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# Brevard Family Partnership

*A Community Based Care Agency*

## Board Report



January 18, 2018

Valerie Holmes, Executive Director

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## **Narrative Report**

I am pleased to report that the COA President provided notification that BFP's reaccreditation was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR) process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards. A press release highlighted this wonderful accomplishment shared with staff and all stakeholders. Within the next couple weeks, BFP expects to receive the formal reaccreditation notification letter, Final Accreditation Report, and an accreditation plaque.

The CE Broker application process to allow BFP to administer Continuing Education Units (CEU's) has been finalized. Upon approval, this will permit BFP to issue credits from the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling to licensed practitioners.

Foster Parent Appreciation week is February 12-17, marked by a time to celebrate and honor our dedicated Foster Parents. This year we have Foster Parent give ways and prizes scheduled for each day of the week through fun interactive games, "Dinner on the Go" and a Foster Parent Masquerade Dinner (scheduled for Saturday February 17 at the Cocoa Country Club from 6:00 to 8:00pm). These events are sponsored by the Pointe Church of Cocoa Beach. Foster Parents are also being recognized for their years of service. BFP Director of Licensing, LaChrista Jones, will be attending the Annual Quality Parenting Initiative Conference in New Orleans along with Foster Parents Mr. and Mrs. Desmond whom will also participate in two panels about co-parenting and mentoring of biological parents. The family will be featured as guest speakers at the February Board meeting.

I am proud to share this year's recipients of the Leading Light and Peer Recognition Award (awarded in December); Patrice Grier, BFP Chief Risk and Compliance Director/Staff Attorney and Christine Williams Kelly, Intake and Placement Supervisor; both of whom will be present at next month's Board meeting to be recognized. The Leading Light award is for an employee that exemplifies the BFP mission, values and principles of practice while performing their duties in an exemplary and collaborative manner. The Peer Recognition Award is given to an employee that demonstrates innovation and creativity in their work while exuding a positive attitude and going above and beyond. Congratulations to this year's award winners!

One of Brevard's youth has been selected to participate in the Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA), a mentorship program for youth involved in the child welfare system. This young lady is also an active member of the Brevard Youth Leadership Academy where she serves as the Treasurer. The mission of the FYLA is to inspire young leaders through building healthy relationships, exploring leadership development, and actively engaging within their communities. FYLA was established in December 2007 under the direction of Florida's Department of Children and Families' Child Welfare Leadership Program (CWLP) and Connected by 25 (Cby25). The Florida Coalition for Children is also re invigorating the Florida Youth Shine (FYS) initiative; a statewide youth driven, peer led organization that empowers current and former foster youth to become advocates for all youth in care. FYS has become Florida's leading youth advocacy organization comprised of current and former foster youth who participate in public policy and advocacy to improve child protection and foster care services on both the state and local level. It is expected that the seven youth that will graduate from the Brevard Youth Leadership Academy in March will participate as part of FYS. The statewide FYS roll out will occur in July of 2018.

BFP received the preliminary and tentative report of the findings from the assurance audit on the compliance with federal sub recipient monitoring requirements from a review conducted in September 2017. (The full report from the Office of Inspector General Internal Audit was provided on the portal). The objective of this audit was to determine whether CBC's have established policies and procedures to ensure compliance with sub recipient monitoring requirements for pass through entities under the Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. BFP received a recommendation to update the operating procedure CG 301, Contract Monitoring, to include a reference to the Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200).

January 8 marked the first week of the 2018 Florida legislative session. While there are 25 priority 2018 Florida Coalition for Children direct impact bills out (the full report was placed on the portal) some key legislation to watch are two proposed bills that contain language to support issues related to the Path Forward and Title IV-E waiver funding: SB590 and SB1514. SB590, a general bill sponsored by Children, Family and Elderly Affairs will require the Department of Children and Families, in collaboration with sheriffs' offices that conduct child protective investigations and community-based care lead agencies, to develop a statewide family-finding program; requiring the court to request that parents' consent to providing access to additional records and requires the department to provide financial assistance to kinship caregivers who meet certain requirements. SB514, sponsored by Garcia, will require the Department of Children and Families to establish an exemption process for household members who have disabilities from being fingerprinted before a child is placed in the home and requires the department to take all the necessary steps to provide financial assistance provided to nonrelative caregivers under certain circumstances.

Children's Week will take place in Tallahassee 1/21 through 1/23 and is inclusive of various events and advocacy opportunities throughout the week.

Remarkably, BFP will reach our annual target of 77 adoption finalizations by the end of January 2018. To date, we have completed 78 finalizations and another 18 are projected to finalize in January. BFP is scheduled for the annual Child Placing Agency License audit 1/29-2/2. Annual monitoring from the DCF Contract Oversight Unit has been scheduled for the first week of February and will consist of a desk review.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Holmes  
Executive Director