



Brevard Family Partnership

A Community Based Care Agency

Board Report



August 27, 2020

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer

- COVID-19 – The FOA’s leadership team continues to meet weekly to discuss in detail our ongoing assessment and plans for our staff’s return to the workplace. I will continue to monitor closely the guidance and actions provided by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Children and Families, the CDC and our local Courts. The number of incidents of positive COVID remains low throughout our workforce and children and families served. We are continuing to provide PPEs for both our agencies and the agencies that provide services and placements for our children in out of home care. Our “Return to the Office” work date continues to be suspended until further notice.
- DCF is providing COVID-19 testing kits to CBCs around the state – upon receipt we will be administrating monthly such test triaging those at risk since the supply will be limited. The tests and training are being provided and paid for by the Department of Children and Families.
- We submitted to the DCF’s Secretary our 3% - 6% Reduction Plan for 2020 – 2021 and 2021 – 2022. Our efforts were to minimize any impact of services to our children and families. Although a difficult task, we are proud of our commitment to hold both our families and provider agencies harmless from this exercise. Thanks to our stewardship of the PPP funds, we will be able to avoid furloughing or eliminating any staff positions.
- Jim Carlson and I recently met with Senator Debbie Mayfield to update her on the on-going challenges with COVID-19 and the need for her support and advocacy around funding for child welfare in light of the economic impact of COVID both on the Federal and State levels. Senator Mayfield and I agreed to connect with incoming President of the Senate Wilton Simpson, an adopted child himself, to gain his support and awareness of the work we do to promote healthy adoptions of the children within our system of care.
- We are having ongoing meetings with “Open Table” a nationally recognized model for working with at-risk children and families and further linking this engagement with that of our efforts to collaborate with our faith community. This model and our commitment to community engagement ties in wonderfully with the conversation I had with our State’s First Lady earlier this year. We both agreed that a more formal approach to connecting with local churches will better augment our system of care and further recognize the faith community as a partner.
- Our Brevard Virtual Summit was a huge success. We give much thanks to the participation of Representatives Spencer Roach and Patricia Williams, Attorney Candace Brower, Alan Abramowitz, the State Director of the GAL Program, Zachary Gibson, Chief Child Advocate with our Governor’s Office. Kelly Swartz moderated, and I had the privilege to be a member of our Q & A panel. Julie Boynton and several others ensured the virtual event we transmitted far and wide with high professional quality.
- Creative Network Innovations is the new information technology (IT) vendor after our team’s diligent review of several Request for Proposals (RFP). We wanted cutting edge technology, superior customer service, a cost-effective contract and finally a relationship predicated on working towards understanding the growing needs of our organization.

Key challenges moving forward

- To continue to protect our children, families and workforce from exposure to COVID-19 while closely monitoring and planning for the ongoing economic impact on our family of agencies. We will be relentlessly strategizing ways to endure through this unprecedented time without compromise to the quality of service to our children and families while maintaining the safety, health and well-being of our workforce.

Upcoming Community Events / Any requests of the Board Members

- Virtual Awards Celebration was Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7 p.m. recognizing our very own John Watson and Rayla James with Brevard’s Youth Leadership Council. A recording of this event remains on our Facebook page.
- Please continue to check out both our BFP Website and Facebook pages regarding news and events we have been proud to share with our stakeholders throughout Brevard county.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Scarpelli
Chief Executive Officer