



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

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

February 2018

The final federal spending bill approved by both houses of Congress and signed by the President in February incorporated the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). FFPSA will restructure how the federal government spends money on child welfare. FFPSA opens up the Title IV-E entitlement – traditionally reserved for foster care expenses – to help states pay for substance abuse, mental health and parenting skill programs aimed at intervening in more maltreatment cases without the use of foster care. FFPSA also limit federal spending on the use of congregate care settings for foster youth, with some notable and wide exceptions. FFPSA is one of the most important pieces of legislation in this domain in at least two decades.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. celebrated Staff Appreciation Week from February 12-16. Staff received daily affirming, and tasty, gifts from the management team in addition to participating in daily activities. We kicked off the week with our week long Social Media challenge, to see who could get the most likes, shares, and comments. We announced our Social Media Champion, LaShica Kelly/Child and Family Services Specialist, at our Super Hero Breakfast on Friday. Between Monday and Thursday, LaShica had collected 2140 likes, 23 shares, and 116 comments.

The Social Media Challenge had a dramatic impact on our Facebook page traffic. During the week of the challenge we experienced a 110% increase in our Page Likes, our Reach was up 83%, Post Engagement was up 62% and Page Followers were up 117%.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. participated as a vendor for the 2018 Brevard Public Schools Wellness Conference. The event was originally scheduled for September but had to be rescheduled due to the hurricane. The Wellness Conference provided the agency with the opportunity to share information about our service array with guidance counselors, resource teachers, physical education teachers and nurses from schools across the county.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. continue to serve as the Government Community Champion for Open Table implementation in Brevard County. Real Church, Faith Temple and Open Table leadership hosted an exploratory and informational prayer breakfast on February 21st with representatives from four congregations representing the central part of the county.

On February 24th, we hosted a half day Open Table Conference to continue to engage the faith based community in the model. We had representatives from 5 congregations and 9 community organizations registered to attend. The group was very engaged and excited about the opportunity to bring Open Table to our community. We will be following up this meeting by creating a Community Implementation Table and hosting a training webinar in March.

At the request of Brevard Family Partnership and Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Brevard County hosted a community meeting to discuss a potential grant opportunity regarding the Expansion and Sustainability of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances. As we attempt to meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve, it becomes clear that service providers and consumers need to reach consensus on a comprehensive, collaborative long-range plan for Brevard that addresses the mental health needs of the children in our County. This meeting was the first step in the application process and we will use it to determine the structure of our partnerships, roles, responsibilities, and funding needs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Executive Director