



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

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

## May 2018

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. has continued to participate in the countywide Community Connect project which establishes a no wrong door for service referrals for new parents. The project is being administered by the Health Start Coalition and is a collaborative effort between community agencies that serve the 0-5 years of age population. Healthy Start will screen all referrals received not just for Healthy Start eligibility but for service need eligibility and will serve as the referral source for other community agencies. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is promoting the Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep class through this project.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. leadership continues to work with the Department of Children and Families Child Protective Investigations (DCF CPI) Brevard leadership team to enhance communications between the agencies for the benefit of the families served. In May DCF CPI hosted a conditions of return meeting between DCF CPI Children's Legal Services (CLS), Family Allies and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. to discuss conditions of return for children placed in out of home care. The focus of the meeting was to discuss changes in the legislative requirements to include conditions of return when a child is removed from the home judicially.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. facilitated two safe sleep classes at the World's Largest Baby Shower. Over 50 individuals participated in the classes.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is working collaboratively with Brevard Public Schools, the Early Learning Coalition, Department of Children and Families and Family Allies to pursue a SAMHSA grant focused on increasing infant and early childhood mental health services. The grant application has a quick turnaround and is due the end of June. The grant will focus on increasing trauma informed care services and education for early childhood service agencies and parents as well as increased mental health services for identified youth in the Titusville area.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director and the Department of Children and Families Operations Manager met with Judge Earp. Judge Earp currently serves as the delinquency judge for Brevard County. Over the past several months an increase was noted by Brevard Family Partnership in the amount of youth being ordered into care from the delinquency court. The focus of the conversation was regarding what trends Judge Earp was observing which were resulting in him ordering youth into DCF custody. Judge Earp was very receptive to allowing DCF the discretion to work with the family and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. to find alternate solutions to foster care when a youth is ordered into state custody. As part of the meeting, information about the Parenting with Love and Limits program was also relayed to the Judge, who agreed to pass that information along to the State Attorney's Office and Public Defender as possible conditions of probation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phebe Powell  
Executive Director