



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.  
Report February 2018**

**Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!**

## January 2018

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director participated on the initial Path Forward Prevention Diversion Work Group Conference Call. This group will be taking a more comprehensive look at the way the State of Florida is currently spending Title IV-E waiver funds and determine: a) which programs would continue to be supported with IV-E funding post waiver; b) for prevention and diversion programs which programs would need to be supported by state or community funding and what population of children do they serve; c) for programs not support what is the financial impact to the state if those programs are lost. Based on these findings the work group will develop an Executive Summary with recommendations to provide to the Florida Coalition for Children.

The C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director participated in the community workshop “Start the Conversation to Prevent Youth Suicide” hosted by the Youth Mental Health Task Force. The focus of the workshop was to mobilize community leaders in a collaborative approach to start the conversation about youth suicide in Brevard. Brevard County Public Schools reported there were seven Brevard students completed suicide last school year and many more made attempts. The workshop also highlighted Sources of strength, an upstream prevention program that is suicide based currently running in several north Brevard middle and high schools.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. leadership participated along with Brevard Family Partnership, in the Together in Partnership Strategic Planning Meeting to outline TIP’s priorities for 2018. The top three priorities identified for support the were 1) Increase Education and Awareness of the Opioid Epidemic and Resources for Treatment; 2) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment for Prenatal Women; 3)Increasing Resources for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention. These priorities align with those of C.A.R.E.S. strategic plan and C.A.R.E.S. will be active in working with community partners to address these priorities for the Brevard community.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director along with Board Member Dan Rodgers and Brevard Family Partnership Interim Chief Executive Officer attended Children’s Week in Tallahassee. During the visit the team met with Representative Goodson, Senator Hukill, Representative Plasencia, Representative Altman, and staff from the Governor’s office. The focus of our visit was the C.A.R.E.S. Replication Project for \$150,000 and education and awareness for the loss of the Title IV-E Waiver.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director and Open Table leadership hosted an exploratory and informational workshop in January with representatives from four congregations, Family Promise of Brevard and Love Inc. From this meeting we were able to identify a Faith Based Community Champion, Pastor Jarvis Wash with the Real Church. Pastor Wash and Open Table leadership will be hosting a faith based breakfast February 21<sup>st</sup> to share information about Open Table with more congregations. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a half day Open Table Conference to continue to engage the faith based community in the model. We currently have representatives from 5 congregations and 9 community organizations registered to attend.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. leadership participated along with Brevard Family Partnership, in the Together in Partnership Strategic Planning Meeting to outline TIP’s priorities for 2018. The top three priorities identified for support the were 1) Increase Education and Awareness of the Opioid Epidemic and Resources for Treatment; 2) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment for Prenatal Women; 3)Increasing Resources for Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention. These priorities align with those of C.A.R.E.S. strategic plan and C.A.R.E.S. will be active in working with community partners to address these priorities for the Brevard community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phebe Powell  
Executive Director