



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



February 28, 2019

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer

This was a very exciting month highlighting our team's participation in the Rally in Tally. Along with members of our executive leadership, we had foster parents and three Youth Thrive members join us while meeting with Senators Sovoie, Wright and Fine. We highlighted some of our programs, initiatives and the impact of IV-E and FFSPA. BFP's lobbyist joined us as we allowed our foster youth and foster parents take "front stage." I was also privileged to have spent quality time over dinner talking with our foster youth and the Youth Thrive coordinator and President of Smiles for Budgie, Angela Oliver-Burgess. I will be mentoring the youth who hold officer positions within Youth Thrive on Personal/Leadership development skills and public speaking. I was further privileged to have spent time, one-on-one with Senator Tommy Wright, who joined me in a deep thirty-minute dialogue on child abuse. Although unintentional, our discussion left him in tears. Afterwards he offered some photo opportunities and suggested we get together when he is back in town.

While in Tallahassee, I joined my colleagues across the state leading CBCs to unite and review a new platform for funding child welfare here in Florida. We agreed to move away from the historical "equity" formula but rather adopt the new "adequacy" formula, one predicated on quantifying the actual cost of managing a dependency case management agency that was equipped to address the needs of our children and workforce from entry to exit. We also spoke with the new Secretary of the Department of Children and Families who shared his vision of "continued partnership and sustaining a positive relationship with the CBCs.

I met with two Executive Pastors representing two progressive and rapidly growing churches one in Titusville and the other in Melbourne. They are equally passionate about supporting our mission and ready to partner in our recruitment for foster and adoptive parents and fundraising. Adding these two churches makes four churches in four weeks all of whom have a heart for our children and a commitment to helping us build capacity. The Grove ministries in Titusville has a goal of getting 50 families to become licensed foster homes in the coming year. Pastor Russell and I did an interview with local News on site at his facility. We spoke of our partnership, the cause for compassionate and committed foster families and share in a callout for communities to unite on behalf of vulnerable children and families throughout Brevard county.

Responding to an invitation of a newly formed Guardian Ad Litem workgroup, I met with 20 adults to discuss the needs of our foster youth aging out of the system. The next two hours were a perpetual flow of thoughts and ideas on how they can create community awareness and further recruit mentors willing to build long term supportive relationships, so our youth will better navigate their journey towards independence. I have invited them all to BFP in the next few weeks whereby I will be facilitating a strategic planning session and form subcommittees addressing the recruitment, training and the development of a support system for prospective mentors. They were fired up and I expressed much gratitude for their commitment to our kids particularly during this critical juncture towards independence.

I met with Theresa Grimison, CEO of Brevard's Community Foundation to discuss BFP's endowment to better understand ways in which we can stimulate more planned and/or legacy giving opportunities. She provided a wealth of information and an eagerness to strategize ways to attract donors throughout our generous county. In a nutshell, there are proven strategies, scripts and follow through action steps that yield not donations but longstanding relationships throughout the lives of living donors and ultimately legacy donations once they have passed. Theresa, like us, believes in our mission and specifically the future potential for foster children is a worthy cause and one that is second to none.

Lastly, I am so proud of our expanded leadership team whereby this past month we had come together to problem solve some systemic challenges well-known to our child welfare system. Although a work in progress, as it is often, we created tremendous synergy and shared ownership towards the resolve to these issues for which all parties accepted tasks required for a positive outcome to include the inclusion of stakeholders, the review of document agreements, further analysis of data and the return of the team to close the gap so that our foster children will be better served in spite of the resource limitations historical to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Scarpelli
Chief Executive Officer