



**Brevard C.A.R.E.S.
Executive Director Report
August & September 2019**

Strengthening Families...Whatever It Takes!

Key accomplishment(s) this past month

- We celebrated with 5 staff who achieved Wraparound re-certification
- We held our inaugural leadership group called R.I.S.E (Reflect, Inspire, Search, Encourage) which we plan to host monthly for any and all staff that want to attend. Focusing on professional development to help us all be stronger leaders no matter the job descriptions we sign.
- COO, Kathryn Parker, CARES Director Rebecca Melick and SMST Supervisor, Heather Gibb initiated a joint meeting with DCF and discussed the importance of engaging families early in the investigation process and making appropriate referrals to Brevard C.A.R.E.S. On average it takes a Child Protective Investigator more than 45 days after the start of an investigation to make a referral, this reduces valuable engagement time.
- C.A.R.E.S. also implemented a new process using the staffing specialists, who are already in the Department of Children and Families service centers, to staff cases to ensure appropriate referral.

Key challenges moving forward

- After reviewing all caseloads, closing cases, etc. we determined that we are still averaging approximately 50 kids per care coordinator in our Prevention program. Ideally, we would like to be closer to 20 kids. State recommendations for the Safe but Very High-Risk children is an average 17 children per care coordinator. In August we received 57 new children to be served which is just over 11 new children per caseload. Average length of engagement is 4-6 months.
- We are looking for a Medical Doctor that accepts Medicaid HMOs to sign on to our Medicaid application to become a Behavioral Health Medicaid provider. This credential will help us to generate additional funding and offset expenses that we currently spend.

Upcoming Community Events / Any requests of the Board Members

- October 12 we will be celebrating with our staff 10 years of incorporation as Brevard C.A.R.E.S. The party will be held at Discover Life Church from 11-2.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Pellegrino
Executive Director