



## **Together in Partnership**

**Monday, May 19, 2025**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, 1st Floor,  
Commission Chambers, Brevard County, FL 32940**

### **Meeting Report**

**Members Present:** Lisa Bradley, Lisa Elam, Traci Klinkbeil, Amanda Walker, Jean Bandish, Patricia Seibert, Leigh McElroy

**At-Large Members Present:** Jeanie Raciti, Jessica Miles, Abigail Jones, Kathryn Parker, Rebecca Thibert, Doug Reynolds

**Guests Present:** Mackenzie Quirarte, George Margoles, Gina Iannone, Elizabeth Fears, Laura McCarthy, Jeannine Doyle, Davine Vincent, Omar Bohler, Terrell Melvin, Bri Barbour, Brooke Bothun, Lindsey Gregg, Sarah Slone, Ruby Washington

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was attempted to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes; however, minutes approval was not on the agenda. The minutes were therefore unable to be approved at this time.

**Chairman Updates:** No chairman updates.

## **Together in Partnership Reports:**

### **1. Family Strengthening/Infant Mental Health Task Force/Healthy Start Coalition:**

CARES is a distributor of Narcan. They now have the new keychain kits that contain gloves. Healthy Start will be offering a web-based training on topics for all families with young families. It is expected to launch in June of 2025. When a video to showcase their collaboration with the City of Titusville, Parish Medical Center, and Space Coast Health Center. Space Coast Health Center is now exploring the permanent addition of peer support staff and expanding its services.

They held a medical assistant treatment training under the Titusville grant and will be offering another one to the Parish Medical Center staff. They are also currently developing a new prevention initiative; details still to come. Under the Move into Light initiative, Do It for P is a movement where BPC goes into different underserved and under-resourced communities and does a lot of overdose prevention, harm reduction, and substance use education. They had their first event on April 19<sup>th</sup>, and it was called "I Am My Sister's Keeper." The event's turnout was great, and a lot of people were able to access a lot of different resources and make contact with different community partners and get the services that they needed. They gave out three \$100 public gift cards, 20 free haircut vouchers, and they were also able to give a \$1,500 mental health grant under Do It for P. The winner will be announced shortly. By winning this grant, the winner will be able to offer free mental health services to those who can't afford the services themselves. More things are to come with Do It for P, and they are actively doing community outreach in the underserved and under-resourced communities. Next year, they will be having I Am My Sister's Keeper again in the spring.

### **4. Brevard Homeless Coalition (BHC):**

The BHC has seen a decrease in homelessness of approximately 5% this year. They were able to open the cold night shelter back in January, which had about 200 people. The count from that goes towards the unsheltered population, and the sheltered count comes from their Homeless Management Information System, which is their homeless database. They have noticed an uptick in the northern and central parts of the county. Regarding homelessness, the central part grew by about 40% of our unsheltered population. In the north, it was 19%. 81% of those who were unsheltered lost their home/housing for the first time here in Brevard County. We know now that homelessness is homegrown.

They did report an uptick of 7% in those who were sheltered, and a decrease of about 10% in those who were unsheltered. In terms of substance use disorder and other behavioral health conditions, such as serious mental illness, the trend in homelessness has been pretty steady. 22% reported a serious mental illness, and about 26% reported a behavioral health disorder, which is out of the 700 that were unsheltered. The number of chronically homeless has decreased exposed to substances and collaborate with different hospitals to get those families and their babies the care they need. They are also discussing putting a Baker Act facility or something of the sort in Seminole County, so as to relieve some pressure *off* of Brevard and Orange County.

Regional Children's Cabinet does have a Facebook and Instagram page, and it has valuable information on there. One can submit information to Omar to be posted on said pages. The page on Instagram is called @seminolechildrenscabinet. With it being summertime, Seminole Children's Cabinet will be hosting a training on how to respond to heat emergencies. Date still to come.

## **9. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ):**

Juvenile Justice had their Juvenile Justice Circuit Advisory board meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Omar described the meeting as still being in its infancy stages. The reason being is that he is the new chair for the advisory board. With that board comes two committees: the diversion committee and the student achievement committee.

Karen Locke is the chair of the diversion committee, and Lisa Bradley is the secretary. Misty Bland is the chair of the student achievement committee, and Traci Klinkbeil is the secretary. The student achievement committee will focus on the changes in the school system and what each county is doing in relation to these changes. Regarding the diversion committee, the first few meetings will focus on pre-arrest data and understanding the importance of sending someone to pre-arrest when they get arrested. It's important because it is an immediate response to delinquent behavior, meaning the person will be contacted within 48 hours instead of multiple months, like when they go to court. Pre-arrest delinquency is beneficial, and the program has been shown and proven to work. The recidivism rate is in the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile for Brevard County, and the rate for probation is anywhere around 20% and 67% within the first three months for those who go to juvenile programs. Getting to the kids in the early stages is what will help keep 97% of them from having to see anyone from DJJ again.

## **National Center for Innovation and Excellence:**

Since January, they have aided 33 children through the grant they received and are partnered with Brevard CARES. The grant runs for 4 years, and the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the grant is through September, so they are currently working on outreach efforts to increase that number. The grant serves children who are an adaptive swim program for all children with exceptionalities (physical, cognitive, social, emotional, etc.). The parents and/or caregivers of the children are required to be in the water; however, it is beneficial for the child to have that one-on-one time in that social setting. They have scholarship and grant opportunities that they would like to approach and make more accessible to those who need them.

## **George Margoles - Recovery Connections:**


Recovery Connections is a non-profit recovery community organization that provides a variety of no- cost services to individuals with substance use disorder. They currently have a 6,500 square foot facility in Orange County, a 5,000 square foot facility in Seminole County, and will be opening up a facility in Brevard soon. Their primary funders are DCF, Seminole County Government, Orange County Government, and Central Florida Cares. They are actively looking for facilities in the Melbourne Palm Bay borderline area, with possibly a satellite up in the Titusville area. They're currently servicing through their peer organization and are providing services already to the problem-solving court in Brevard, Parish Hospital, as well as Ways for Life. They are actively interviewing candidates for peer roles in Brevard County and expect that all of this should come together within the next 90 to 120 days.

## **Laura McCarthy - Brevard Recovery Fest:**

Back in March, Laura reported that there were 140 seats left for their mental health event, and the event was sold out by April 7<sup>th</sup>. They have 30 mental health agencies that will be at this event. All the proceeds from these events go right back into the community.

Motion to adjourn with a second.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. The next meeting will be on **July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:30 am**, at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, Commission Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

  
for Leigh McElroy      7/28/2025  
Date