

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
June 25, 2015 BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Chair, Mr. Eric Smith, Vice Chair, Dr. Greg Howes, Treasurer, Mr. Mark Peterson, Ms. Kathleen Rich-New Ms. Brooke Goldfarb, Ms. Andrea Betting, and Ms. Christa Bailey

**Board Members Absent:** Ms. Paula Creed-Smith and Ms. Barbara Loftus

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Patricia Nellius, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Sr. Executive of Compliance, Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn, Board Liaison. Also in attendance were: Mr. Kurt Kelly, CEO FCC, Ms. Dixie Sansom, BFP Lobbyist, Ms. Amy Hammett, DCF, Ms. Anna Baznik, IMPOWER, Ms. Michelle Wiersma, CHS, Ms. Hilary Farnum, Ms. Ada Dieguez, Mr. Tracy Little, Ms. Patrice Grier, Ms. Amy Mosely, and Ashley Carraro.

Mr. Whitten opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the June 25, 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

**Motion:** Ms. Rich-New moved to approved to move Mr. Kelly up in the agenda. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Whitten then reminded members that if they had a conflict of interest to please complete the Conflict of Interest form (available at meeting) and provide it to Ms. Laurie Anna Blackburn. There were no conflicts reported.

Mr. Whitten then requested all to state their names for the record.

Mr. Whitten asked Dr. Nellius to introduce Mr. Kurt Kelly

Dr. Nellius welcomed Mr. Kurt Kelly, CEO Florida Coalition for Children and Families and said she is very pleased to have a strong partnership with him and his team and thanked him for attending the board meeting. Mr. Kelly thanked Dr. Nellius and the Board for the invitation. Mr. Kelly began by commenting on his last visit where the focus was looking to strengthen the FCC and its visibility with the legislators and working collaboratively with CBC CEOs to align the Department of Children and Families with the CBC model. Since then, the FCC has grown to include all 19 CBC members and approximately 78 provider members' state wide. He then provided historical information concerning the inadequate funding and lack of government support to fund for the implementation of the Safety Decision Making Methodology. He added that FCC and CBC's collaboratively developed and presented their legislative priorities requesting the financial support for the increased need of foster homes, programs and services to provide for the influx of children coming into care as the result of the implementation of the safety methodology.

Dixie Sansom arrived.

He then spoke highly of Secretary Mike Carroll saying he has many years of child welfare experience and that he has transformed the relationship between DCF and the CBC's to one that is supportive of the CBC model. Mr. Kelly was pleased to report that for the first time since privatization, this year the CBC's were included in the legislative budget request that DCF provided for inclusion in the Governor's budget. He then commended BFP for being one of the top agencies committed to moving children quickly through the system by reunifying children back into their homes or through adoptions.

He then said, next year, efforts will focus on major funding resources and continued efforts to inform the House, Senate and Governors' staff about the CBC model and what community based care actually does within the local systems of care. Mr. Kelly asked the board for two things: First, to support Dr. Nellius and Ms. Sansom by attending meetings with local delegates and communicate with them as much as possible advocating the child welfare system. Second: He asked for 100% board member participation at the Rally in Tally and during legislative sessions advocating for tangible resources for each CBC.

Mr. Kelly then spoke about the current initiatives: Address the Agencies for Persons with Disabilities (APD) issues and write it into policy, align legislators with the CBC Model, pursue a larger funding pool, and advocate against removal of residential group homes. Dr. Nellius added that there is discussion on the Federal Level about the IV-E waiver possibly no longer being renewed after 2019 and that she is working with Alliance for Children and Strong Families on the Federal Finance Reform. In closing, Mr. Kelly shared, from his perspective BFP is a highly regarded CBC with a strong influence and representation in Tallahassee. The board thanked Mr. Kelly for his update.

Dr. Nellius then referred the board to the new CBC Equity Allocation Formula spreadsheet and said under the new funding matrix, twenty per cent (20%) of the funding will be divided among all CBC's and eighty per cent (80%) of the core funding will be allocated to those agencies in the red. Dr. Nellius provided clarity on the term "Held Harmless" and the practice by DCF mandate: CBC's cannot use nonrecurring funds for recurring activity and how that practice affected the local system of care.

Mr. Whitten welcomed Ms. Sansom.

Ms. Sansom provided a status update on the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. \$1.3 million onetime special appropriations request and said it was included in the House Budget with full support from the budget and executive staff. She then said the request was vetoed by the Governor indicating the request duplicates \$29.1 million in increased funding for community based care lead agencies. Ms. Sansom then suggested based on the reason for the veto, the agency may want DCF to clarify whether the \$1.3 million is included in or apart from the core funding allocation. Dr. Nellius shared Secretary Carroll made it very clear there would be no additional asks by lead agencies other than what the FCC and DCF were collectively working on. Ms. Sansom suggested that DCF provided a clear and defined explanation concerning the \$1.3 million. There were discussions about the Eckerd special appropriations request, supported by BFP, which was also vetoed. Ms. Sansom then said she and Mr. Kelly have discussed developing a formula to cover funding for Diversion programs. Dr. Nellius thanked Ms. Sansom for all of her efforts working with legislators and getting the request into the House Budget. Discussions then took place surrounding the DJJ and Crossover Youth statewide local initiatives and the profile of staff who work with youth placed in group home and residential facilities.

Mr. Whitten then moved to address Staff recognitions.

Dr. Nellius recognized Mr. Tracy Little for his outstanding contribution to the organization. She then shared Mr. Little travels statewide holding 101 and 201 wraparound trainings, and he has teamed-up with Dr. Nellius and Ms. Holmes training the Institute certification program under NCFIE. She noted Mr. Little is also well known nationally as a family advocate, trainer and is a local family champion. She then asked Mr. Little to join her upfront as she announced he is the recipient of the CAPTF leader award presented to him at the annual awards ceremony. Pictures were taken displaying his award. Mr. Little thanked Dr. Nellius for all her support. The Board congratulated and applauded Mr. Little.

Ms. Holmes introduced Ms. Ada Dieguez as a former DCF supervisor, who joined BFP in 2005 as one of our Intake Specialists. Ms. Holmes commended her for her 10 years of hard work, dedication and commitment to the agency and for those she serves. Ms. Dieguez and her supervisor Ms. Ashley Carraro joined Ms. Holmes where she was presented with a 10 year recognition award and pictures were taken. The Board Congratulated and applauded Ms. Dieguez.

Ms. Amy Mosely was pleased to present Ms. Hilary Farnum with a 10 year service award. She shared that Ms. Farnum a former DCF case management supervisor and currently serves as BFP's Sr. Quality Assurance Coordinator. She then noted Ms. Farnum always goes above and beyond in all that she does; she is a great asset to the team. She also volunteers every year to coordinate fun games and activities for employee appreciation week. Dr. Nellius added that Ms. Farnum also serves as Chair of the leadership team. Pictures were taken; the Board applauded and congratulated Ms. Farnum. Mr. Whitten asked Ms. Farnum if she would like to say a few words. Ms. Farnum extended her gratitude and appreciation for the support she received from her supervisor and Dr. Nellius while pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW).

Mr. Whitten then requested a motion to approve the May 28, 2015 draft board meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Dr. Howes moved to approve the May 28, 2015 board meeting minutes. This was seconded by Ms. Bailey and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Consent Agenda:

Ms. Holmes asked if there were any questions concerning the data report. Ms. Bailey asked if The Number of Active Families Served by Brevard C.A.R.E.S reported at 1,417 and the Number of Active Children Served by Brevard C.A.R.E.S reported at 647 are accurate. Ms. Holmes stated the numbers are inverted and will be corrected.

#### CEO Board Report:

Dr. Nellius was pleased to report the CPA transition officially took place Monday, June 22, 2015. She then directed the board to the revised organizational chart and provided an overview of the new positions within the new Foster Home Licensing Division. She added, in addition BFP has hired a foster parent navigator who will work with foster parents to provide support in time of need, and effective July 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Response will be managed by Brevard Cares.

Dr. Nellius was pleased to announce Ms. Phebe Powell has been hired as the Executive Director of Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and is slated to begin on July 6, 2015. Ms. Powell comes with a wealth of knowledge of the Brevard child welfare system and has been involved since BFP assumed services in 2004. Ms. Powell is highly regarded as a community partner and child advocate and managed protective investigations for DCF. Since DCF PI's are the primary referral source, we anticipate she will have a positive impact on the growth, development and management of the C.A.R.E.S. program.

Dr. Nellius asked if there were any questions concerning the CPA transition. Mr. Smith asked for the percentage of employees who were cross hired and working in the same capacity. Ms. Holmes reported four licensing staff transitioned over from the previous child placement agency along with clinical staff who is working in different positions. Mr. Smith was pleased with the continuity and level of commitment shown by staff that transitioned over to BFP.

Dr. Nellius then spoke about the agency's yearlong initiative to build capacity for group care for male youth and the partnership forged with Friends of Children and Families to open a facility in Brevard County. She shared FOC purchased a home in Canaveral Groves on March 30, 2015 and some of the local residents are unhappy about the group home in their neighborhood and have been circulating negative statements about Friends of Children and Families to public officials, state agencies and to their Investors. Meetings were held with the community and the consensus is there is no resolution with the neighborhood residents short of closing the home. FOC board members and BFP Board members: Mr. Whitten, Dr. Howes, and Ms. Goldfarb met to evaluate the situation and develop a joint response. Subsequent to the meeting FOC's attorney sent a cease and desist letter to the neighbors. Dr. Howes added that course of action was decided upon because of the neighbors negative interactions with the

youth. In addition, a joint letter signed by FOC and BFP board chairs were sent out to local officials and county delegates providing some background on the situation.

Dr. Nellius shared she Dr. Howes, Ms. Goldfarb, and Ms. Ashley Carraro hosted the first Brevard Youth Collaborative breakfast meeting on June 15th with select a cross sector of Business and Community leaders whose focus is on career development with a commitment to helping young people become successful. She added the meeting went well and she sees a wonderful opportunity to advance youth in areas of business development.

#### Brevard C.A.R.E.S Report:

Ms. Holmes reported that an application for the Department of Children and Families Office of Homelessness Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention Grant was submitted on April 23, 2015 and includes \$78,750 in funding for families who are at risk of homelessness and are in need of assistance with securing permanent housing as well as providing case management. Approval is pending.

Ms. Holmes then shared and application has been submitted to Space Coast Health Funds in the amount of \$20,000 for behavioral management Services.

Ms. Holmes then said efforts continue with the Implementation of Medicaid billing for targeted case management in addition to working with the State wide group advocating for funding of wraparound services. CA.R.E.S Board member Dr. Kronman has a wealth of experience in Medicaid billing and will be working with C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director on the initiative.

#### NCFIE BOARD REPORT

Dr. Nellius shared nothing has changed since the June update on NCFIE except that a motion is needed for the board to approve that NCFIE budget.

Mr. Whitten moved to the Risk Management Presentation

Using a PowerPoint Presentation, Ms. Farnum provided a brief overview of the Risk Management Executive Summary for 2013-2014 sharing potential risks to the Agency, along with the data analysis reports.

#### Financial Report:

Ms. Simmons directed the board to the May Financial Statements and reported Case Management spiked due to an increase in the number of children coming into placement and out of home care, along with transitioning Child Placement in house. She then shared; Case Management continues to be under budget for the year. Out Of Home care continues to climb primarily due to the increase in the number of children coming into care in addition to funding for summer camp now that school is out. She then reported the adoption subsidy continues to ride above budget; however the subsidy was fully funded during May and June. The total expenditures for the year are over budget and directly attributed to the increase in children coming into care. She added that adjustments have been made to the next year budget to cover the increase in cost for services. Ms. Simmons then noted that Dr. Howes has asked for a change in reporting to include accumulated charts added with the current graphs. She then moved to the financials and reported on the major variances attributed to the purchase of laptops and costs associated with moving accounting back in house.

Ms. Simmons then provided an overview on each section of the BFP proposed budget and asked for a motion to approve. Questions were raised concerning the cost of moving child placement and MRT in

house. Ms. Simmons reported the cost to manage services in house is more and she will get the numbers together and send a report to the board.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ms. Simmons will provide the board with the financial costs associated with moving child placement and Mobile Response in-house.

Dr. Nellius noted a large percentage of funding was used to cover visitation expenses and in order to contain the costs and provide a better continuum of care under one provider; the agency has created a visitation contract for service.

Dr. Nellius then provided details for the process used to determine a child's placement matched to a Foster Home along with the payment rates extended to foster parents as a child placement is re-assessed.

Mr. Whitten asked for a motion.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved to approve the Brevard Family Partnership 2015-2016 budget. This was seconded by Mr. Smith and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Simmons then reviewed each section of the NCFIE budget and asked for a motion to approve.

**Motion:** Ms. Betting moved to approve the 2015-2016 NCFIE Budgets. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius noted that the C.A.R.E.S. budget will be presented in August 2015.

Strategic Plan Goal

**Goal 9:**

**ADOPTION – Find permanent homes for children in a timely manner**

**OBJECTIVE**

Identify adoptive families that can meet the specialized needs of the children currently in care

**STRATEGIES**

9c. Optimize use of Brevard CARES to support at-risk adoptive families

**MEASURES**

Percentage - 100% of target of 75 children adopted

**ACTION PLAN**

Monthly and quarterly adoption coordination meetings will occur to include case management, CARES post adoption, and IMPOWER adoption staff.

**STATUS**

Post Adoption Support Groups started on August 5, 2014.

Public Comments:

Ms. Sansom and Mr. Kelly extended their sentiments on the Veto for the special appropriations request and shared they will continue to work collaboratively with legislators and DCF.

Ms. Goldfarb provided an update on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, saying the emcees have been secured and Sheriff Ivey will be a celebrity Judge for the event.

Dr. Nellius extended her appreciation for all of the hard work Ms. Goldfarb has invested as the committee chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Anna Blackburn  
Board Liaison

Approved at the August 27, 2015 Board of Directors meeting