



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.  
Board Report May 2015**

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

This year's Child Abuse Prevention Month was an amazing success! The Brevard C.A.R.E.S. team provided outreach to high risk areas through the distribution of prevention information, pinwheel plantings and Child Abuse Proclamation Ceremonies. In addition, the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force Banquet was well attended and featured an amazing panel of families (including former Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Youth Liaison, Paula Creed-Smith.) The opening speaker featured was Zachary Gibson from the Office of Adoption and Child Protection. Zachary Gibson is the Chief Child Advocate for the Governor who serves as the liaison with agencies, governments and the public on matters that relate to the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and child abuse prevention. Overall, the Office of Adoption and Child Protection is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of a strategic program and funding initiative that links the separate jurisdictional activities including the promotion of child abuse prevention.

Interviews for the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. Executive Director position occurred on April 30 with 2 final candidates; one internal and one external candidate who possesses a wealth of experience in the Brevard County SOC. The final candidate is scheduled to make a Power Point presentation to Board members on Wednesday May 20 at 3:00 pm. The presentation will consist of the candidate's skills and experiences as they correlate to the required technical competencies outlined on the job description. The candidate will include a plan outlining how they envision the first 30, 60 and 90 days of employment.

An application for the Department of Children and Families Office of Homelessness Rapid Rehousing and Homelessness Prevention Grant was submitted on April 23, 2015 and includes \$78, 750 in funding for families who are at risk of homelessness and are in need of assistance with securing permanent housing.

A reorganization of Brevard C.A.R.E.S. is underway that functionally realigns the agency into three Divisions: Community Services (consisting of Head Start, Homelessness Prevention, the new Safety Management Services Team, Post Adoption Support, Resource Coordination and new Mobile Response Team), the High Fidelity Wraparound Division: (consisting of the Prevention Care Coordinators and Family Partners) and the Child Welfare Division consisting of the Non Judicial In Home Services Care Coordinators. A Quality Assurance and Data Integrity Specialist position is also being added.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Holmes  
Senior Executive of Programs

