



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

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

March 2019

Brevard CARES received a response from the ranking committee regarding our Proposal for a Housing Grant in collaboration with the Brevard Housing Coalition. We were ranked 1 out of the 8 proposals accepted. We are in the process of providing additional requested information to the Housing Coalition with hopes that we will receive the full \$80,000 that we requested.

On March 8th, CARES hosted our annual meeting and strategic planning with our Board for the coming year. Two of our board members have volunteered to review our Board By-laws and determine necessary edits. When that process is complete, we will bring the suggested edits to BFP Board for review as well. The Board also agreed that there would be an emphasis on fundraising and the Board's involvement with various activities that support the families served by CARES. Additionally, they agreed that CARES should pursue the potential growth in Behavioral Health Services.

On March 12th, the Brevard County Commissioners voted to allow application for a System of Care Expansion and Sustainability Grant from SAMHSA. This will bring \$4 Million to Brevard County over the course of the next four years, with most of that funding going directly to Brevard CARES and the families we serve. I am currently in the process of completing that application.

Occasionally our Mobile Response Team (MRT) responds when there has been a death in the community. Recently, our MRT Coordinator Marilyn Ghiz had such a situation and, through the follow up process after the initial call, was able to have the family provide some of the child's personal items (blanket and dress) and had a stuffed bear made using these items as a keepsake gift to the family. Although we hope we don't have to do this again, we will provide these bears to any family experiencing a loss going forward. I will be bringing one of the bears to the board meeting to share with you. We will be requesting donations to support this process at the cost of \$10-\$30/bear, depending on size.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Pellegrino
Executive Director