



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Board Report October 2016**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

September 2016

Three Brevard C.A.R.E.S. staff members and the Executive Director attended the 2016 Child Protection Summit in Orlando. The annual Summit is the largest child welfare event in Florida, over 3,000 child welfare professionals and related partners were in attendance. The three-day summit gives child welfare professionals the opportunity to learn from leading experts from around the country and fellow professionals to improve their skills in the protection of children and the strengthening of families.

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director was invited to participate in the Children's Movement Talks. The Children's Movement of Florida seeks to make Florida the best state in the nation for young children, and belief in that investment, especially in the early learning years, should be the forefront of state priorities. The Children's Movement specifically selected a small group of people who understand and care about the Brevard Community to discuss the local efforts to mobilize support for initiatives championed by the Children's Movement of Florida. By the year 2020 the Movement is seeking to: ensure that every child in Florida has access to health insurance, address the more than 50,000 children currently on the "waiting list" for subsidized child care, and expand the free Help me Grow parent resource program to all 67 counties in Florida.

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director met with the United Way Financial Education Representatives to explore opportunities for partnership to better serve C.A.R.E.S. families. United Way provides two different financial education courses at no charge to the community. One course is aimed towards teens and the other adults. Both courses focus on debt management, budgeting, managing credit, and general financial literacy. The courses are an hour to an hour and a half in length and are facilitated by a United Way volunteer or staff member. After seeking feedback from the Management team, it was determined that C.A.R.E.S. would explore hosting a monthly Financial Education Class for our families. The goal is to kick off classes in October.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S., joined other system of care partners to present an overview of the Brevard child welfare system and serve as an exhibitor at the Brevard Public School Professional Development Day –*Partners for Student Success*. Attendees included district wide guidance counselors, student service personnel, career research counselors, P.E. and Health teachers. The event provided an excellent opportunity to educate school personnel on the vast array of services that C.A.R.E.S. can provide from primary prevention programs, like Cribs for Kids, to crisis stabilization services, like Mobile Response Team.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and Brevard Family Partnership are gearing up for our Winter Wonderland scheduled for December 14th. Staff are working with their families that might need assistance providing gifts for their children this holiday to create wish list. These list will be provided to donors wanting to sponsor a child this season.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. participated in the Child Welfare Behavioral Health Self Study. System of care partners came together for two days to discuss where our strengths are and where we have room for improvement. The group will work to develop an action plan to ensure barriers identified are addressed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Executive Director