



Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

**Executive Director Report
November 10, 2021**

Kathryn Parker
Executive Director

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

Key accomplishment(s) this past month

- In collaboration with Central Florida Cares Health Systems, the Criminal Justice Reinvestment grant has been approved. This grant was initially applied for just prior to COVID -19 but was placed on hold. The funding will specifically fund a team that will work directly with the Melbourne Police Department to joint respond when mental health calls are received via 911. The Melbourne Police Department has committed to making sure they have an officer on every shift that is Crisis Intervention Trained and able to respond to these incidents from a trauma responsive perspective.
- Brevard CARES completed the Child Placing Agency License credentialing to help support the Conflict-of-Interest cases. Brevard CARES began the paperwork to complete the CPA on September 3, 2021. I am happy to report Brevard CARES was awarded the CPA License on 10/13/2021.
- Brevard CARES entered the Family of Agencies Spooktacular Pumpkin Carving Contest. Our Family Support Services Team, Prevention, came in as runner's up, and earned a pizza party for their team.
- I have been working with the Brevard Family Partnership board members to address gaps in our Continuum of Care related to housing issues. So far, the subcommittee for affordable housing has had presentation from Brevard County, 211 and the Brevard Housing Coalition. In our county right now, there is an influx of money but limited housing options. At this time, landlords can be more selective about who they choose to rent to which has made it difficult for our clients.

Key challenges moving forward

- Brevard CARES is starting to feel the impact for staffing issues. Hiring and retaining employees is a challenge based on the wages we can offer versus other industries. Brevard CARES has eight different positions open and a total of thirteen open positions. This is a historic number of open positions at one time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Parker

Executive Director