

Brevard Family Partnership Family of Agencies

DECEMBER 2018 CEO'S BOARD REPORT

As I reflect on my first month at the helm of the BFP Family of Agencies I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the warm welcome I received including an introductory meeting with the BFP Board Chair and with each of the executive leadership team members. Everyone has been extremely kind, patient and informative. The talent, intelligence and commitment were self-evident.

After setting up my office and circulating amongst the Melbourne workforce I was fortunate to wrap up my first week in celebration of our mass adoption of 21 children to their forever families. I joined Honorable Judge Charlie Crawford and Ms. Anna Baznik, IMPOWER's Chief Executive Officer to deliver an address to the event's participants representing prospective adoptive families and children, stakeholders and the greater Brevard community. We stood in unity recognizing the efforts of all those involved in getting these children connected to loving families. A message of how special adoptive parents in their selfless act of love resonated throughout the course of this special day.

Mr. Carlson and I had the privilege to meet with Commissioner Curt Smith as an introductory meeting and an opportunity to request his sponsorship for a proclamation supporting Brevard Family Partnership and its Family of Agencies as *the* child welfare organization of Brevard county. He indicated his strong affirmation and support of BFP and further engaged in dialogue regarding the cycle of abuse for which Mr. Carlson and I provided insights to the dynamics around family dysfunction, substance abuse and mental health issues that plague our communities.

I had the privilege to be interviewed by the local Brevard Business News who were interested in learning about my professional history in this industry. I shared my extensive background in child welfare and behavioral healthcare and took the opportunity to share my vision for Brevard's children and families, our organization, and the relationship I plan to further build across our community at large. I am always impressed about the thoughts and opinions of those who don't work within child welfare; and yet how passionate and genuinely interested they are in the safety and well-being of children and the challenges faced by vulnerable families. The article will be published within a few weeks!

Mr. Carlson and I met with Senator Debbie Mayfield at her ribbon cutting and, although brief, we had a delightful conversation for which she was appreciative of our organization's mission and our support of her. I offered the Senator and her staffers my desire to support their obligation to respond to their constituents and to do so with a sense of urgency, competency and accuracy.

In the middle of my first four weeks I had the pleasure to *break bread* with our staff at our Thanksgiving luncheon. I truly enjoy these more intimate moments with the team sharing our individual journeys and realizing how often our paths have crossed. Moments like these are not only necessary for organizations celebrate the holidays with their *work* families but it is equally as important to build and strengthen our working relationships.

I was formally introduced to the membership of the Florida Coalition for Children by CEO Kurt Kelly, whom I have known since his early days in the Florida legislature. The FCC membership represents professionals whom I have known and worked with over the past 30 years. Several of my peers have called me since; welcoming me in my new role as CEO and offering their support, for which I will definitely capitalize in the coming months and years. Typically, a new member is assigned a "buddy" to speed up the

learning curve on the history and direction of the coalition. Ms. Carol DeLoach with Devereux eagerly volunteered to serve in this capacity. I have known and worked with Ms. DeLoach since the inception of privatization.

I have received numerous phone calls from colleagues throughout the child welfare arena, including Mr. Zach Gibson, Chief Child Advocate, representing the Governor's office. Mr. Gibson and I have known each other for the past decade and spoke together on several occasions celebrating the Department and its contracted providers in a variety of venues. He was excited to hear of my appointment, and should he be retained in Tally, wants to "invest more time becoming familiar with our system of care and supporting any and all BFP initiatives."

I have met with each of the Executive Directors individual and collectively. They are an amazing group of seasoned professionals committed to doing their very best for those whom they serve and for the future of our Family of Agencies. I believe the time spent was both qualitative and, as always with me, quantitative. I am confident our collective future is bright, and they heard clearly that, among my many priorities, I wish to further develop them personally and professionally.

I continue to work with Dr. Nellius on becoming familiar with the long history of BFP and FOAs. Her background, organizational history, and diligence on projects are invaluable and greatly appreciated. I have concluded that carrying her torch and passion for our organization will be an honor and privilege as we share a common vision, language and thought process ... it is simply uncanny.

Last but certainly not least, I have been relentless on my communication with the Department and Children and Families with my primary focus being Mr. Bill D'Aiuto, Regional Managing Director. I have reiterated the exemplary performance delivered by our staff, our new leadership and focus, and our continued investment in building strong and resilient relationships internal to our Family of Agencies and external to our community stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted by,

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer