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# Brevard Family Partnership

*A Community Based Care Agency*

## Board Report



August 22, 2019

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer

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I had the privilege to have met privately with Florida's First Lady, Casey DeSantis, at our state's capitol. We spoke on several shared interests to include fostering, mental health and substance abuse with a particular focus on the opioid crisis. I shared with her BFP's partnership with Central Florida Cares Health System (our Managing Entity in drawing down new money that will allow us to integrate into our system of care key positions that will work families struggling with substances by mitigating risk factors with children while guiding our families towards recovery and sustainability. I shared with her some of the successful programs that BFP and its Family of Agencies provide to our county's most vulnerable children and families such as our High Fidelity Wraparound, highlighting that not only is it an evidenced best practice in the California EBP Clearinghouse but that we are helping other counties integrate this model from Volusia/ Flagler to Hillsborough counties. I left her with a strong message that BFP and its FOAs are here to serve as subject matter experts at her disposal as she leads *her* campaign during her husband's tenure as Governor.

Prior to meeting the First Lady I ran into Secretary Poppell in the atrium of the capitol where he approached me and asked about our involvement with the faith community. I proudly responded about the number of churches throughout Brevard county whom we have partnered promoting foster care and adoptions. He was pleased to hear that and pursued to share the Governor's vision to increase the engagement of the faith community and for the Department to champion such a campaign this coming year. I told the Secretary, count BFP in! He is sending me information about the Department's strategy for feedback and commitment.

August was also the first month by which our newly appointed DCF Regional Managing Director, Sharron Washington, facilitated her first region-wide meeting with the CEOs and executive leadership representing DCF, the Managing Entities, Community Based Care Organizations and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. She emphasized Secretary Poppell's vision and expectations. He is steering the Department in the direction of "innovation and bold decision-making" with great acuity to performance measures among his contracted partners. She highlighted the creation of an office of innovation lead by former RMD Bill D'Aiuto whom I have invited to visit our CARES program and desire to replicate across Florida emphasizing the Secretary's expectation to find best practices in child welfare and to expand them across the state.

I attended the Florida Coalition for Children's Annual Meeting in Orlando and participated in a variety of sessions where the focus of priority continues to be the financial definition of the adequate funding for dependency case management statewide. Kurt Kelly, President and CEO, reiterated the Secretary's agenda and our intentional alignment with his goals while leveraging the Coalition's ability to provide expertise to the Secretary's interest in "rethinking child welfare practices."

I have reinstated our Executive Leadership Provider Network and hosted our first meeting of 2019. In attendance were all the Executive Leaders of our stakeholder community representing a diversity of services to our children and families. It was an extremely effective meeting and good building block for our working relationships moving forward. We all acknowledged the

challenges faced with the pending Family First Prevention Services Act. The audience provided several systemic issues for discussion and suggestions for remediation. The result, BFP has a task list for improved communication with our provider agencies, efforts to improved information and data sharing across the provider network to include the potential integration and expanded use of our current Mindshare software. We received much positive feedback regarding the open atmosphere, the depth of discussion and the reception and support of BFP's leadership team. I will continue to facilitate this network meeting on a quarterly basis.

This week Catherine Wright and I attended the Community Foundation for Brevard's seminar focused on philanthropy. It was not only a wonderful networking opportunity to hear from other non-profit organizations, but it provided the seedlings for thought and planning that I would like to further engage our Board in our next strategic planning session around board composition, members roles, goal setting and a strategy to share our mission far and wide.

I have been meeting with our Interim Executive Director for Family Allies since she assumed the role July 11<sup>th</sup>. Katie Guemple has been doing a wonderful job through this transition. She and I, in fact, co-facilitated a professional development session for aspiring Mentors within the subpopulation of senior dependency case managers. Staff voiced much appreciation for the quality of time spent and content for the advancement of their professional development.

We have hired our new Chief Financial Officer who will begin August 26<sup>th</sup>. Donald Johnson comes with a long tenure in the area of financial management with the school board from out of state. He will be a wonderful addition to our leadership team and positive contributor to our workplace culture.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Scarpelli  
Chief Executive Officer