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# Brevard Family Partnership

*A Community Based Care Agency*

## Board Report



October 22, 2020

Phil Scarpelli, Chief Executive Officer

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- COVID-19 – The FOA’s leadership team has gone to biweekly video conferencing which is aligned with DCF’s Secretary’s schedule for continuity of cascading information. We remain in our virtual work mode with an emphasis on clear messaging and regular communication efforts across programs. Our return to the workplace date remains indefinite. 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.
- Jim Carlson and I recently met with Senator Tom Wright and his legislative assistant Lindsey Swindle here at BFP, to update them on the on-going challenges with COVID-19 and the need for support and advocacy around funding for child welfare in light of the economic impact of COVID both on the Federal and State levels. Senator Wright was particularly interested in our foster children and supports us in the work we do to promote healthy adoptions of the children within our system of care.
- We are collaborating with the founder of the “Open Table Model,” Jon Katov, in a replication and implementation initiative targeting youth aging out of foster care and families exiting dependency through a partnership with our faith-based community. I have shared this commitment with Erik Dellenback, the Governor’s Faith-Based Ambassador and Zack Gibson, the Chief Child Advocate from the Governor’s office as it continues to be a focal point for our Governor and First Lady. My hope is to have the First Lady here in Brevard during the new year as she makes her “rounds” throughout Florida promoting the engagement of the faith-community in child welfare.
- We have partnered with the “Cross Fit” providers who wish to embrace our mission and fundraise with us as they created a “United Workout” movement throughout Brevard County to rally awareness for BFP. They donated over \$3,000, in a very short time and wish to contribute to our wellness plans for staff and youth in care.
- Valerie and I toured Nana’s House, a residential community for foster families serving children within our system of care. We are in a contract with a One More Child to oversee the recruitment and licensing of these homes. We were extremely impressed with the quality of homes, the contributions from the community at large and the like-mindedness of their organization’s emphasis on the quality and delivery of services to our children and youth in foster care. There are currently 5 additional homes in West Melbourne ready to be licensed and children placed.
- Glass House – Transitional housing in Melbourne for women in recovery. I had the opportunity to tour their 7 homes. Additionally, I was asked to provide Q & A for their residents regarding their children in care, answering concerns and providing encouragement.
- Ready for Life – I am supporting Pamela Bress, Executive Director in leading a program for youth aging out of foster care by establishing a new fast track GED program. BFP provided a donation to startup this program.
- I am strategizing with faculty at Barry University targeting four agenda items: to enhance student learning, provide educational opportunities for caregivers, promote youth advocacy, and advance educational opportunities for our staff.

#### Key challenges moving forward

- As a direct result of the economic impact of COVID, we received the green light from the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families that the Governor has accepted the CBC’s 3% cost reduction plan for this coming year. We have already budgeted for this exercise and have begun tightening our bootstraps through creating financial and operational efficiencies and spending reductions without compromise to our services to children and families.

#### Upcoming Community Events / Any requests of the Board Members

- Hometown News recognized and produced their stories of our very own President and Vice President John Watson and Rayla James with Brevard’s Youth Leadership Council. It focused on the youth advocating for foster care in Brevard County.
- Keep your eyes on Facebook Live “The Real Deal” – an event for foster parents to talk about fostering children. We want to create awareness of the need for foster families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Scarpelli  
Chief Executive Officer