



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



February 21, 2019

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

BFP received notification that funds allocated for the Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) will be received through the Executive Office of the Governor during Quarter 3. This program is new and will be implemented on July 1. GAP will offer relative and non-relative caregivers the option to obtain licensure as a Level 1 Foster Home, child specific. The caregiver will receive a monthly board rate for each child in the home. An initial payment of \$78,674 will be received for the 4th quarter to fund new positions. According to DCF, BFP is projected to receive four times this amount for the new fiscal year: \$314,696. The new Caregiver Support Unit will provide will help support placement stabilization for all children placed in relative and non-relative care, through outreach, monthly support groups and trainings. Families that opt to obtain licensure will also be assigned a GAP Licensing Specialist. The unit will consist of three Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) Specialists, a GAP Supervisor, Clinical Support and Kinship Care Specialists. An additional Rev Max position will be added to the finance team.

Ernst and Young, DCF consultants, conducted a site visit at BFP on January 29. The purpose of this visit was to conduct IV-E case reviews as part of the Path Forward Initiative using the Children's Bureau Title IV-E Foster Care On-Site Review Instrument. These case reviews mimicked a federal review requiring that supporting IV-E documentation be made available to the consultants. The IV-E eligible case review was designed to help CBC's plan and prepare for the post waiver environment. The review also contributed toward federal monitoring activities as required by Attachment I. Additional guidance will be provided regarding the Federal Monitoring Report submission as to how to report on Foster Care case population. Adoption IV-E Eligible and Adoption TANF case reviews are completed ongoing.

I was notified by Phebe Powell at Children's Home Society that Hacienda Girls Ranch Group Home will close effective June 30. Presently, BFP has four youth placed in this home. The Independent Living Cottages that serve youth in Extended Foster Care will remain fully operational. Youth that do not achieve permanency by the closing date of the group home will be transitioned into family foster homes. As discussed previously, the Family First Prevention Services Act changes funding priorities within child welfare to direct more resources toward services that keep children out of foster care. This legislation reduces federal dollars for traditional group care and requires group homes to meet specific criteria for a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). The contracts team is in the process of conducting an analysis of capacity within the provider network to assess the current continuum of services of Evidenced Based Practices and assess gaps of where capacity building in indicated.

I am pleased to report that a Brevard Youth Leadership Council Member was asked to open the legislative breakfast at this year's Florida Coalition for Children Rally in Tally event. He spoke of his role on the leadership team. His presence provided statewide awareness and recognition of the positive youth initiatives in the BFP SOC. Youth Thrive continues to convene on a monthly basis, hosted by at Keiser College.

During the week of February 11, BFP celebrated Foster Parent Appreciation Week. This year's activities included a family movie night with a food truck (sponsored by Eau Gallie Baptist Church) , "drive through" dinner on the go, fun activities, prizes, and raffles throughout the week.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Holmes Ph.D.(c)
Executive Director