



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



March 23, 2023

Phil Scarpelli, President and Chief Executive Officer

- Prior to the current Florida Legislative Session, we traveled to Tallahassee with foster/adoptive parents, their children, and the representatives of our local Brevard Youth Leadership Council. Together we spoke privately with Senators Mayfield and Wright, House Representatives Sirois, Fine, Tramont and Altman. Our agenda was to first thank them for the past year's approval for the increase in Child Welfare funding that impacted our front line's base salary. We discussed several areas that need attention to include "youth voice and choice" and having the fostering community be seen as integral players in the life of the case.
- I was recently elected chairperson for our local community alliance, Together in Partnership, for which I am proud to lead the agenda and discussions with our community partner agencies, homeless coalition, department of education, Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Health, to name a few. We are looking to increase the membership and collaborative spirit to promote and leverage the resources throughout Brevard County in order to best serve our children and families in need.
- BFP is remains active in supporting both the One Voice Impact movement, representing youth aging out of foster care, and Positive Pathways, an initiative to maximize efforts in getting our youth interested and ready to pursue post-secondary education through our state college/university system through an entitled program that can pay for college degrees and advanced degrees until age 28. As the statewide Chair of the CBC CEO Council, I am working on promoting this to get a greater participation from our peer CBCs and further advance Florida's aging out foster youth as a national leader in their road to independence.
- We are excited about an opportunity to receive a grant to work collaboratively with our Managing Entity (behavioral health consortium), the Department of Children and Families and Aetna on a pilot program to address the acute needs of youth involved in human trafficking. Although a small number represented in our county, we strongly believe that number is under represented and that the threat of those who prey upon our vulnerable children and youth appears to be on the rise. This will take more resources, a tight and more intimate approach at wrapping services around these vulnerable children and youth in concert with a more strategic relationship with local law enforcement.
- Upcoming Community Events:
 - This coming Saturday is our annual Gala recognizing several of our outstanding foster families who has attained significant milestones in their years of service. We are also recognizing a variety of our community partner agencies whom without, we would not have achieved as much success with our children in out of home care. Both of our foster families and community stakeholders were unwavering of the contributions throughout COVID and during Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Define the meaning of partnership for which we express our gratitude. Tickets are still available to either sponsor or simply be a guest. See you there!

Respectfully,

Phil Scarpelli, President and CEO