



ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2024

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board Members in Attendance:

- Mr. Dan Rodgers, Board Chair
- Ms. Christa Bailey, Board Co-Chair
- Ms. Paula Ferrell, Board Treasurer
- Ms. Brittany Bartusek, Board Member
- Ms. Tracy Newman, Board Member

Others in Attendance:

- Mr. Phil Scarpelli, FOA President and CEO
- Ms. Rebecca Melick, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director
- Mr. Don Johnson, Family of Agencies CFO
- Mrs. Taheerah Jones, Board Liaison

Dan Rodgers calls the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

Mr. Rodgers reminded members that if they had a real or perceived conflict of interest to please complete the Conflict-of-Interest form. None reported.

Consent Action Items

Mr. Rodgers asked the Board to make a motion to approve the agenda by consensus.

Motion: Ms. Newman moved to approve the agenda. This agenda is approved by consensus.

Ms. Rodgers asked the Board to make a motion to approve the amended minutes from the April Advisory Board meeting.

Motion: Ms. Ferrell moved to approve the meeting minutes from the April Advisory Board Meeting. The motion to approve the meeting minutes was approved by consensus.

*An error in the circuits necessitated editing, which has now been corrected.

Informational Items

Mr. Scarpelli reports that many members of the expanded leadership teams are working split weeks in the tri-county area and he believes they are handling the transition well. Since the last Advisory Board meeting, we have successfully completed the transition contract, and over 95% of the staff have transferred and continue to work with us.

Mr. Scarpelli highlights the stabilization of children in placement, noting that, as mentioned in the news and media, there were previously 36 youths sleeping in offices, and now there are none. The state's expectations have been met, and he is immensely proud of the transition team, including our
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own Rebecca Melick, who played an instrumental role in building partnerships across county lines.

Mr. Scarpelli also shared that he receives daily feedback from the former Embrace Family, expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by our team.

Mr. Scarpelli mentioned that we have successfully re-secured and renewed contracts with 95% of the provider agencies. However, there is still a need for capacity building in foster homes.

Mr. Scarpelli stated a team has been assembled to help rebrand and we solicited staff input for graphics, language, and other elements. This effort has resulted in the creation of Family Partnerships of Central Florida, which includes a new logo. The taglines will remain the same, and over time, you will see changes in our email signatures, website, and overall presence in Brevard County.

Mr. Rodgers introduces Ms. Melick to present the Executive Director Report.

Ms. Melick shared several members of our leadership team remain active in the transition team supporting our merger with Embrace Families. They regularly meet with them to build relationships and learn from one another. Additionally, they are collaborating with their diversion teams and helping to organize a Wraparound training session for them later this month.

Ms. Melick stated for the past few years, CARES handled dependency cases considered to be conflicts, typically involving situations where a Family Allies employee was the placement for a child in care. Now that Cares is no longer its own entity and has become a division of Family Partnerships of Central Florida, we will no longer manage these cases. Instead, they will be assigned to one of our out-of-county partners. The staff who worked on these cases have transitioned into other similar roles within the agency.

Ms. Melick also shared they are progressing with the expansion of the MRT Melbourne Police Department Team and have hired additional therapist within the last month. They now have three therapists and one vacancy remaining. Once this position is filled, the team will provide 24/7 coverage from Monday to Friday. The police department is excited about having additional coverage. They have grown accustomed to having someone embedded in the office to respond to calls. Sometimes, they hold off on certain issues until the morning when no one is available overnight. This expansion will help reduce the number of calls waiting for the morning, as there will now be someone available overnight.

Ms. Melick mentioned that the MRT managers continue to collaborate with police departments to increase their utilization of MRT. Last month, Tommy Shoriak conducted a successful training session for the Titusville Police Department, and they expect an increase in calls from officers as a result. Additionally, they conducted training with Brevard County Fire and Rescue and have covered almost all police departments in the area. The training sessions are going very well, and they are successfully building relationships. There are ongoing discussions about expanding these embedded models to other police departments throughout the county.

Ms. Melick announced the dates for the upcoming Community Baby Shower, scheduled for May 18, 2024. CARES will be present to distribute Pack 'n Plays and materials to the attending mothers.

Mr. Rodgers introduces Don Johnson to present the financial report.

Mr. Johnson explained that moving forward, Brevard CARES will undergo a change in its financial reporting structure. Instead of the usual standalone financial reports, their budgets and expenditures will now be integrated into BFP's budget individually. Consequently, they will no longer operate as a separate entity within our financial software. The February financials mark the final reported financial figures for CARES.

Mr. Johnson also stated that they are wrapping up the fiscal year in June, primarily focusing on constructing and formatting the budget to accommodate the tripled funding and growth initiatives.

Mr. Rodgers addressed the board, mentioning that the idea of reevaluating the continuation of the Brevard CARES Advisory Board and its monthly meetings has been raised. Considering the recent realignments and changes, there's a suggestion to integrate into a governance board of the Family Partnerships of Central Florida. Instead of making a unilateral decision, Mr. Rodgers expressed the desire to hear from everyone about their preferences for the future direction.

The Brevard CARES Advisory Board has deliberated on the matter and collectively concluded to take time for reflection before making a decision. They have decided to postpone their answer to a later date.

Mr. Rodgers asks if anyone wants to comment and then adjourns the meeting at 5:19 pm.

The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2024.

Member/Public Comment:

There was none.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Taheerah Jones
Board Liaison