



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

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

August 2018

PROJECTS INITIATED:

Through attendance at the FOA Executive Director meetings with BFP and Family Allies staff, we were able to advocate for additional support for C.A.R.E.S. programs. We obtained approval for extra assistance from our Targeted Case Management provider for Parenting with Love and Limits case management while two of the Prevention Care Coordinators are on Maternity leave. In addition, we obtained approval for a Family Support Worker for the Non Judicial In Home Services (NJIHS) team who will be able to assist with drug screens, transportation to appointments and resource linkage.

Upon evaluating the option to move the NJIHS team to Family Allies supervision, it was determined that NJIHS should remain at C.A.R.E.S. This will allow for the continued partnership in transferring cases from the Safety Management team to NJIHS; and for all NJIHS families to continue receiving Wraparound services. Additionally, due to the increase in cases referred from DCF, it was decided that an additional unit was warranted. The additional unit will add six Diversion Care Coordinators and one NJIHS supervisor. The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. management team, along with Brevard Family Partnership Human Resources Department, is working diligently to complete interviews and bring selected candidates onboard in a timely manner in order to provide immediate assistance to the NJIHS team. The NJIHS Supervisor has been appointed and will start in November; seven candidates have been identified for the Diversion Care Coordinator position and will start in the weeks prior to training commencement on September 24th. In an effort to decrease caseloads, the C.A.R.E.S. team has been working hard to close cases; in the month of July, C.A.R.E.S. closed sixty cases.

As Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is adding a full new unit, we have been exploring additional space options, including a location in Titusville near the current DCF office and building out the back room at Brevard C.A.R.E.S. After considering staff feedback around the desire to be in one building, completing data analysis on the number of children system wide in North Brevard and reviewing the available space it has been determined that building out the back room of Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is the best option. We are in the process of obtaining quotes and cubicle layout design.

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Management team is collaborating with the FOA management team to re-design a Leadership program. Discussion was held regarding how the purpose and mission of this Leadership program will differ from the previous Leadership Team at BFP. The team decided to create a survey for staff to express their desired topics and outcomes to help lead the design of the program.

PROJECTS/WORK IN PROGRESS & STATUS

The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Interim Executive Director worked with the Brevard Homeless Coalition and Together in Partnership Affordable Housing subcommittee to gather data to demonstrate the need for Section 8 vouchers for Family Unification. Brevard County submitted a request to HUD for 100 vouchers to be utilized for both family unification and independent living.

The C.A.R.E.S. Clinical Program continues to explore Targeted Case Management certification for current staff. As a result, Meridian Associates will complete training onsite August 21st. C.A.R.E.S. has also arranged to have Nurturing Parenting training offered onsite August 28-30. These two areas could be potential revenue sources in the future.

On July 20, 2018, the National Center for Innovation and Excellence (NCFIE) nominated C.A.R.E.S. for consideration by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as a program that meets the program eligibility criteria to be included in a Clearinghouse of Evidence-Based Practices in Accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. C.A.R.E.S. Interim Executive Director, Heather Howlett, and Chief Operating Officer, Tracy Pellegrino, met with Dr. Nellius to discuss plans for C.A.R.E.S. supporting future replication efforts.

Brevard C.A.R.E.S. participated in completion of the Financial Viability plan with the Family of Agencies. Brevard C.A.R.E.S. goals for the upcoming year include decreasing removals from 96 to 86 in the NJIHS unit, from 25 to 20 in the Prevention unit and sustaining 93% of Safety Management families in home without removal.

STAFF RELATED MATTERS:

Heather Howlett is currently acting as Executive Director while the C.A.R.E.S. selection subcommittee completes interviews. The target start date for the new Executive Director is October 15, 2018. The subcommittee has set September 12 as the date for initial interviews with the candidates selected from the 46 applicants.

The Mobile Response Team Coordinator, Staci Faenza-Seward, has submitted her resignation effective August 31, 2018. The position has been posted and a potential candidate has been identified. Interviews have occurred for the vacant Youth Liaison position and final selection is expected by September.

A group of staff are due for Child Welfare certification in October. In addition, a group of staff are due for Wraparound certification in September.

All C.A.R.E.S. employees have been receiving weekly emails outlining projects the management team is working on, updates in policies and procedures from DCF, sharing of resource information and inviting them to provide feedback on various efforts. Employees have responded positively to this ongoing communication by the Interim Executive Director.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Howlett
Interim Executive Director