



Together in Partnership Steering Committee

Meeting Report

Monday July 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
Brevard County Government Center, Viera
Florida Room, 3rd Floor Building C

Members Present: Patricia Seibert, Jennifer Floyd, Rebecca Thibert, Chana Speir, Lisa Bradley, Doug Reynolds, Traci Klinkbeil, Omar Bohler, Leigh McElroy, Phil Scarpelli, Jean Bandish, Erin Weidensaul.

At-Large Members Present: Sarah Sloan, Stanley Brizz, Terrell Melvin, Chris McPherson, Abigail Jones, Kathryn Parker.

Guests Present: Rosa Torres, Melanie Orlen, Michelle Hallman, Valerie Kelly, Drew Bernitsky, Kimberly Wells, Lily Fredrickson, Elizabeth Bublitz, Amaya Vinuela, Dinna Mezza, Jim Carlson, Mackenzie Quirarte, Mya Russi-Oliver, Natasha Walsh, Jackie Cayprone, Latoya Watson, Elizabeth Fears, Chari Cole, Cindy Mitchell, Desiree Steyr, Whitney Hughson.

Call to Order/Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Phil Scarpelli at 9:34 a.m. Introductions were made by everyone present.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve May 20, 2024, minutes, a second was made. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Updates:

The Collective Alliance Meeting is the state-wide attendees for all of those who are a part of their alliance. The alliance came to place statutorily. It is interesting to see what stages are in different communities. Call into the meetings if you are able. Last meeting was July 15th, staff will provide you the next date of the Collective Alliance. Social welfare is a major priority.

When Brevard Family Partnership became Family Partnerships of Central Florida, the 3 other alliances met in Maitland. A very nice gathering about where the Partnership of the four-county connection go together in the

future. The gathering promoted hope and investigated best and better practices. When everyone shares what they are doing and presenting to others, it gives a combined unit, and the small group was able to give a deep dive and spoke on a small level gave an overview of what each group was doing.

Together in Partnership Reports:

1. Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health Task

Force/Healthy Start Coalition: There are approximately 1300 students in transition. That is classified as any student who lives in car, hotel, the woods, etc. The School District is working with those kids and families to try to get them some type of housing. Healthy Families is now in the Healthy Start Coalition, and they are taking referrals. Due to the Department of Health cyber breach, pre- and post-natal screens are not coming through. The screens are not coming through until DOH finds out what is going on. The previous information from June 28, 2024. Birth and death certificates are finally back up and running. Eight counties were affected, Brevard was not one of them. Parents as teachers which is an evidence-based program which was with Brevard Cares is now open to the Community. They have about eight to ten slots available, and you can contact Brevard Cares about that. The number of students in transition at 1300 is accurate. Homeless Coalition has different guidelines about homelessness.

2. Child Abuse Prevention Task Force (CAPTF): No update

3. Brevard Prevention Coalition (BPC): Brevard Prevention Coalition attended an international conference with Central Florida Cares and CTS Agency and presented the Better Without It Campaign which focuses on Gen Z and Substance Use Prevention. BPC is working with Central Florida Cares and will be visiting the state of Kentucky to share their messaging. Brevard County Fire Rescue provided information that overdose deaths were down in Brevard County. Stanley Brizz spoke with the Attorney General's Office and FDLE, and they inquired what it is Brevard is doing. Overdoses, however, are up. Statistically not sure if it is because of more people moving into the County, or the time of year. Narcan and getting people into treatment is helping people to survive the overdoses. BPS is based on the Better Without It Initiative which is also showing that the program has had 91% success rate with the kids based on not reoffending based on substance use. The cleaned-up number is 83%. BPC is working on statistical information for BPS. BPC is working with community centers in Brevard to have the substance use prevention work into the centers, and engaging community partners to be involved. BPC is working in Titusville and

partnering with Parrish, Space Coast Health Centers and working with Titusville High to get something in the schools. Also working with YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs. Information will be sent out to everyone on this effort. Eckerd Connects is always supportive to BPC, and their work in the schools. Partnerships to End Addiction is working with their local providers to provide a MAT presentation. There are many paths to sobriety and a lot of people do not understand about Medication Assisted Treatment. Stigma stands in the way of people knowing how MAT could potentially help them. Having an October event at Cocoa High School various local police departments have signed up to play each other in a friendly basketball game which will include officers, local youth, and a basketball influencer all on a team. This will be on social media. The event will be October 12th, 2024. Stanley has been asked by the Department of Children and Families to present to the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement on October 1, 2024. The Coalition will start going into community convenience stores to begin education of Naloxone and what to do in the event of an overdose. The team has been doing street work at the ground level going into the community performing advocacy and education on the topic and how it can save a life. Bringing awareness to fentanyl poisoning and fake pills and doing a lot of education around these topics. Age old question about Naloxone. It is a misunderstanding that we are enabling. The issue that it is being used to give someone another shot. Harm reduction is being explained and pushed as well. Youngest child to be placed in diversion program with BPC was in second grade. BPC is trying to get involved at multiple levels to promote understanding. Rx Summit shows everything works. Prevention, Intervention, Treatment. Interventions work. The conversation must change the conversation. Positive youth development. Blue Plaid Society, Recovery Fest, Jonathan Weise will come out to event, DCF overdose response training. You can walk into Central Florida Treatment Center and ask for Narcan. Recovery is a journey for the person and the family.

- 4. Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC):** No complete update. Waiting to get total numbers of families that have been served. BHC looks at homelessness from the HUD definitions. There are four definitions. They differ from the school district. HUD does not include living doubled up as homeless, but the school district does. If families are doubling up, they are being reported in point in time count. Point in time count done nationwide the last week in January. Brevard had their count on January 25th, 2024. Reported 1071 individuals experiencing homelessness. Vast majority at 779 living unsheltered. That number rose from last year's point in time count by about 17%. Overall, count rose by about 2% from last year. The 2024 count was the highest count since 2015. These are straight numbers. Every

individual has their own story. Doing the point in time count is something to consider doing.

- 5. Family Partnerships of Central Florida:** Family Partnerships of Central Florida was awarded the tri-county contract for Orange, Osceola, and Seminole County in addition to Brevard. The original intent was to only renew contract with Brevard. The state put together a different menu of what you can go after, and the team decided to keep the other agency decided to keep the agency going under whole. That agency did have Circuit 18, Seminole County, which Circuit 18 is Brevard Circuit. Family of agencies to keep siblings together. Transition was seamless. 98% of the workforce was retained. They placed 36 children in licensed care in 30 days due to the multi-agency effort.
- 6. Career Source Brevard:** The State of Florida has decided to consolidate some regions. There were 24 workforce boards, and it is now down to 21. Brevard is consolidated now with Flagler and Volusia. More information will be brought in regarding scholarship opportunities and job fair information in the future. All employees were onboarded, and no employees were lost during the consolidation. The transition happened July 01, 2024.
- 7. Domestic Violence Task Force:** There was a fantastic meeting in June. The next meeting there is a plan to have education around injunctions, restraining orders. In October meeting there will be update on Red Flag Risk Protective Orders from the Sheriff's Office. For those that should not have firearms. The meeting schedule is as follows: August 08, 2024, October 10th, 2024, and December 12th, 2024. There are great brochures available from their last meeting on Fair Housing and Sexual Harassment.
- 8. Regional Children's Cabinet:** The next Collective Alliance meeting will be September 23, 2024, and the invite has not been sent out yet. At myflfamilies.com, which is the DCF website, if you scroll all the way down, all public events are posted there. This will show you if the event is virtual and provide a link, or if it is in person event. Any public meeting is posted there. Last meeting was July 15, 2024. Ongoing conversation about the number of children coming into adult care has decreased. This is great and has been a five-year trend. What is being seen is older children coming into care. That was a large part of the discussion because the kids coming into care are hard to place. Sometimes the relative, or non-relative can't be found to place them, so they come into licensed care. A lot if the children are involved with Department of Juvenile Justice which is huge for the Secretary of both DJJ and DCF. There is a dual action plan to be

shared later. This is a community effort. They are referred to Eckerd and BPC. This was a topic that will be on ongoing one. August 6th Congressmen Posey and Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force holding a symposium. A flyer will be sent out again. This is to be held at Eastern Florida State College. This symposium will be in person. Statewide annual Summit at the JW Marriott in Orlando October 4th-6th. Each Circuit does a break-out session. That is currently being worked on now. Our Hope initiative has gone state-wide. The population is growing, and however the demand is greater. When there is a growing population of older youth, you have more of a chance of this happening. The Department is doing the best they can do, if there are more people who are skilled and can open their hearts and hands, it can change their trajectory. Stories need told and people need talked to and we need to be a community.

- 9. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):** Continuous training on new legislative updates. Some of the updates are relative to firearms, and some related to CAB (Circuit Advisory Board). Meeting deferments due to staff changes. Two meetings with both Superintendents. Seminole on September 5th, and Brevard County on September 7th. Collaborating related to issues on firearms, enrollment, truancy, attendance. New juvenile judge in both counties of Brevard and Seminole. Meetings will be set with each of those judges in the future. Secretary of Dept. of Juvenile Justice has had stake holders in every circuit in the State. There is a huge initiative on residential side as it relates to the New Scholars Academy. Created a unified system being used in the residential setting. There are residential services and detention services. Residential services are when the juveniles have been adjudicated. Based on evaluation the juveniles are placed in a level of treatment. Focus is on the right placement for each child.

The legislative cycle this time focused on the scholar's academy, and firearms charges, and the Circuit Advisory Board Team.

Unfinished Business:

New Business: Children's Cabinet of Seminole County has trainings coming up. Advent Health September 23, 2024, nutrition, and diabetes at the Sanford Civic Center at 10:00 am. Heat stroke training and trauma informed leadership training will be forthcoming in 2025. Informational training forthcoming in 2025.

Public Comments: Chris McPherson with Children's Home Society. Endeavor Elementary is a Community School and they are going into recertification this year. They are looking for support for this process. Have a provider survey to be filled out. Brevard needs more community schools.

Other counties are writing planning grants for their schools. Brevard County is not doing that currently. Looking to grow the message about community schools. If you are with an agency that has pins, ribbons, etc. the children love the bling on their lanyards. Need to change views/narrative on leadership within the community school. Brevard would like to do more community schools and community support is needed.

Brevard Recovery Fest September 14, 2024, from 10:00 am-2:00pm. Nonprofit organization created to combat stigma against mental health and substance misuse. Sponsorship ends August 01, 2024. Hard deadline for registration. This organization was created to have those individuals in recovery gather and network and increase connections to care.

Motion to adjourn with a second. Marketing and Education workshop will be held right here to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am The next meeting will be **September 30, 2024, at 9:30 am**, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C Commission Chambers, 1st Floor.