



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



August 16, 2018

Valerie Holmes, Executive Director

Narrative Report

The HUD Family Unification Grant was submitted successfully in partnership with Brevard County Housing Authority. If awarded, the grant will provide 100 new vouchers for child welfare involved families and extended foster care youth with a projected start date of October 24. BFP has also provided a letter of support for the HUD Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency Program grant. This grant would assist mutually served families of child welfare and public housing to increase self-sufficiency, economic independence and stability. The Memorandum of Understanding for the new partnership with Community of Hope has been finalized and several child welfare families have been referred for housing assistance.

The Brevard Youth Thrive Steering Committee and Leadership Council hosted a kick off meeting on August 1 to continue to advance the four key priorities identified by our youth, develop action steps and strategies. The four priorities established by the council include: 1) Increasing foster homes for teens and additional homes that can provide specialized care; 2) Promoting normalcy throughout the System Of Care in all settings where foster youth reside; 3) Increasing mentors and supportive adults and 4) Building capacity of youth to successfully transition to independence. This forum is expected to further advance the vision and mission of the council in promoting and implementing practices that are youth driven and focused. The responses from attendees at the 5th annual Trauma Informed Care/Positive Youth Development Summit were reviewed in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Several of the attendees committed to being working team members on these action steps. This group is comprised of youth representatives, community volunteers, providers and system of care partners. More than 30 attendees came together for the meeting, facilitated jointly by Sarah Greenblatt, CCSP consultant, and youth. Meetings will be held monthly and continue to focus on the implementation of strategies to address each of the prioritization areas. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14 at Keiser University.

Another new community leadership forum, Lift Up, a faith based initiative developed by Lisa Soloway, has been created to empower teens and young adults. This forum focuses on youth development skills and mindset to thrive emotionally, physically, social and spiritually. The specific skills include life and social skills, leadership, professionalism and financial responsibility.

For Fiscal Year 2018-2019, BFP submitted a new Financial Viability Plan developed in partnership with Brevard CARES and Family Allies. The plan provides action steps to maintain a stable financial foundation. The drivers of the new plan include action steps that serve to:

- Safely minimizing entries into out-of-home care;
- Safely maximizing the use of relative and non-relative caregiver placements;
- Safely minimizing the use and cost of group or residential placements and
- Safely minimizing a child's length of stay in care.

BFP is now part of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) Operations Advisory Board. The Operations Advisory Board provides guidance of CACB operations in accordance with FS Chapter 39 that includes the development and maintenance of a multi-disciplinary approach. A proposal has been submitted for the Child Welfare League of America upcoming conference. This conference will highlight successful strategies and practices that organizations and communities are using that can be leveraged to meet the challenges and opportunities of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). It will feature evidence-informed/evidence-based programs, services, and practices which result in improved outcomes for children, youth, and families. The conference will be held from April 9-13, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. The proposal submitted features C.A.R.E.S. as a viable intervention for the FFPSA prevents children from coming into care, for post adoption support and as a successful collaboration with the other child and family serving systems (such as juvenile justice and mental health).

The annual statewide Child Protection Summit will take place September 5-7 in Orlando. Judge Crawford will be presenting on trauma and work/life balance at the Brevard group break out session.

I submitted an application for the NCFIE to become an approved education and training provider through the Florida Certification Board (FCB) for the Wraparound Training Curriculum. FCB credentialing will advance NCFIE's mission of providing technical assistance, consultation and training to develop youth, strengthen families, and build strong communities. Once credentialing is complete, the curriculum would be available to professionals seeking hours towards certification in addiction, mental health, behavioral health, child welfare, and prevention.

Mike Carroll, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, announced his resignation effective September 6. DCF has not yet announced the interim assignment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Holmes PhD(c)
Executive Director