



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.  
Report February 2019**

**Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!**

## February 2019

The Brevard CARES Prevention Team attended Wraparound training provided by the National Institute for Innovation and Excellence. In collaboration with the NCFIE, Brevard CARES will work specifically to strengthen the coaching of staff to ensure highest fidelity. The coach position was re-introduced to the team so that they will receive real time feedback. Dr Nellius will meet monthly with the Wraparound Coach, Prevention Manager, COO and ED.

The Mobile Crisis Response Team has been working to market the expanded team in the county. This has included attending community fairs at Eastern Florida State College and educating students about the importance of reaching out to speak to a counselor when they need it. The result of these efforts has showed a 34% increase in the amount of community referral to the team.

The monthly Post Adoption Support Group was hosted at a different location at Discover Life Church in Melbourne which resulted in a record number of attendees (23 children and 18 adults). The location seemed to be an easier location in the county for families to attend. A representative from Sunshine Health was present and provided information to the families about understanding overwhelming emotions.

Phil and I met with Discovery Life's Executive Pastor and CFO, Eric Austin, to discuss options for collaboration and to brainstorm ideas to expand connections to the faith community. Eric is one of the newest members of the CARES Board of Directors. He has generously offered the use of their building for future events.

Brevard CARES completed a proposal for a Housing Grant in collaboration with the Brevard Housing Coalition. Historically, Brevard CARES has managed these funds but over the past few years the available funding for this has decreased. Over fiscal year 2018-2019, Brevard CARES received approximately \$40,000 and were able to provide \$73,000 in match. For the coming year, Brevard CARES has requested funding in the amount of \$80,000 to support care coordination, rapid rehousing and homeless prevention in the county. If awarded, this funding will be renewable for three consecutive fiscal years.

An application to the Community Foundation of Brevard was completed to support additional funding for Cribs for Kids.

Brevard CARES is working with the evidence-based program Parenting with Love and Limits (P.L.L.) to expand the capacity from one team to two teams. P.L.L. has provided a revised contract proposal for the next 36 months that includes a significant reduction in licensing and training fees. It will also give us full access to their quasi-experimental study, which can help to expand revenue. By adding a second team, Brevard CARES reduces risk and increases R.O.I. The concentrated population will be relative and non-relative caregivers.

The week of February 18- 22, 2019 we celebrated our employees!!! The agency was divided into teams and had daily activities that required them to work together to complete for points. There was also a drawing for the employees to win a gift basket valued at \$25 or more for five lucky employees. The week culminated in a staff day away at The Backyard where the teams completed specific team building activities. It was a great week.

The agency still has openings for a Therapist for MRT, Diversion Care Coordinator for Non-Judicial and a Family Partner for the Prevention program.

We are still seeking a contract/collaboration with a Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and/or Medical Doctor to support the Mobile Response Team.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, CARES will be hosting our annual meeting and strategic planning for the coming year. We look forward to sharing our plan with you all next month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Pellegrino  
Executive Director