



## **Together in Partnership Steering Committee**

### **Meeting Report**

Monday November 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.  
Brevard County Government Center, Viera  
Commissioners Room Building C

**Members Present:** Lisa Bradley, Lisa Elam, Traci Klinkbeil, Mackenzie Quirarte, Patricia Seibert, Phil Scarpelli, Leigh McElroy, Patricia Sierra, Amber Padrick, Amanda Fox, Doug Reynolds, Cindy Dittmer

**At-Large Members Present:** Amber Carroll, Stanley Brizz, Jeanie Raciti, Chris McPherson, Abigail Jones, Verlese Pender

**Guests Present:** Erin Weidensaul, Michelle Hallman, Chana Speir, Lily Fredrickson, Laura McCarthy, Jeannine Doyle, Richard Acevedo, Lauren Brandon-Brown, Khandis Cline, Ruth Singer

**Staff:** Natasha Jones

**Call to Order/Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Phil Scarpelli at 9:36 a.m. Introductions were made by everyone present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve September 18, 2023, minutes were made by Amber Padrick and seconded by Dough Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Together in Partnership Reports:**

- 1. Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health Task Force/Healthy Start Coalition:** No report given.
- 2. Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) presented a video on Child hero. There is no meeting in December due to the holiday.
- 3. Brevard Prevention Coalition (BPC):** BPC had the Drug Enforcement Administration take back day the end of October. Brevard

had seven locations in Brevard County and collected 1,782 pounds of unused prescription medication. BPC have been rewarded the 5-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant. BPC started the Better Without It School Diversion Program. The program is for 8 weeks and they are working on an aftercare program. Mr. Brizz provided statistics for the program. They have selected a Program Manager and a Specialist.

- 4. Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC):** The homeless Memorial Day will be held on December 21, 2023, there will be three memorial services throughout the County. The memorial services will be in at the Daily Bread in Melbourne at 1:30pm, Matthew Hope in Cocoa at 3:00 p.m., and Sandpoint pavilion in Titusville at 5:00p.m. On December 12, 2023, three resolutions will be read in Titusville, Melbourne, and Cocoa. The point in time count will be held on January 25, 2024. No update on the challenge plus grant. The up-to-date information can be found on their Facebook page.
- 5. Brevard Family Partnership (BFP):** The National Center for Innovation and Excellence is having their National Wraparound Conference on June 19, 2024-June 21, 2024, in Cocoa Beach. BFP hosted a National Adoption Day event at the Space Coast Stadium. There were twelve children that were adopted by ten families.
- 6. Career Source:** There will be three separate trainings to teach agencies on how to use the crosswalk referral systems for 90 minutes. The trainings will be held on December 5, 2023, in Palm Bay at 9:00 a.m., December 6, 2023, in Rockledge at 9:00 a.m., and December 7, 2023, in Titusville at 2:00 p.m.
- 7. Domestic Violence Task Force:** No report given.
- 8. Regional Children’s Cabinet (5-Year Plan):** The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) launched a new innovative online reporting tool, as a component of their modernized technology solution. It’s a statewide hotline used for professional mandated reporters to report child and/or adults abuse through the Florida Abuse Hotline. DCF has submitted an invitation to negotiate community-based care agencies. The Child and Family Well-Being Council Meeting will be held on December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- 9. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):** Nothing new to report.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Comments:** Christina McPherson from Children’s Home Society is seeking holiday support for the students at Endeavour Elementary. The information can be found on their Linked In page Endeavour Elementary Community Partnership School.

Laura McCarthy was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the President of the United States for her volunteerism. The Brevard Recovery Fest was a huge success. They are giving away five \$1,000 client care grants for vendors or sponsors that participated in the Brevard Recovery Fest. The application is open and the deadline to apply is March 15, 2023. The next meeting will be held on January 9, 2023, at Circles of Care at 2:15 p.m. Save the date for the next Brevard Recovery Fest on September 14, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Wickham Park. They are continuing the Fentanyl Awareness Campaign efforts. Suzy Pereira from Blue Plaid Society will deliver free Narcan to any business in Brevard County. The National Mental Health Month event will be held on May 1, 2023.

Lily Fredrickson from Population Relief International shared the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard is hosting a chat and pack on December 31, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in West Melbourne.

Lauren Brandin-Brown gave a brief overview of her agency. Charlie Health is a virtual intensive outpatient program for individuals from ages 11-33.

Khandis Cline from Resource Center for Disability Solutions (RCDS) provides free transportation in the County. RCDS received additional funding to provide transportation to their current clients.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting will be **January 22, 2024, at 9:30 am**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, first floor Commission Chambers.