



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



May 23, 2019

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer

During the month of April, I had the distinct privilege to co-present with my colleagues at the Child Welfare League of America's national conference in Washington D.C. on our High Fidelity CARES Replication Model to a *standing room only* audience of our child welfare peers across the US. It was a great moment for recognizing our organization, its best practices, dedicated staff and partner agencies. In that same week I was asked to read our Brevard County's Board of County Commissioner's Proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Awareness Month in downtown Melbourne. It was a proud moment to have stood by our staff from across our Family of Agencies in the presence of the greater community and stakeholders. During this event I also was able to rekindle my longstanding relationship with BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse) and planted a seed with them for a BFP and BACA "Ride for Child Abuse Awareness" ... a work in progress with our team at CARES, stay tuned!

April wrapped up with two signature events promoting our agency's mission first with the opportunity to have nearly thirty minutes on Florida Today in a joint interview by reporter Isadora Rangel with one of our dedicated foster parents, Jamie Russell, on the realities of fostering children within our system of care. This was truly a monumental effort to dispel the myths of foster care, foster parents and foster children while celebrating the personal joys our foster parents experience when they impact the lives of our county's most vulnerable children. Secondly, our BFP staff hosted the annual foster parent appreciation picnic at the Suntree United Methodist Church. On behalf of BFP and its Family of Agencies, I was able to thank the foster families that came out that day for opening their hearts and homes to our precious foster children.

This year's Child Abuse Prevention Task Force of Brevard was held at The Manor here in Melbourne allowing me the opportunity to personally thank all the agencies that partner with us in working with our families at risk and to further acknowledge our appreciation for their partnership and commitment in breaking the cycle of abuse by addressing addiction, mental illness, domestic violence and homelessness. Once again, our CARES team pulled off a memorable event that unites organizations and celebrates their successes.

I was asked to provide words of inspiration as I joined our Brevard Youth Thrive Advocacy Council members' Life Skills Training weekend for our foster teens who were in attendance to learn budgeting 101 and the importance taking on such learning opportunities on their individual "roads to independence." These venues are hallmarks for how our foster youth aging out of foster care impact those younger teens who are to follow in their footsteps.

Along with Valerie Holmes, I had my introductory meeting with newly appointed Dependency Court Judge Jennifer Taylor to make my acquaintance and share my background in child welfare. Although new to dependency court, Judge Taylor is eager to work with us and shares our desire to keep lines of communication open for the greater good of our efforts to diligently serve families in crisis while keeping our children safe and helping families ameliorate the very issues that resulted in judicial involvement.

I am happy to announce that we have been awarded the Community Based Care Integrated Health grant for the replication of the ResWrap (Residential Wraparound) model in addition to a Hillsborough county funded CARES Replication model both with Eckerd Connects Community Alternatives. I will be meeting with Chris Card, Rebecca Kapusta and their system of care's leadership team this week to discuss our program contributions within their revamped system of care. Dr. Nellius and I will take the lead in strategizing with the Eckerd's team the implementation of both models and the target populations to be served.

I will be in Fort Myers this week joining my CBC cohorts and the Florida Coalition for Children as we analyze, strategize and advocate for funding the future of Community Based Care. The Governor has clear expectations of our newly appointed Secretary Poppell for which he is expected to share with us. The coalition membership will further address *proposed* language changes in the standardized "Attachment A" within future contracts with the Department, their implications, our response and strategies moving forward. The prioritized agenda will be to gather consensus and subsequently prepare optional funding models for the Secretary that reflect a more accurate cost model necessary to adequately manage child welfare throughout the State of Florida.

Our search for a Chief Financial Officer continues. We began with sixty applicants and narrowed the selection down to three candidates for which a second round of interviews is to be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted by,
Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer