



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



August 15, 2019

Valerie Holmes, PhD(c), Executive Director

The Back to School Bash held on August 3 was a huge success! The First Baptist Church of Melbourne hosted the event. Other sponsors included the LYKE Association, Foster Florida, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Melbourne Fire Department, and Landon Fowler (Eagle Scout Project). A total of 140 children, 100 adults and 25 volunteers attended the event. The LYKE Association provided haircuts for thirty children. Special thanks to all the BFP and Family Allies volunteers for helping to make this event a success: Karen Davis, Monica Martin, Karen Beckham, April Coyle, Tracie Munzi, Kim Bledsoe, Heather Howlett, Jessica Ayala, Richard Register, Al Edmond, Keisha Clarke, and Jennifer Riimoczi.

The new Caregiver Support Unit attending to Level 1 Licensing for relative and fictive kin has started with a bang! BFP is leading the state performance in the percentage of the total relative and fictive kin that have opted into licensure at 25% of the total families served. The goal is to reach 40% by December. The Level 1 licensure option is part of the Path Forward Initiative in preparing for the Post Waiver environment. New Caregiver Information Sessions also started this month. The BFP Caregiver Support Specialist is leading the meeting with caregivers and providing information to empower families and to assist with navigation through the Dependency System. The sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at various locations throughout the community. The new Caregiver Orientations also began this month! Various training topics will be featured monthly in addition to sharing available resources and networking. The orientations are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Central Care Center, and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the South Care Center. Flyers have been distributed to relative and fictive kin caregivers.

BFP implemented a new Leadership Training Curriculum titled Strength Based Supervision. The curriculum will be offered quarterly to all new leaders in the BFP System of Care. This initiative is part of the recommendations from the mock COU process on leadership development.

A partnership has been formed with the Brevard County Housing Authority in the groundbreaking on its newest project, the Aurora Palms community. This new community includes 25 newly constructed two-bedroom affordable rental apartments that will provide affordable housing for families. The community will also reserve several housing units for young adults exiting foster care in Brevard County. There are a projected total of 25 new Youth Housing Vouchers available through HUD and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for youth exiting foster care. Information on eligibility and program requirements and targeting strategies is still being discussed. BFP is entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Brevard County Housing Authority.

The Annual Child Protection Summit is scheduled for September 4, 5 and 6 in Orlando. The BFP Circuit Break Out session will feature a panel consisting of representatives from the Brevard Youth Leadership Council, a former Youth Liaison who is now a Family Allies Case Manager, Youth Leaders, Independent Living Case Managers, and Foster Parents. Phil is the moderator for the Youth Panel. The new Judge, the Honorable Jennifer Taylor, will also present some opening statements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Holmes Ph.D.(c)
Executive Director