemic.

The NCFIE Replication Team is continuing to partner with Community Partnership for Children and the House Next Door on the Volusia/Flagler C.A.R.E.S. pilot. The on-site training went well and currently the team has drafted a change management plan, implementation plan and staffing model. The site will become operational on 1/15/18; bi weekly leadership briefing began in December and will extend throughout the implementation period with on-site coaching and mentoring.

Mark Broms, the Executive Director of the Brevard Homeless Coalition, offered at risk families and youth served through BFP to be the recipients of the use of Section 8 Preferential Housing Choice Vouchers for families who have newly reunified and youth who are transitioning out of foster care. The eligibility and prioritization criteria, still in draft form, would serve to place chronically homeless families who are at 100% poverty as the top priority; subject to the approval of the Housing Authority of Brevard under the Housing Urban Development (HUD) guidelines. If approved, assistance could begin as early as January.

BFP has been invited by the The Center for the Study of Social Policy as an exemplary site to participate in an upcoming Youth Thrive Convening in Clearwater and youth engagement workshop panel. Youth representatives and the Brevard Youth Leadership Academy Convener, Angela Oliver Burgess will participate as well as Brevard Public Schools, DJJ and Family Allies staff. The team will present a Gallery Walk Story Board that will entail pictures, graphs, data, quotes, and a narrative that tells the BFP Youth Thrive story.

BFP was named as a finalist in the Florida Power of Light and Community Star Award of the Space Coast to honor the stellar work of non-profits. The Parrish Medical Center Stars of Space Coast Awards recognition will honor this work through a presentation by 2-1-1 on 12/1/17. BFP was originally nominated for this award through the community and was one of top three finalist in a "people's choice" vote.

The Holiday Gift Drive is well underway! Gift collection will take place the first week of December at the Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus. I would like to thank Stockton Whitten for securing the facility at no cost to BFP. Many of our previous donors have once again stepped up to provide gifts and many new donors have come on board this year. Inquiries from new donors have been coming in every day.

The Adoption Celebration event was a wonderful success! Kudos to the BFP, Family Allies and IMPOWER Adoption Team who worked tirelessly to make it happen! The BFP Employee Appreciation week has been scheduled for the second week of December. The Council on Accreditation Peer Reviewers will be on site 12/3, 12/4 and 12/5.

The Florida Coalition for Children (FCC) requested that BFP Client Relations Specialist, Silvia Perez, and a caregiver attend the Rally in Tally to testify to the Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs (CFEA) Committee Hearing on Kinship Care in Florida. The focus is systems and practical solutions that remove barriers for relative and non-relative caregivers. Silvia has been with BFP for the past five years, helping families navigate through the system of care and resolve issues that arise both during and after the dependency process; connecting them to available resources needed to maintain and strengthen their families. Carol Fowler adopted her granddaughter in October 2016 (who is now seven years old) and continues to reside with Carol and her husband Danny. This invite was precipitated by a conference call held in September with Senate CFEA Staff Carol Preston at which time an overview was provided of the supports in place for Relative and Non-Relatives. Individuals and teams were selected based upon the insight relayed between Coalition members and Carol's team over the past three months of FCC scheduled kinship calls that have exemplary practices in place.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Holmes
Executive Director