

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 26, 2011 BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mr. William Ryder, Board Chair, Mr. Stockton Whitten, Board Vice Chair, Mr. Leo Roselip, Ms. Irene Burnett, Ms. Brooke Deratany Goldfarb, Mr. Mel Broom and Mr. Sam Gutierrez

**Board Members Absent:** Judge Kelly McKibben, Board Treasurer.

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Patricia Nellius, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Valerie M. Randall, Chief Personnel & Administrative Officer, Ms. Debbie Davidson-Cook, Chief Compliance & Utilization Officer, Mr. Chad Carnell, CFO, Mr. James Carlson, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Geo Ropert, Director of Communications, Ms. Kelly Swartz, Staff Attorney, and Ms. Stephanie Strodman, Executive Assistant, Also in attendance were Ms. Michelle Scott, Children's Home Society, Ms. Valerie Holmes, Executive Director Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Mr. Tracy Little, Wrap/Fidelity Liaison, BFP and Mr. Fletcher Valentine, DCF.

Mr. Ryder called the meeting to order and requested those present state their names for the record.

**Motion:** Mr. Gutierrez moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Mr. Broom and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Mr. Gutierrez moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2011 Board meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryder then asked Dr. Nellius to speak about the following presentations. She remarked that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and in honor of this that our guest this month included Ms. Valerie Holmes, Executive Director with Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and Mr. Tracy Little who is working with Brevard C.A.R.E.S. and is also the Chair of the CAPTF. Dr. Nellius then requested that Ms. Holmes make her presentation to the board.

Ms. Holmes spoke about the current source of referrals for the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. program and indicated that 75% presently come from the CPI's, and approximately 25% of the referrals are from 211, other community sources and some are self-referred. She also provided the top five (5) categories of need for these families which are parenting, domestic violence, substance abuse, ungovernable youth and mental health issues. Ms. Holmes specifically reported that there has been an increase of 35% in recent months in the number of families requesting assistance due to ungovernable youth. She also shared with the board that there are two (2) grants that have been submitted recently; one with the Office for Violence Against Women which is in partnership with Serene Harbor and the second is a community block grant through Brevard County which is focused on serving the youth in the Cocoa area. Ms. Holmes also reported that there is an increase in the referrals for post-adoption support. Dr. Nellius remarked that Brevard C.A.R.E.S. was this year's recipient of the Social Service Agency at the CAPTF Awards banquet.

The board thanked Ms. Holmes for her information and report and then Mr. Little was introduced. Mr. Little spoke about CAPTF and that approximately 40 local agencies have worked together on this task force including BFP, Brevard C.A.R.E.S., the ELC, CHS, DCF and many others who are leading the charge against child abuse in Brevard County. He shared several of the activities that had occurred during the month including the distribution of information to local doctor's offices about local community resources and the planting of pinwheels and the reading of a proclamation at the County building which included the Dependency Court Judge. This year there was a Child Abuse Kick Off event at Squidlips restaurant with another proclamation and the blue pinwheel symbols handed out and planted through out the County. Mr. Little spoke about the CAPTF banquet held on April 14, 2011 where 14 local agencies and individuals were recognized for their outstanding work in child abuse prevention. He also indicated that neighborhood "walks" were scheduled for three specific areas that are targeted where there are high call volumes of hot line calls. In these areas prevention materials are hung on door handles.

Dr. Nellius remarked that both Ms. Holmes and Mr. Little recently returned from Alaska where they presented the Brevard C.A.R.E.S. model to a large tribal group. Dr. Munoz accompanied them and he reported that there were very strong and positive comments from the leaders and that they were engaged.

The next agenda item was the adoption program presentation that had been requested by Mr. Roselip. It was reported that Mr. Carlson had the presentation for the meeting, but that he and Mr. Roselip had discussed the content and that Mr. Roselip stated he garnered the information he was looking for.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved to by pass the adoption presentation as he had received the information he was seeking and it had been previously presented to the Board. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next item was the Staff Reports which included:

The Board Report  
The Operations Data Report  
The Financial Statements  
A Legislative Update

Dr. Nellius reminded the board members that she was leaving on Thursday for a trip to Orange County New York and over the next three (3) months would be continuing to provide technical assistance to this organization. She referenced the letter that is on the website regarding current legislation surrounding the "equity" issue and that e-mails had been sent to the SOC providers and other community stakeholders. She reported that Representative Crisafulli had made contact and that he is supportive of the House Bill. She then provided information about the dialogue and multiple meetings with the membership of the FCFC as well as separate meetings with the CBC CEO's on this issue. She indicated that initially the FCFC intended to take a neutral position on the "equity" issue but after many conference calls and the vote of the CBC CEO's that the FCFC membership did vote to support the position of the CBC CEO's in favor of the House Bill.

Mr. Ryder interjected that he had participated on the conference calls with the FCFC and that Dr. Nellius had done her due diligence addressing this matter and that without her input and stand the FCFC was not going to take a position. He indicated that in his opinion, we have Dr. Nellius to thank for the final outcome of the vote.

Mr. Roselip asked if we paid dues to participate in the FCFC and Dr. Nellius indicated that we did. She further stated that she is currently a board member of the FCFC and that this was a very complex issue and that she believes it behooves us to remain as members in spite of defeats such as this. Mr. Roselip questioned the validity of paying dues to an organization without getting the support of that organization. Mr. Ryder commented that in his opinion if the Agency was not a member of the FCFC that Dr. Nellius would not have the access and opportunity to have an impact on decisions made.

Mr. Broom asked for more clarification on the equity formula. Dr. Nellius reported that 25% of the core funding was pooled from all CBC Budgets and an allocation based on the formula proposed to the Legislature were redistributed accordingly with the intent of bringing agencies under equity closer to an average per child cost. She stated that while the State is required by law to track children receiving prevention and diversion service, that they are not and this was a fatal flaw in the legislation. She provided a brief history of her efforts over the years to rectify this problem including discussions with many DCF staff as well as speaking to the Administration when the new FSFN system was being developed. She reported that none of her efforts have yielded the required results and to date these children are not "counted" in the census of children served. Mr. Ryder commented that Secretary Wilkins had recently sent an e-mail in which he acknowledged that the calculation for the "equity" was invalid.

Mr. Ropert then provided an update on the current legislative activity. He reported that we are now in the last two (2) weeks of the session and there are still major issues to be finalized. He indicated that based on his

recent information that the insurance liability issue is not likely to be addressed. Dr. Nellius remarked that just yesterday there was a new bill that surfaced that did address this issue. Mr. Carlson remarked that the new Secretary was directed to remove the requirement of DCF being a named an additional insured. Mr. Ropert indicated that on the "equity" issue there is new language and that this will hopefully be approved. He also spoke about the IL initiatives that there are proposals in various forms. Dr. Nellius indicated that in her opinion, the IL legislation has the greatest likelihood of significantly impacting us programmatically. She also spoke about a workgroup in which Mr. Carlson was a participant. She indicated that there was significant work done with focus on outcomes for youth, but that a couple of the legislators took over the recommendations and have rewritten them. One change referenced was reducing the age from 23 to 21 and for us this would have the likelihood of impacting nine (9) of our youth who are currently attending college. She also reported that there is consideration of having a centralized payment center where we would actually lose the control over eligibility which is also concerning.

Mr. Roselip inquired about the recent meeting with TIP. Dr. Nellius responded that it was well attended and the attendees expressed support for the Agency. TIP was informed that our contract is scheduled to be procured next year and was provided information about the National Replication Project.

Action Item: Put the TIP presentation on the board portal.

Dr. Nellius also shared with TIP that she would be creating a Systems Transformation Committee and that she will be engaging in executive levels with our major providers. Mr. Roselip inquired if TIP had shared additional charges to the Agency or if they wanted us to do other initiatives. Dr. Nellius responded that TIP did not provide any information other than they were pleased with the current outcomes.

The next report was the Data Report and there were no questions on this information.

Mr. Carnell then provided the financial reports and distributed copies of the Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities as of March 31, 2011 to the board members. He shared with the members that in home supports has only 11% of the annual budgeted dollars left, but that adjustments have been made to cover this expense. He remarked that we are keeping a close eye on the SAMH funds and that we should be in a good position to utilize all these funds before year end. He also reported that the IL had stabilized and we are in good shape. Mr. Carnell updated the board that we are in the process of preparing and finalizing the budget for FY 2012 and revisions to the CAP are being prepared as well. Ms. Burnett inquired about an incentive payment to case management. Dr. Nellius responded by sharing the existing SOC contracting method which includes a performance based incentive program pending funding and based on achievement of specific targets and outcomes. There was no further discussion in this area.

#### New Business:

Ms. Holmes made a presentation of a potential board member for Brevard C.A.R.E.S. She reported that she became acquainted with Ms. Macrander through her participation with Lead Brevard. She reported that the Level II screening had been completed and was satisfactory. She provided a brief history of her civic activities most recently working with staff that is being released from KSC. Mr. Gutierrez indicated that he was personally known to Ms. Macrander and that she is a terrific person and would be a great addition.

**Motion:** Ms. Goldfarb moved that the BFP Board of Directors accept Ms. Macrander as a board member for Brevard C.A.R.E.S. subject to their vote. This was seconded by Mr. Gutierrez and the motion was passed unanimously.

The next item was the resignation of Ms. Helen Voltz which is being provided as information to the board. Mr. Roselip inquired if we would send a letter of thanks to Ms. Voltz to which Dr. Nellius responded that we always send letters of appreciation and that she had also spoken with Ms. Voltz.

Dr. Nellius then addressed the fact that Ms. Voltz had held one of the three (3) County appointed seats and that she was proposing that Mr. Gutierrez be submitted to the County as a replacement for Ms. Voltz. She

indicated that she and Judge McKibben, Chair of the Board Recruitment subcommittee had discussed this option and both felt it was in the best interests of the Agency. She stated that Mr. Gutierrez is well known by the County and is a strong advocate for children.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved to approve the request for the County to appoint Mr. Gutierrez to the open County seat. This was seconded by Mr. Broom.

Note: Mr. Gutierrez left the meeting.

Ms. Burnett expressed her opinion that she thought it unfortunate that we had to request to appoint members for the County. Dr. Nellius shared with Ms. Burnett that we are not permitted to have County Commissioners on the board any longer and that we periodically meet with the Commissioners to keep them informed of our progress and activities. Mr. Whitten suggested that this approach is actually positive and helpful as we are able to identify our needs.

The motion was passed unanimously.

CBY25 – Mr. Roselip then requested Dr. Nellius to provide a historical perspective of the CBY25 initiative. Dr. Nellius shared the Agency's involvement with this initiative from the beginning. She discussed our initial involvement in conducting an environmental scan (to identify needs) and our efforts to develop a community board and assist in the sourcing of its Site Director. She then shared the events which ultimately led to the current status where the request is being made of BFP to take this function in house to manage it. The organization is in the last year of its grant and has not become sustainable. Dr. Nellius also reported that there have been a series of discussions to articulate the needs and what the relationship would look like. Dr. Nellius also shared that Ms. Soltis (EFF) would give BFP the funds to retain the Guidance Counselor and scholarship money if BFP is willing to take the program in house.

Note: Mr. Whitten left the meeting.

Mr. Carlson shared that in a meeting with the Board Chair and Executive Director locally in March that there was general agreement that we would fund the Guidance Counselor, but that BFP and CBY 25 is not amenable to being under the governance of Tampa CBY25. BFP has offered the assistance of Dr. Munoz to provide strategic planning and direction to the local CBY25 board during this time of transition to assist them in examining promising youth models for the new program.

It was shared that the CBY25 model is a set program which is not an effective match with the needs of Brevard's youth and that it would be essential to create public-private partnerships in order to help address and support these needs. Dr. Nellius indicated that during a discussion with Ms. Soltis she articulated that BFP would be appreciative of the funding of the Guidance Counselor as it was very effective and met the needs of our youth, but that BFP's position was not to assume the identity of CBY25 but rather rebrand the program since there is not widespread community support for the current initiative.

Mr. Ryder asked what CBY25 can do that we don't or can't. Dr. Nellius indicated that in her opinion the CBY25 board could perhaps serve as an auxiliary board to the BFP board which would position it to create community and public partnerships and fundraise for the needs of the youth.

Mr. Roselip provided a brief history of how he became involved in this issue and shared that CBY25 does want to come under the direction of BFP. He indicated that EFF is offering the funds for one year for the Guidance Counselor. He did share a concern about a current program under CBY25 which is called "Opportunity Passport," and that despite his efforts he can not get the information on the outstanding liability of that program.

Dr. Nellius indicated that she has strong reservations on continuing that program due to the degree of oversight that is required.

She also indicated that it was still to be determined if the local CBY25 Board is supportive of this approach. Mr. Carnell stated that BFP could not use DCF funds to cover Opportunity Passport.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved to take the CBY25 concept – not the name – and to move forward with the funding from EFF for the Guidance Counselor and offer board member job descriptions to the local CBY25 board members which will focus on fundraising and philanthropic activities. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb.

Dr. Nellius stated that the current CBY25 organization would have to approve of this relationship with BFP. She suggested that we might want to accept the EFF funds for the Guidance Counselor, pursue the endorsement of the current CBY25 board and determine the elements, processes, and programs to be considered to come under BFP. Mr. Ryder commented that there can be a liability issue and we would have to know how we would monitor the programs.

A revised motion was presented by Mr. Roselip.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved to move forward with a forged partnership with the existing CBY25 Brevard County board and create a new identity to bring the functions under BFP. It is further moved to accept the funding from EFF for the Guidance Counselor only and that the programmatic elements of the program would be brought to the BFP board for discussion and decision. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Nellius then spoke about the Board Source Conference that will be held in Atlanta, Georgia in September 2011. She inquired of the members if they would want to attend this year as we did not consider their annual conference last year as it was in California. She commented that it had been an excellent venue two years previously in Orlando. Mr. Ryder, Mr. Roselip and Mr. Broom indicated interest in attending.

Action Item: E-mail those members who were not in attendance at the meeting to inquire if they would want to attend.

The next item was the Volunteer Program. Mr. Roselip indicated that he wanted to begin the program in September 2011 and that he would serve as the Volunteer Coordinator.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved that the board approve Mr. Roselip to implement the Volunteer Program effective September 2011. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

The last item was the monthly Strategic Workplan Goal but Dr. Nellius remarked that this had been well addressed by the presentations made by Ms. Holmes and Mr. Little.

**Motion:** Mr. Roselip moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and the motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie M. Randall  
Recording Secretary

Approved at Board of Directors Meeting May 26, 2011