



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



February 23, 2017

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

Narrative Report

On February 6, 2017 BFP submitted all the requested documentation to DCF for the impending onsite monitoring review. The entrance review meeting will occur on February 21st.

On February 7th we received verification of the special Legislative request for a C.A.R.E.S. pilot demonstration project. The proposed pilot location is Volusia/Flagler in partnership with our peer agency, Community Partnership for Children under the leadership of Mr. Mark Jones.

On Friday February 10th BFP submitted an application to the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities to participate in a competitive National Transformational Cohort, *"Using Change Leadership to Transform Child and Family Serving Organizations."* This cohort is appropriate for child and family-serving organizations that are looking to develop systems, strategies, and interventions focused on increasing family stability and permanency for children, as well as putting families and children on a pathway to well-being. The cohort will use the principles of change leadership to achieve the goals for family engagement and stability, permanency, and wellness.

Last year HB 657 was passed which designated the second week of February as "Foster Family Appreciation Week". On February 11th BFP hosted a Foster Parent Appreciation and Recognition event at First Baptist Church in Melbourne with 100 adults and 90 children in attendance. A special thanks to Valerie Holmes and LaChrista Jones and the many volunteers who helped make this a special event for our foster families.

The CEO received favorable feedback from our DCF Regional Managing Director following the State leadership's review of our mid-year Financial Viability Plan report. It was reported that Mr. Don Winstead indicated BFP's FVP and activities serves as an exemplary model for the state and is currently the only agency in the green.

The 4th Annual BYT Youth Café and Summit took place on February 15-16th. The rsvp list was at capacity 10 days prior to the event. There were over 50 youth in attendance at the Youth Café and over 200 attendees at the Summit. The event is always the highlight of the year when youth are afforded the opportunity to tell us what they need to be successful and the community meets to strategize the ways to respond to those needs. The speakers were inspirational and the community reinvigorated as a result.

Under the FCC the Providers have put together a Guiding Principle document that has been presented to the CBC CEO's for consideration and partnership in finding resolution. The document includes a series of business practices providers have collectively formulated. As a result there are several joint workgroups convened to explore each item in the document. The document includes the following:

- Providers should only be liable for acts/omissions of negligence or intentional acts and any disputes between the parties should be resolved through mediation.
- Providers should be able to mitigate risks associated with the type and number of children and families required to be served.
- Providers should be active participants in the development of the risk pool application and system of care review (and carry forward).
- Providers should be allowed to keep, ~~as retained earnings,~~ revenue in excess of expense to incentivize efficiency and ensure future financial viability.
- Providers should be included in discussions regarding service needs and resource allocation.
- Providers should be allowed to raise donor funds to support the system of care and publicize successes without restrictions.
- Providers should be able to negotiate administrative rates to support agency infrastructure.
- Providers should be permitted to utilize allocated funds to develop an organizational and program structure that achieves desired outcomes.

There is some statewide disparity regarding the intent of the document and outcome of the workgroups. There are some who report it is a principles document simply to foster better communication and collaboration and others who have expectations that the final product will provide weight and leverage in contract negotiations. It has been

my position that the document does not reflect guiding principles as guiding principles are typically overarching standards to which all agree such as being family centered, strength based, trauma informed and should be titled differently to align the expectations associated with the outcome of the workgroups.

On February 15th Valerie Holmes and I participated on a conference call with the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill to discuss the prospect of the NCFIE conducting the statewide Wraparound pilot training. The call was very promising with the potential to assist with the statewide implementation of High Fidelity Wraparound. Additionally, we were contacted by a national provider Liberty Resources in Texas who informed us that they have selected or model to include in the Texas Prevention and Diversion pilot RFP due on March 3, 2017.

The new NCFIE website is slated to be operational the week of February 20th in preparation for the launch of the C.A.R.E.S. EBP national replication outreach to occur the week of March 1st. The NCFIE has contracted with Growing Tree Solutions to retool and create the new site. We have also convened several conference calls with Root Cause and are awaiting a proposal from them to assist with development of a National Replication Entry Strategy and assistance with Philanthropic inquiries to obtain seed funding.

In follow up to the Board Retreat and Annual meeting BFP has conversed with Growing Tree and the 5 associated principals to inform them of the Board's position on the establishment of the new partnership and agency. They have agreed to form a second entity and allow BFP control. The valuation approach is yet to be determined as they were reticent to agree to a 50-50 share of revenue. The CEO and Growing Tree President are slated to meet on February 28th to explore proposed cost models.

The Legislative Session formally begins on March 6, 2017. However, funding models and budgets have been circulating. Based on the information we have been provided to date it appears BFP could lose another 500k in funding. In preparation for additional budget reductions the BFP executive team convened for a daylong workshop to assess capacity, gaps and needs and to ascertain if and how BFP could absorb additional reductions without making substantial changes to the system. In polling the community over the years their response has been to hold children and families harmless at all costs. However; with the increased number of children in care and the magnitude of reductions employed to date; few options to control costs remain.

The FCC plans to pursue 49 million dollars in new funding for community based care, however, with the Legislature seeking a 500 million dollar reduction in the health and human services budget with a 55 million dollar proposed reduction to CBC's it seems unlikely that there would be support for increased funding.

For BFP to incur another budget reduction will create a great hardship for employees particularly given the fact staff have seen increases in their contributions to healthcare, a reduction in their mileage and have not received merit increases for over 6 years. In order to retain the institutional knowledge, maintain stability and keep employees motivated to remain with BFP, members have received for review in advance of the meeting the proposed modifications to the merit policy HR2501 Total Compensation & Benefits and draft budget for the Board's consideration and approval to enable BFP to provide one time merit payments to employees. The new merit model is based on the length of tenure with the agency and affords those earning below \$32,000.00 to receive an additional one percent and participation is contingent on performance status. This proposed program does not apply to the CEO.

BFP has been approached by a select group of CBC's who have formed an insurance holding company to explore our interest in becoming a partner. The topic has been presented to the Board RM subcommittee for consideration, guidance and direction.

To date I have reviewed 188 policies in preparation for COA and have 32 remaining along with narratives and C.A.R.E.S. policies.

We have received word that Judge McKibben will be replaced by Judge Crawford who will be returning to the Dependency Court in July.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius
Chief Executive Officer