



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



September 28, 2017

Patricia Nellius-Guthrie, CEO

Narrative Report

I would like to begin by sharing the exemplary job BFP, CARES and Family Allies personnel accomplished in executing our Hurricane Emergency Operations protocol. Staff went above and beyond to locate all children and families and the Extended Foster Care young adults to provide them with evacuation and shelter information and obtain their evacuation plans as well as support our homeless families. I would also like to thank our foster families and many providers and partners who provided us with the required documentation and ensured the care and protection of the children in their care. As always DCF provided stellar leadership and support as we employed our disaster planning process. I would also like to commend Jim Carlson and thank Artemis for ensuring our IT system was protected and operational and in conducting post hurricane site assessment activities. We received many notes and calls of care and concern from our friends and partners nationwide.

I am pleased to report Ms. Robin Whiting; BFP foster/adoptive parent was recognized at the Space Coast Public Service Awards Hall of Fame Ceremony on September 23, 2017 at King Center for the Performing Arts. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the value and virtue of the highest standards of public service to our community, highlight contributions and devotion, recognize sacrifice and efforts, while encouraging future generations of community service. Ms. Whiting won the **Making a Difference Award** that recognizes individuals or groups who have, through continued acts, made significant contributions to improving the quality of life for citizens of Brevard County. Ms. Whiting is a remarkable human being and foster/adoptive parent with a big heart, whose public service career helped her find the children she loves so much. Ms. Whiting's long service record started when she became Brevard County's first female firefighter. Throughout her career, she has been an EMT and a NICU nurse. Ms. Whiting has adopted 5 children and fostered more than 30 children.

Additionally, staff has worked diligently to prepare for our COA site visit. I would like to commend Debbie Davidson Cook for her leadership as the COA POC for CARES and BFP and Laurie Anna, Rose and Debbie Dorfman for the tremendous administrative support provided throughout the preparations. Due to the impact of the hurricane on our facilities and staff COA has graciously agreed to postpone our site visit. The new date is December 3-5, 2017 for BFP and we are still awaiting a date for CARES.

BFP has received another Public Records Request from IMPOWER as well as a demand letter from their Attorney. Both documents have been provided to members for review. Patrice and I have been working with external legal counsel to prepare a response. The response to the demand letter has been provided to members for review. In addition, BFP has not received the \$51,745.00 repayment from IMPOWER. Debbie Davidson Cook received a letter on August 25, 2017 from IMPOWER stating they are in the process of performing a similar audit of its receipts and expenditures and once they have completed their review IMPOWER will respond to the two letters dated June 30, 2017 and August 7, 2017.

Prior to the Dependency Court Summit (DCS), I attended a meeting with the DCF Secretary and the FCC Membership. During this meeting preliminary plans for post IVE Waiver environment were discussed along with the replacement of SACWSIS. For those who are not familiar with the details surrounding the Federal IVE Waiver, the Federal Government will no longer be renewing or approving IVE Waivers. This will result in being reverted back to an archaic practice of ensuring the drawdown of IVE funding which is a very cumbersome process. Additionally, it is important to note that if there is not a suitable alternative option proposed and accepted by Congress; the loss of the waiver will adversely impact the statewide SOC. This will specifically impact front end prevention and diversion programs and funding. It will also require an increase in case management staff due to the amount of time required to conduct eligibility activities and BFP will need to increase its Rev Max team. A challenge that will need to be addressed is the lack of IVE eligibility expertise remaining in the state since we have operated in a IVE Waiver environment for 10 years. BFP has begun positioning itself to expand its capacity by sending staff to a IVE training and hiring a second staff position that is being crossed trained in eligibility activities. This will be closely monitored and planned for during the impending transition period.

The FCC-CBC- Provider Council met during the DCS to discuss the Provider White Paper and next steps. The Providers agreed to allow the CBC's to incorporate proposed language into their document for consideration. The 2 documents have been provided to subcommittee members. The group agreed to bring the 2 Versions of the

White paper before the FCC Board in September. The intent is for the FCC Board to vote on its position pertaining to the Guiding Principles document and the 35% statutory interpretation.

I am pleased to report that Kevin Maloney was the recipient of the Child Welfare Excellence Award at the DCF Dependency Court Summit for his service and commitment to improving the lives of children and families while serving at Kids Central. Congratulations Kevin!

The Financial Viability Plan was submitted to DCF and forwarded to the Office of Child Welfare in Tallahassee. Once approved, a copy will be provided to members.

BFP was informed on Sept 13, 2017 the Space Coast Behavioral Health Foundation is assuming the Family Counseling Center as an asset purchase acquisition. The FCC will be called the Lifetime Counseling Center; this change will take place on October 2.

As this is my final Board meeting as the CEO of BFP prior to my retirement, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the opportunity I have had to serve the Family of Agencies over the past 13.5 years. I am fully confident of the exemplary leadership BFP has to lead and guide the organization into a new era of impact with Jim Carlson serving as Interim CEO, Valerie Holmes as the newly appointed Executive Director of BFP, Bill Bucher as the Executive Director of Family Allies and Phebe Powell as the Executive Director of Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

Coming to Brevard to work alongside each of you and our former BFP Board and community members to design a System of Care to meet the unique needs of Brevard's vulnerable children and their families has been the highlight of both my personal and professional life. It's hard to believe the time has passed so quickly. We have experienced great success and we have weathered many storms (literally); and through it all I am proud to say that our chief priority has always been our vision and mission of *"Protecting Children, Strengthening Families and Changing Lives."*

I arrived here in May of 2004 to lead the charge to spearhead Brevard's child welfare system in a 6 month timeframe. Now here we are over a decade later operating a full continuum of child welfare services and a Family of Agencies including Brevard C.A.R.E.S., a nationally recognized Evidence Based Practice program; the National Center for Innovation and Excellence; and our newest enterprise Family Allies, Inc.

Of all we have achieved together our greatest accomplishment is the 35,000 children's lives that have been changed because our community cared enough to ensure Brevard's children and families were a chief priority when privatization became a reality in Florida.

It has truly been a privilege to serve as the CEO of BFP. I cannot begin to express the respect and admiration I have for each of you for giving of yourselves to ensure the care and protection of Brevard's vulnerable children and their families.

Thank you for your partnership, support, time, treasure and talent in providing governance and leadership of BFP to ensure the delivery of state of the art gold seal services to those entrusted to our care.

It has been an honor to work for such an exemplary organization alongside a stellar team of consummate child welfare professionals, service providers, Board members, donors and volunteers. I will take many fond memories with me as I step down from my role as CEO to begin my retirement journey.

My heart will always be with BFP and the Family Of Agencies (FOA's) and the extraordinary team of child welfare professionals who labor every day to make a lasting and meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families, one child, one family, one day at a time.

I look forward to the opportunity to remain involved with BFP and the FOA's post-retirement and thank you for the opportunity to serve. I will be taking some much need time off as I begin my retirement and look forward to serving as a consultant-advisor to the Board beginning in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Nellius
Chief Executive Officer