



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

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

September 2018

PROJECTS INITIATED:

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has been meeting with Central Florida Cares to expand Mobile Response Team services in Brevard County, as Brevard C.A.R.E.S. already operates a Mobile Response Team (MRT) they are contracting directly with C.A.R.E.S. and not going through procurement. Chief Operating Officer, Tracy Pellegrino, and Interim Executive Director, Heather Howlett, have been meeting with Central Florida C.A.R.E.S. to create a budget for MRT expansion which would add an additional Crisis responder, fund a portion of a supervisory position and allow for medical consultation. Follow up meetings are scheduled for the first week of October. This partnership would result in C.A.R.E.S. being able to serve additional populations such as independent living youth up to the age of 25.

For the past several months the management team has been working to make sure staff are building a positive team spirit. The C.A.R.E.S. Management team has hosted Fajita Friday, Tasty Tuesday and associated team building activities and fun games. The management team has begun planning holiday events. On October 16th, we are planning a United Way fundraiser and Pumpkin decorating event. On November 9th, we are planning a Thanksgiving Potluck and "Turkey" Raffle. On November 19th, we will be participated in the Family of Agencies Staff Day away competition. On December 13th, we will be having our Gift Drive pick-up day and Staff night out. On December 18th, we will be having a White Elephant gift exchange, Ugly Christmas sweater contest and pizza.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has obtained two of three requested quotes for cubicles to outfit the back room to accommodate the new Non Judicial unit. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. will be moving the current unit from Rio Mar to C.A.R.E.S., therefore the back room will be outfitted to hold at least 12 Diversion Care Coordinators and 2 Supervisors.

PROJECTS/WORK IN PROGRESS & STATUS

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Management team continues to collaborate with the FOA management team to re-design a Leadership program. Discussion was held regarding how the purpose and mission of this Leadership program will differ from the previous Leadership Team at BFP. The new proposed Leadership academy will be composed of an assigned mentor, group learning and group project.

C.A.R.E.S continues to build the capacity to support replication and Wraparound Fidelity efforts. C.A.R.E.S. has created a Workgroup to review opportunities for various benchmarks for the different programs in order to differentiate the Prevention program as the High Fidelity Wraparound program. C.A.R.E.S. has requested more routine updates from NCFIE representatives who are working at the replication site in Volusia County in order for the current team to have a deeper understanding of the overall replication project. Tracy Little, Brevard Family Partnership/Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Director of Wraparound Fidelity/Training, is scheduled to attend the C.A.R.E.S. all staff meeting in October to give

an overview. C.A.R.E.S. has reached out to have more frequent Wraparound booster trainings provided by NCFIE; Dr. Nellius is scheduled to provide the first Booster training on October 1st and then meet with the management team afterwards to further strategize how Brevard C.A.R.E.S. can collaborate with replication efforts. Prevention Program Manager, Jessica Miles, will be auditing the upcoming NCFIE Wraparound training in order to be able to assist in marketing efforts during pilot site visits.

STAFF RELATED MATTERS:

Kathryn Parker, Non Judicial in Home Services Supervisor was recognized at the Child Protection Summit for an Inspiration award. LaShica Kelly, Child and Family Services Specialist was honored with a Customer Service Award. Sandra Gotwalt received her Child Welfare Certification. Aisha Missick and LaShica Kelly were recognized at the BFP Board meeting for their contributions to the current Leadership team.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has completed hiring for the six Diversion Care Coordinators needed to staff the new Non Judicial Unit. Half of the unit are currently attending Pre-service training and will be taking their test on November 28th. The remainder of the newly hired Non Judicial staff has previously completed Pre- service training. They have been shadowing and are being assigned their initial protected case load. The identified 2nd supervisor for the new Non Judicial team is currently working on closing her cases in anticipation of transitioning to her new role in November. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. also completed interviews for a Family Advocate Specialist to support the Safety Management team who starts on October 1st. A Family Engagement Coordinator for the Safety Management team has been interviewed and selected but is still pending background check, upon successful completion she is expected to start in October. The Youth Liaison will start on October 1st to support the High Fidelity Prevention team. On September 11, 2018 C.A.R.E.S. hosted our first 6 hour orientation and covered topics from the mission of each agency to more granular details about how to turn in a time sheet and everything in between.

All C.A.R.E.S. employees have been receiving weekly emails outlining projects the management team is working on, updates in policies and procedures from DCF, sharing of resource information and inviting them to provide feedback on various efforts. Employees have responded positively to this ongoing communication by the Interim Executive Director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Howlett
Interim Executive Director