



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



October 18, 2018

Valerie Holmes, PhD(c), Executive Director

Narrative Report

In honor of National Adoption month in November, adoptive parents Mr. and Mrs. Bourne are scheduled to attend the BFP Board meeting. This year's mass Adoption Celebration will be held on November 16 at 11:00am. There are twenty one children and thirteen families scheduled for finalization. BFP is on an upward trajectory to exceed the adoption target again this year (with 50 adoptions currently and 121 expected before the end of the third quarter). The agency goal is 99. The first quadrant of the DCF adoption incentives has been met: children adopted within 5 months; the agency target was 20 and current performance is 24. Progress is underway towards the other two quadrants: children who have been available 24 months or longer and youth 14-17 years old. The agency will receive 54K per quadrant for potential total earnings of 163k in adoption incentive funding for achieving 100% of the target in each quadrant.

Ashley Carraro was invited to attend at the upcoming 40th Anniversary Celebration for the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CCSP) as a Youth Thrive leader, partners and advisor. The 40th Anniversary Celebration will take place on October 23rd in Washington DC. The celebration will honor national leaders who will offer expertise in broadening understanding of evidence in designing, improving and evaluating complex social issues and in community development and philanthropy. Ashley also attended a meeting for the six national Youth Thrive pilot sites to assess changes in policy, work progress at the local level and to address areas of need. Each of the six sites provided a brief presentation of accomplishments. BFP focused specifically on the success of the youth leadership academy and plans underway to further integrate youth into policy and practice. CCSP is considering funding and contracting with a national organization to provide additional leadership development programs. BFP will be submitting a proposal for consideration as a pilot site.

The Children's Bureau will release additional guidance on the Title IV E Prevention Services on the requirements for the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in the late fall 2018. This will include guidance on requirements, claiming and maintenance of effort, and additional webinars that will focus on the prevention services provisions of FFPSA. FFPSA will also allow federal reimbursement for Kinship Navigation services if an evidenced based approach is implemented.

In preparation for the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) I have been reviewing other Kinship Care models. A conference call was held with the Children's Home Network CEO, Irene Rickus, to discuss their model that is in the process of credentialing as evidenced based through the California Evidenced Based Clearinghouse. The model was evaluated by Dr. Kerry Littlewood and involves many core components of BFP's current model: peer to peer support, triaging, placement stabilization, support groups and collaborative experts. Additional research conducted by the University of South Florida (through a Kinship Needs Survey) identified the core components of child care, financial support, medical care, educational assistance, counseling, support groups, legal assistance and information about programs and services as essential in providing robust support.

In addition, select BFP staff are attending the Child Welfare League of America Kinship Traditions of Caring and Collaborating Trauma-Informed Model of Practice Training. The two-day training provides child welfare agencies skills to support kinship families who are caring for their family members, and offer leadership strategies to support staff in their work with kinship families. BFP's GAP model includes a trauma-informed model and best practice strategies to help achieve child safety, well-being, and permanency outcomes in the best interests of kinship caregiving families. Review of practice curriculum that has been field-tested nationally identifies examples of major issues of concern that require collaboration with kinship caregivers (such as legal, health, mental health, child behavior, family relationships) focuses on competencies essential for kinship caregiver collaboration, (including the dynamics of attachment versus authority, demographic and cultural diversity, family engagement and community supports) and contains strategies that support the transfer of skills from training to practice, including advocacy.

The Foster Parent Advisory Committee is scheduled to review the annual Foster Parent Survey in advance of distribution. The committee will provide input and feedback on the value and relevancy on the questions in the previous survey and any new questions that may be indicated to further assess satisfaction and areas of needed improvement.

BFP has been actively recruiting a Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Provider to provide the training, therapeutic overlap and Medicaid billing for children who meet medical necessity criteria for these levels. A meeting has been scheduled with Mike DeBriezzi, CEO of Camelot Care, for November 7.

Finally, a proposal was submitted on the CARES model to the CWLA 2019 National Conference Planning Committee, Advancing Excellence in Practice and Policy: Meeting the Challenge of the Family First Prevention Services Act. The presentation titled, "CARES: Safely Diverting Entry into Foster Care through the Creation of a New Level of Care on the Front End of the Child Welfare Continuum, a 10 Year History of Positive Outcomes" was accepted for a 60-minute learning lab.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Executive Director