



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Board Report November 2017**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

September & October 2017

Hurricane Irma: Brevard County was impacted by Hurricane Irma during September. Staff implemented the updated disaster plan successfully. Overall, execution of the disaster plan was more successful than for Hurricane Matthew. Staff seemed better prepared and stress level seemed lower for Irma.

What Went Right: Thanks to updates in our disaster plan that were implemented following lessons learned from Hurricane Matthew: staff had better contact information for families: staff were making contacts with active caseloads (not a lot of cases pending closure); staff knew where families were post storm; the family disaster plan form helped to ensure staff had already had a discussion with family ahead of time and had collected additional contact information; good team work across programs to ensure contacts were completed.

What were the challenges for staff to resume operations: phone service down (no reception/poor reception), no power, and no school/daycare, building without power and phone service, building with water damage, staff with damage to home, gas shortages.

What were challenges for families: phone service down (no reception/poor reception), no power, no school/daycare kept them from returning to work, flooding, roof damage.

What can we do better: organize home visit contacts by geographic locations near where staff live, continue to focus on closing cases timely when they are not engaged, continue to stay on top of contact information.

Chief Executive Officer Retires: Dr. Nellius retired on September 30th after serving as the CEO of the Brevard Family Partnership Family of Agencies for the past 13 years. Under Dr. Nellius' leadership Brevard C.A.R.E.S. became a nationally recognized Evidence Based Practice program. We are grateful for her leadership in guiding us and laying the groundwork for our success going forward. Starting October 1st, Jim Carlson assumed the role of Interim CEO to manage the Family of Agencies.

Parenting with Love and Limits: Brevard C.A.R.E.S. continues to work in collaboration with Brevard Family Partnership and Parenting with Love and Limits to implement the Parenting with Love and Limits (PLL) here in Brevard. During the month of October, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. hired our first PLL Therapist who will be provided training and additional supervision by PLL. C.A.R.E.S. also identified a Care Coordinator to serve as the primary case manager for community children involved in the program. A community training/presentation will be held on November 14th.

Open Table: Brevard C.A.R.E.S. continues to explore the implementation of Open Table in Brevard County as a possible expansion of service for youth aging out of extended foster care who are at risk of becoming homeless. In October, I met with Jon Kotov/Open Table founder and George Cope/Vision Orlando to discuss strategies for implementation since we did not receive grant funding. They were very open to working with us to limit implementation cost and spread cost out over two fiscal years.

COA Update: Brevard C.A.R.E.S. continues preparations for our upcoming Council on Accreditation (COA) site visit. We have started coordinating with the Council on Accreditation Site Visit team to create a schedule for the upcoming site visit and are also coordinating with Brevard Family Partnership to ensure key leadership and staff are able to fully participate in both site visits. Our site visit has been pushed back to November 5-7th.

C.A.R.E.S. Replication: On October 24th, Brevard C.A.R.E.S. hosted the Volusia/Flagler Replication team. The purpose of the visit was to review the C.A.R.E.S. implementation framework and provide the Volusia/Flagler team an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. team.

Respectfully Submitted,
Phebe Powell
Executive Director