



Brevard C.A.R.E.S.

**Executive Director Report
October 27, 2022**

Rebecca Melick
Executive Director

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

Key accomplishment(s) this past month

- I am pleased to announce that Heather Gibb has accepted the Director of Prevention and Diversion position. Heather began her career with Brevard CARES in 2019 as the Safety Management Services Team Supervisor and was later promoted to Safety Services Senior Manager. She has been working in child welfare for over 8 years and has a wealth of knowledge when it comes to Safety Methodology. Most importantly, she is passionate and devoted to doing whatever it takes to keep children safe and families together.
- During the month of September, we did not have any of the children we are serving through our Prevention and Non-Judicial units come into care. Our team has been working diligently to do whatever it takes to keep families together and this outcome is a direct result of that.
- We had eight staff attend the Annual Child Protection Summit in Orlando in September. While at the Summit, our new Director of Prevention and Diversion, Heather Gibb, was able to give a presentation on our Family Navigation Support Team to provide additional information to our community partners.
- Thankfully, the staff at Brevard CARES and all of the families that we serve remained safe and sustained minor damage, if any, to their homes when Hurricane Ian passed through. Our staff worked diligently to ensure that all families were contacted before and immediately following the storm, to ensure they had everything that they needed and were safe. We are thankful everyone fared well. We are joining with our Family of Agencies in collecting supplies to be sent down to Southwest Florida to aid in their recovery efforts during this time.
- We had two staff graduate from pre-service class and begin taking cases in Non-Judicial/Family Navigation Support Team. They were a part of the first class that was done jointly with DCF. It was a great experience for everyone involved.

Key challenges moving forward

- We continue to make great progress on our new office space and hope to move in as soon as possible. We also continue to conduct interviews and onboard new staff. Our vacancies have significantly decreased over the past month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Melick

Executive Director