



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

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

September 2015

Jess Parrish Medical Foundation has awarded Brevard CARES with a \$4,958 grant for Cribs for Kids Program. These funds will be used to as match for the program.

The Department of Children and Families has issued a solicitation for the purpose of development, operation, expansion, and enhancement of community-based, prevention focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect and the removal of children from their homes. The program is to provide a service or implement a program that demonstrates an acceptable level of evidence-based or evidence-informed practice, promote at least one protective factor and place a strong emphasis on program accountability and evaluation. Expansion of the Brevard CARES Safety Management Services Team has been identified in Brevard Family Partnerships response to the Department of Children and Families Request for Proposal. The first grant informational call was held on September 30th.

Brevard CARES is exploring opportunities to support our Family and Youth Partners through enhanced training and networking opportunities. The first meeting was held on October 3rd with invited speaker Crystal Lilly. Crystal is a Family Advocate with Federation of Families of Central Florida. Federation of Families is a family support organization dedicated to supporting families, educating caregivers, reducing stigma within their community and advocating for children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges in Central Florida. It was determined that Brevard CARES would work with Federation of Families to create a quarterly Family Partner meeting and invite Family Partners, Family Advocates, and Youth Liaisons from Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Flagler counties for the purposes of sharing best practices and training opportunities.

Four CARES staff were selected to serve on the 2015-2016 Leadership Team, based on their contributions made to the agency and the leadership qualities they have demonstrated. The Leadership Team membership is by appointment with the selection conducted by the previous year's Leadership Team members. The purpose of the Leadership Team is to engage and expose the agencies immersing leaders to the more complex and challenging aspects of organizational management that they would not otherwise be typically privy to. It is the intent for the Leadership Team members to assist with enhancing communication across all levels and sites of the agencies in a meaningful way. It is also expected for this forum to help staff members enhance their skills, knowledge and talent in critical thinking, strategic planning, external affairs and executive decision making in order to provide opportunities for growth and professional development.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Phebe Powell
Executive Director