



Together in Partnership Steering Committee

Meeting Report

Monday May 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
Brevard County Government Center, Viera
Commissioners Room Building C

Members Present: Lisa Bradley, Lisa Elam, Jean Bandish, Phil Scarpelli, Omar Bohler, Jennifer Floyd, Rebecca Thibert, Richard Acevedo

At-Large Members Present: Terrell Melvin, Jeanie Raciti, Jessica Miles, Christina McPherson, Abigail Jones, Kathryn Parker, Verlese Pender

Guests Present: Lily Fredrickson, Elisabeth Bublitz, Vickie Walker, Michelle Hallman, Cindy Mitchell. Jeannine Doyle, John Ringleb, Deanne Dawkins, Ivette Collado, David Gillen, Jeremy Weiss, Laura McCarthy

Staff: Melissa Brandt, Cindy Short

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Phil Scarpelli at 9:37 a.m. Introductions were made by everyone present.

Approval of Minutes: Family Strengthening/ Infant Mental Health Task Force/March Minutes reflect The Florida Youth Survey will begin in November, but that was in January. Motion to approve March 25, 2024, minutes with that edit was made and seconded Motion passed unanimously.

Together in Partnership Reports:

1. Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health Task

Force/Healthy Start Coalition: There was a meeting held on May 13th, 2024. Increased resources for affordable housing. Brevard Public Schools reported that there are approximately 1500 students in transition. That is classified as any student who lives in car, hotel, the woods, etc. The Plan of Safe Care is meeting on a virtual basis every quarter. Between the hospitals, DCF team member, and many

community partners. That is going very well. school district is currently working on the 2024-2025 vaping campaign. United Way is not going to renew their contract with Healthy Families. A RFA went out from Healthy Families, and Healthy Start was awarded the contract, and July 01,2024 Healthy Families will be a part of the team and they are welcomed. In the back of the room there is an invitation to a meeting being held on June 26,2024, at 9:30 am for Child Safety Initiative. Brevard County is one of twenty counties in Florida that does not have a Safety Initiative Project. All safety initiatives such as bike and helmet, car seats, drugs and tobacco, these initiatives are not housed in one area to be reported on. A Safety Task Force is being formed to report on what is already being done. This is to invite everyone to come and share what they are doing. There is not a Statutory Requirement to report safety initiatives all together. Moving forward to pursue being able to identify where the gaps of service are within the community.

- 2. Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAPTF):** April was Child Abuse Prevention Month. There was a very robust month of pinwheel plantings and events. Jessica thanked everyone for participating and showing up for the children in Brevard. The month of April ended with a banquet to celebrate all the amazing work that was done. CAPTF participated in Plant Bingo, and they invite approximately 30 people and have a 50/50 raffle with Seaside Succulent. They raised \$1200.00 with those two events. Seaside Succulent picks a non-profit every month and holds this event to help raise funds. They are in Cocoa Village. Jessica explained CAPTF meets third Thursday each month. Great resources and she explained that it is a good way to learn about what is going on in the community.
- 3. Brevard Prevention Coalition (BPC):** Brevard Prevention Coalition held their Opioid Task Force Meeting on May 13, 2024, which was a week earlier than usual. Coordinated Opioid Recovery-CORE Update: Jeremy with Circles of Care updated that their program was starting to pick up momentum. Brevard County Fire Rescue has been approved two units to carry medication. Rockledge Medical Center was interested in getting a medical unit alongside Circles of Care. According to BCFR, in April of 2023, there were 100 overdoses seen and transported. As of April 2024, they have seen 126 overdoses. Even though Brevard is seeing decline in Overdose death, there has been an increase in drug overdose/drug poisoning from last year. BCFR are having Harm Reduction Signs made to be put up in areas that are getting hit hard. They are unsure of locations currently. DEA take back event was held on April 27, 2024; Brevard County Drug Take Back program was a huge success. There was a total of six

locations. Brevard County collected the most pounds of drugs out of all participating counties, such as Lake, Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties. Brevard collected 2652.08 lbs. BPC partnered with Brevard Symphony Orchestra, USSA Complex, and Brevard Cultural Alliance for events in March-May in the I Choose Me Substance Misuse Prevention Initiative. Recaps can be found on the social media pages. Movement to Light initiative addresses harm reduction and the stigma of addiction. Two upcoming events under this initiative. Saturday May 25th, BPC collaborating with To Write Love on Her Arms with a 5K in the Eau Gallie Art District. This is to link substance misuse and mental health awareness. On Sunday June 9th, BPC is partnering with Bob's Bicycle Shop to co-host the Movement to Light trail ride. BPC will be on site with Prevention and Harm Reduction resources. BPC serves Community Centers in the County, and many schools within Brevard Public Schools, specifically Middle Schools and High Schools for the Better Without It Drug Diversion Program Campaign which is designed to keep students at their home school during their academic probation. Youngest referral is for a 2nd grade student. They plan to partner with elementary schools in October for Red Ribbon week, and plan to partner with Eckerd Connects to support them and their work in the schools. BPC received an award at the Communicator Awards for the Better Without It Campaign. Stanley has submitted a proposed revised draft of the Brevard County Opioid Abatement Plan to Housing and Human Services. Stanley hopes to hear back from Brevard HHS after the proposed version has been reviewed. The Chairman asked about the numbers of overdose in the County. Terrell will have Stanley provide the information. Laura McCarthy spoke to let everyone know that the County numbers are down. Brevard County was number one per capita on the overdose numbers, and the County has fallen to number five. Contributes the positive direction on the Narcan distribution in the County. The local police departments have received more Narcan to have on hand.

- 4. Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC):** No update, no representation present. Brevard Public Schools partners with BHC through a grant that was given through the American Rescue Plan. Students must be enrolled to be identified as homeless. McKinney-Vento Homeless definition quite different from the HUD definition. HUD needs to better align definition with other agencies. There are a little over 1300 students that are considered homeless. Sometimes families will not identify as homeless and so the schools miss filling out the form and then the students are not classified homeless but could be. Chairman Scarpelli asked everyone to become a champion of getting others to this Together in Partnership meeting to fill the room. Maximizing the existing services is vital to the community. Building capacity and

continue with awareness. Wrap around services are critical within the school system and there are a lot of wrap-around services.

5. Brevard Family Partnership (BFP): Brevard Family Partnership was awarded the contract for Orange, Osceola, and Seminole County. BFP pursued the RFP which would make the 18th Circuit whole. Brevard Family Partnership was awarded the contract. The transition began in April. It was about aligning everything such as securing workforce, services for children and family services, facilities, and contracts. The transitions teams came together and worked very hard. BFP rebranded in May. Embrace Families and Brevard Family Partnership are now Family Partnerships of Central Florida. Feel free to visit the new website with the combination of four counties. In their commitment to the Department of Children and Families, BFP made it known they understood each county to be unique, and would understand the origin, the stakeholder, and players within each county. As of the end of May they have secured all vendor and provider contracts within each county. They continue to have four locations. They retained 97% of the workforce in the tri-county area which was very positive. BFP had several subsidiaries, those now fall under Family Partnerships of Central Florida. Kathryn Parker from the National Center for Innovation and Excellence mentioned that they have a National Conference coming up June 19-21, 2024. National Conference. There may be funds to assist some in the area to attend. It will be held in Cocoa Beach.

6. Career Source Brevard: No Update.

7. Domestic Violence Task Force: The Domestic Violence Task Force meets every other month. The next meeting will be in June, and they will have two speakers. One speaker is on the My Family Wizard App. The second speaker is the US Attorney's Office of Central Florida to talk about sexual harassment in housing. Updates in legislative sessions: Starting July 1, 2024, the total Bill is called Protection of Children and Victims of Crime. A majority is child welfare related, and a part of the Bill is the Gabby Petito Act. There is build out to this. October 1, 2024, the Clerk of Court upon a petitioner getting a final injunction, can request that the Clerk of Court provide them a laminated card that has the basic information of that injunction. The point of this is better accessibility to information when law enforcement must be called. The information will be provided on a card, instead of an entire stack of paperwork.

8. Regional Children's Cabinet: No Update.

9. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ): The next Juvenile Justice Advisory Meeting will be held July 25, 2024. Either Seminole or Brevard will be hosting. Next meeting should be in Seminole County in the Public Defender's Office. Upcoming there will be a badge ceremony for all the Juvenile Probation Officer's. It has been 11 years since they have had a badge. JPO's will be able to increase supervision all the way up to electronic monitoring. There will be a ceremony on June 3, 2024, and following that ceremony the JPO's will have badges and you will see those in court. Mike Scully will be speaking at the ceremony; he is now the Interim Director at Crosswinds.

Unfinished Business: No

New Business:

Public Comments: Laura McCarthy, Brevard Recovery Fest, announced that the DEA gave a Florida update regarding drug poisoning. The occurrences in the state have been lowered. No specific Brevard update. Recovery Connections of Central Florida and the RASE Project are both Recovery Community Organizations. Organizations made up primarily of peers. If any agency would like a peer to work with clients in areas of housing, career, recovery etc. there are peers available. Orange County has a drop-in Center in Maitland. A new resource is 24/7 hotline where you can call to get resources in all four Central Florida Counties. The number is 407-RECOVER There is a 24/7 hotline with peers answering phones on the 407-hotline number. You can also utilize Myrecoveryconnections.org. Brevard is looking to build drop-in centers, one in South and one in North Brevard. There may also be collaborative efforts to utilize space that is already built by collaborating with other agencies. These centers would have group meeting rooms, computer rooms to do resume writing, etc. Recovery Connections of Central Florida now has 30 peers. Excited for Circles of Care getting their mobile unit out in the community and getting peers into the hospitals.

Narcan drive through Wednesday of this week and contraceptives and Narcan being given out at 100 South Harbor City Boulevard from 12-3. This is Journey Peers Center. Blue Plaid.org just received Narcan, contact them if Narcan is needed. If you need Yellow Cards email Elizabeth Spears at Eckerd Connects. Good vendors coming in for Recovery Fest. September 14th, 2024, Recovery Fest in Wickham Park bringing numerous treatment and recovery organizations together in one place. There will be fingerprinting for children and Touch a Truck.

Helen's House opening 32 beds from homeless women and children. Helen's House is looking at adding two more 10,000 square foot facilities.

Mental Health First Aid. If you or your organization are looking for training contact Angelica Keen at the UF Extension Office.

Elizabeth Bublitz with Tobacco Free Brevard spoke about a particular initiative. Brevard and Lake County will start focusing on what zoning looks like when it comes to retail point of sale. Advertising tends to be more targeted near parks and places of youth. They will have boots on the ground and start building relationships with zoning and the community. This initiative is just starting, and Tobacco Free Brevard has numerous preventions, cessation resources throughout the county. Tobacco Free Florida has started to look at programs even at the elementary level as vaping has started to become prevalent.

Lilly Fredrickson with Charity Yoga wanted to mention Live and Give Charity Yoga Class in Rockledge. Every month the organization that offers the yoga picks an organization to donate to.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am The next meeting will be **July 29, 2024, at 9:30 am**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, third floor Florida Room.