



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Board Report April 2015**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

March 2015

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. I am pleased to share that Brevard C.A.R.E.S. staff members Jessica Miles (Prevention Program Manager) and Shenelle Robertson (Youth Liaison) will attend Children's Week in Tallahassee beginning April 12 through April 17, 2015. During this time, staff will have the opportunity to interface with legislators and participate in many celebratory children's activities such as the "hanging of the hands" (which entails thousands of paper cut-outs of children's hands decorated by children and their teachers). The hands are collected from child care centers and schools from across the state and are displayed throughout the Capitol Rotunda creating an amazing collection of children's art. The hands remain in the state Capitol as a reminder to legislators and advocates to promote the well-being and protection of children.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month, there are several local venues planned throughout the month of April:

- Reading of the Child Abuse Proclamation: April 2 at 12:00pm at Brevard County Courthouse
- Titusville Pinwheel Planting Ceremony: The Children's Center 10:30am and Indian River United Methodist Church April 3 at 11:15am
- 1st Annual Car Show at Premier Oaks Movie Theatre: April 5 at 10:00am, (proceeds benefit the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force)
- Palm Bay Pinwheel Planting Ceremony: Palm Bay Fire Department at 8:30am and Starbucks, Palm Bay Road at 9:00am
- Rockledge Pinwheel Planting Ceremony: Rockledge Fire Department at 3:00pm
- Neighborhood Canvas: April 14 at 9:30am starting in Titusville
- Annual Child Abuse Prevention Task Force Breakfast: Suntree Country Club April 30 at 8:30am

Members are encouraged to participate in any of the special activities. If you are interested in attending the Breakfast please rsvp with Osha.

For the neighbourhood canvas, over 300 resource packets will be distributed in partnership with our local network of child serving agencies to at risk families. In addition, pinwheel gardens throughout the community represent prevention efforts focusing on supporting families and public policies that prioritize the prevention of child abuse. Pinwheels are increasingly being used to help educate communities about the importance of supporting children and families and symbolically represent the bright future of all children served.

During the next 90 days the Interim Executive Director will be conducting an assessment of the program, identifying efficiencies, examining current systems and processes and making recommendations to streamline functions. This includes reviewing how data is gathered and reviewed for validation, conducting staff time studies, assessing organizational alignment and gaps and needs. Monthly she will report her findings to the Board.

At our last meeting members expressed interest in reviewing the Board Recruitment tools and policy. The materials have been placed on the Board portal for your review and will be discussed at the April Board meeting. Additionally, members expressed a desire to re-familiarize themselves with the Governance Policies. Each month beginning in April we will review a policy and a strategic plan goal.

Finally, the members will need to discuss their preferred approach for recruitment of a new Executive Director for C.A.R.E.S. Options will be presented to members for their guidance and direction. Members may wish to elect a search committee from the Board membership who will work with the CEO, Senior Executive, and Interim Executive Director to screen candidates who meet the posted criteria and bring recommendations back to the full Board for consideration. Members may opt to include select staff from C.A.R.E.S. in the 2nd interview process to obtain their perspectives. Members may prefer staff explore internal prospects that present with the competencies to be coached and mentored into the role. Finally, we can have discussion about the possibility of conducting a competitive search for external candidates and consider contracting with an Executive Search Firm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Davidson Cook
Interim Executive Director/Sr. Executive of Compliance