



*Devereux Community Based Care
of Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast*

2014 Annual Report

Mission & Vision

Our mission is to enhance the safety, permanency and well-being for all children in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast through a community network of family support.

Our vision is to eliminate abuse, neglect and abandonment in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast so all children grow to their full potential.

Programs & Innovations

Extended Foster Care

This program, managed locally through the Road to Success program, allows youth to remain in foster care beyond age 18. You can choose to enter extended care, decline care but opt for educational services or leave care, entirely.

Foster Parent Mentor

Through this program, veteran foster parents serve as support coaches to newer caregivers and work with staff to ensure all foster parents receive the help and resources needed to provide the highest level of care to children.

Diversion Program

Diversion Services offer families the opportunity to mend their problems outside of the court system but under the supervision of a case manager. They are appropriate when the family acknowledges they need assistance, are cooperative and anxious to correct the family matter that brought them to the attention of the State of Florida, and the type of abuse and neglect is within the realm of a timely correction and elimination.

Caregiver Support

This program offers support groups, educational seminars and peer mentoring to caregivers of children who have been removed from home.

Family Group Conferencing

This team approach to case planning helps families identify and gather all essential people in their children's lives to work together to prevent them from entering the foster-care system.

Permanency Roundtable

The roundtable program identifies and addresses barriers to permanency through creative thinking, professional development, policy change, resource development, and the engagement of system partners.

Quality Parenting Initiative

This statewide initiative develops new practices to ensure children receive effective, loving parenting while in the care of relatives or foster parents.



A message from our CEO

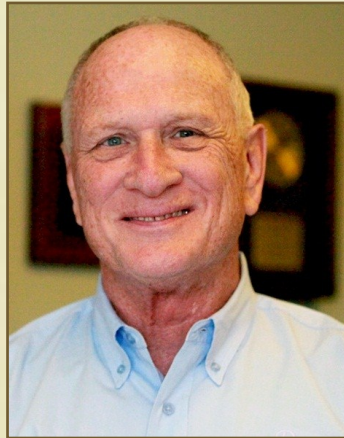
"Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it."

We are not yet at the end of our day, but Margaret Thatcher's words of perseverance certainly capture the spirit of determination that I found waiting for me last November when I became the Chief Executive Officer of Devereux Community Based Care. The past year is barely more than a blur, a conflagration of activity and change that blazed quickly to define a new era in child welfare. We welcomed a staff of strong and seasoned local child-welfare professionals into our new system. I am very proud of the dedication that staff has shown to the transition to Devereux CBC. They have managed the fire and driven the change. Hard work, dedication, commitment and an absolute refusal to give up define the culture here at Devereux CBC.

We have new partners helping to increase the number of foster homes in our community – a factor that promises fiscal stability for the system and emotional stability for the children it serves. The number of children finding homes with adoptive families is also on the rise, while new initiatives and programs are working to keep families together. Strong partnerships with the Department of Children and Families, the Florida Coalition for Children and our sister Community Based Care agencies have resulted in fresh strategies in the approach to keeping children safe.

We have laid a strong foundation and look forward to what the next year will bring. We must continue to build on our foster homes, bring children living in other parts of the state back to their own communities, move young children out of group homes and into family settings and stop the turnover among case managers. There is much to do, but we will do it together. And we will be successful.

Board of Directors



A message from the Chairman

Steven Murphy

The state Department of Children and Families on Oct. 30, 2013, awarded Devereux Community Based Care a five-year, \$125 million contract to provide local child-welfare services.

We assumed direct oversight of child-welfare services November 1, retaining 94 percent of the existing work force and mobilizing many of our statewide resources to assist during the transition. The change was not easy. There were—and still exists—tremendous needs in our system of care. Staff launched quickly into the hard work of stabilizing the system but did so with a deficit of more than \$1.5 million. To offset that deficit, we implemented a plan to increase safety to children and reduce the number of families involved in the system. Decreasing the number of children in care, particularly out of home care, reduces overall costs and gives us the financial freedom to pursue new programs that support children safely in their own homes. Hard work paid off, and we finished the fiscal year in the black.

We now are developing our vision for a county-based style of management, where operations are administered on a county basis and overseen by a County Director. We believe this model will make our system more accessible and responsive, strengthen our bond to the community and, ultimately, improve outcomes for all children. I am proud to say that we successfully launched the model in both St. Lucie and Martin counties and look forward to expanding it into Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

Our success in the past year is due to a close working relationship with community partners and a united effort to provide quality services to children under our protection. We maintained proven programs and added new ones critical to our success. We fostered stronger relationships with the Department of Children and Families, Guardians ad Litem, our local Legislators and all groups whose work is integral to our own. Our pledge now is to maintain our momentum, and prove that we are worthy of the trust you are beginning to show us.

Eula Clarke

Stuart City Commissioner

Ms. Clarke practices law in Stuart, where her focus is family, juvenile, dependency, immigration, probate and guardianship law.

Denny Davis

Okeechobee Police Chief

Denny Davis is chief of police for the city of Okeechobee. He and his wife, Margo, are house parents at Real Life Children's Ranch.

Leslie Spurlock

Roundtable of Indian River County

Ms. Spurlock is a tobacco prevention specialist for QuitDoc Research and Education and the owner of Leslie Spurlock Consulting, where she offers consulting services for nonprofits.

Russell Hamilton

Attorney

Mr. Hamilton has 40 years of legal experience, almost exclusively in the area of labor and employment. Although retired, he continues to serve as counsel with Ford & Harrison, LLP, from Melbourne.

Josie Bellamy

Retired

Ms. Bellamy built her career in the telecommunication and human resources industry and retired 13 years ago from Pacific Bell Directory— at the time a subsidiary of Southern Bell Corp.

Leah Yaw

Senior Vice President for External Affairs
Devereux National

Ms. Yaw has been with Devereux since 2009, directing communications, fund-raising and public policy activities.

Robert Dunne

Chief Financial Officer, Devereux National

Mr. Dunne began his career with Devereux as controller in 1992 and is now the Senior Vice President for Devereux National.

Stephen Yerdon

Executive Director
Devereux Massachusetts

Mr. Yerdon is responsible for developing services in therapeutic foster care, substance abuse treatment, autism spectrum programs and in-home services in Massachusetts.

Elizabeth Keer

National Human Resources Director
Devereux National

Ms. Keer provides consulting services to Devereux National and Division Human Resources staff and operations leadership.

Elaine DeRiso

Regional Administrator
Devereux Florida Treatment Network

Ms. DeRiso oversees early childhood and foster care programs and various other child welfare programs in Florida.

2013 Achievements

Devereux Community Based Care assumed the Lead Child Welfare Agency contract from the state Department of Children and Families Nov. 1, 2013. The contract made Devereux CBC responsible for abused and neglected children in St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. The following list includes highlights of the accomplishments realized during that time:

- Implemented County Director model in St. Lucie and Martin counties, bringing the administration of services closer to the individual communities and increasing accountability at the county level
- Reversed a projected \$1 million deficit and ended 2014 with a surplus
- Engaged the Annie E. Casey Foundation to establish the nationally acclaimed Permanency Roundtable locally, a program that helps ensure children find permanency safely and quickly
- Stabilized turnover of dependency case-management staff, particularly in St. Lucie County where the turnover rate was more than 80 percent
- Established leadership meetings with the courts, Children’s Legal Services and the Guardian ad Litem to enhance outcomes for families
- Created a viable Utilization Management system to maximize use of community resources to meet the underdeveloped needs of our clients
- Received 501 c 3 status from the Internal Revenue Service
- Launched the I’m Still Here Campaign to maintain awareness and support of children and families during lead agency transition
- Strengthened partnerships with Medicaid and publically funded providers to ensure families get the help they need after their involvement with us
- Included the Department of Children and Families’ Child Protective Investigators in pre-service training to forge early partnerships

Funding

The following charts represent income and expenses for an 8-month period, from Nov. 1, 2013, when Devereux CBC was established, to the end of the 2014 fiscal year.

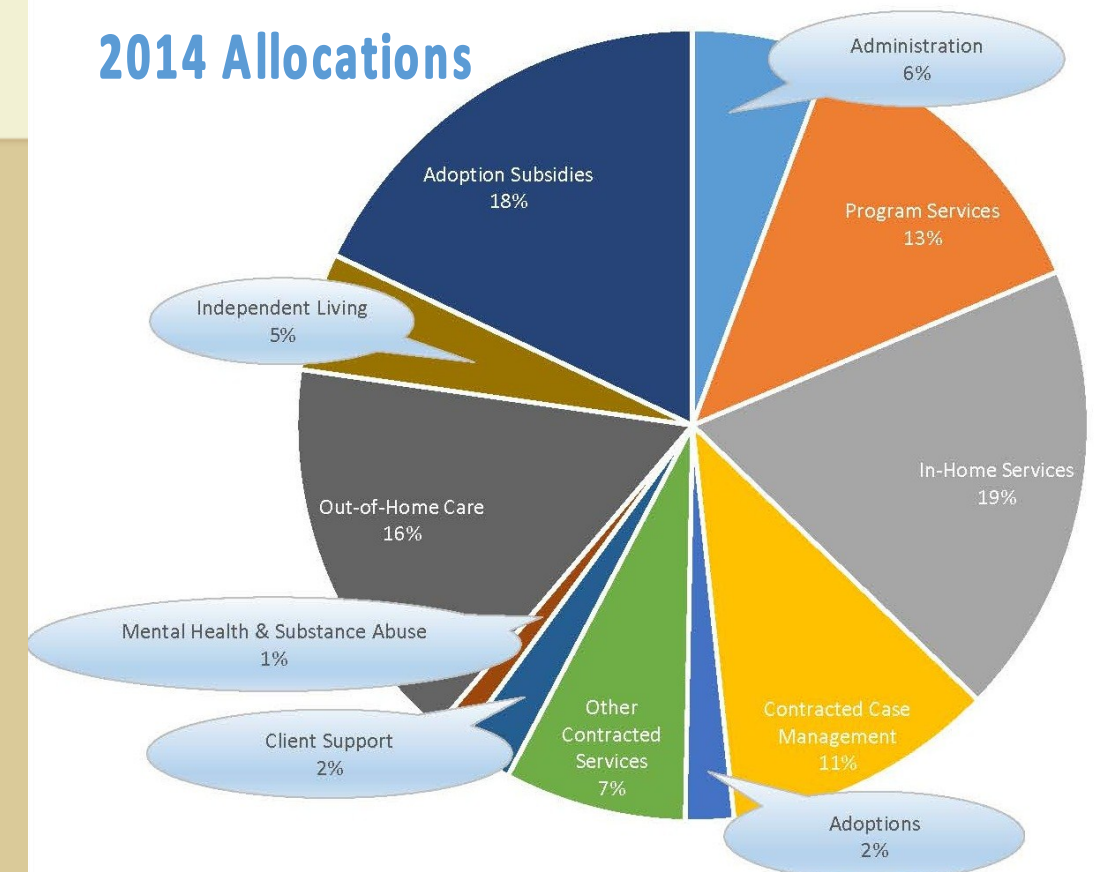
Income

Department of Children & Families **\$16.9 million**

Expenses

Administration	\$917,920
Program Services	\$2.1 million
In-house Case Management	\$3.0 million
Contracted Case Management	\$1.8 million
Adoptions	\$319,676
Other Contracted Services	\$1.2 million
Client Support	\$381,199
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	\$180,705
Out of Home Care	\$2.6 million
Independent Living	\$780,175
Adoption Subsidies	\$2.9 million
Total Expenses	\$16.9 million

2014 Allocations



Our providers

4Kids of South Florida
ADAP Counseling Services
Boys Town— Central Florida
Breakthrough Recovery Center
Brighter Futures Inc.
Camelot Community Care
CASTLE
Changing Tree Wellness Center
Children's Home Society of Florida
Counseling and Recovery Center
Father Flanagan's Boys Town
Fla, Inc.
Hibiscus Children's Center
LabCorp
Mental Health Association of
Indian River County
New Horizons of the
Treasure Coast
Place of Hope
Real Life Children's Ranch
Substance Awareness Center of
Indian River County
Suncoast Mental Health Center
Translations USA
Treasure Coast Counseling Center
Tykes & Teens
VisionQuest

Because it takes a village

A strong partnership between caregiver and case manager is essential and often means the difference between a system that works and one that falls short of meeting a child's needs. Tammy Ortiz, who has been a foster parent with her husband, Marc, for two years, has this to say about that essential relationship between caregiver and case manager:

Our first placement was a trying experience, and we seriously considered closing our home. We love the children and love the program but felt completely isolated, unsupported and alone. One night, we received a call for a placement of two very sweet babies. We really struggled but ultimately decided to try again. We were greeted by this case manager, Rachel Parsons, who had these gorgeous babies. She was so pleasant and informative. She came in, sat down and talked to us. And she listened.

Rachel has been our case manager for more than seven months now. The kids in care are extremely sickly, and we've had such trying times. But the difference for us is that Rachel always keeps us in the loop. She will call randomly to check on the kids, texts me and answers any little question we have - even when she's out sick!

This is not only Rachel's job, it's her life. Our kids adore her, and they run to her when I tell them Rachel is here. She is part of our family. When our son was in the hospital multiple times, she came up to the hospital each and every time and sat with us and worried with us. I know that isn't part of her job, but that is her heart.

Rachel Parsons does everything she can to support her kids. I am one proud foster mom to be working with her, and I will continue to be for years to come because of her.

2014 Contributors

\$5,000-\$10,000

Kathryn A. Basile
Foster a Dream Foundation

\$1,000-\$4,999

Florida Power & Light
Seacoast National Bank & Trust
Sebastian Exchange Club

\$500-\$999

James & Darlene Haines
Camelot Community Care
Sneider Law

\$100-\$499

C&B Background
Fingerprinting & Services
Mrs. Connie Grounds
Seacoast National Bank
Trinity Freewill Baptist Church

In-Kind Contributors & Volunteers

Appletree Academy	La Buona Vita	Church
Bank of America	Lakes of Tradition	St. Lucie County Retired Educators
Berry Fresh Café	Lenco Marine	Sungrove Montessori
Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County	Martin County BOCC Martin Health System	Tami Karol Insurance
Church Women United	Mrs. Anissa Bidot	The Connie Bailes Family
Clark Advanced Learning	Mrs. Niza Durfee	The Curtain Exchange
Center NJHS	Pursuit Boats	The Hometown News
Dr. Patricia Cooper	QVC	The Love Doctors
Exchange Club TC	Riverside Billiards	Treasure Coast
First Presbyterian Church	Seacoast National Bank	Builders Association
General Federation of	Sneider Law	Treasure Coast Wellness
Women's Club of Okeechobee	Sparemakers Bowling Team	Tropicana
Hair Cuttery	Spherion	USPS—PSL Branch
Hoskins & Turko	St. Andrew Academy	Verizon
Indian River Exchange Club	St. Andrew Episcopal Church	Walton Road Baptist Church
Indian River State College	St. Andrew Lutheran	

Thank you

The Kathryn A. Basile Foster a Dream Foundation has contributed more than \$20,000 and helped 29 teenagers in foster care since the foundation was created in late 2010. Contributions have paid for high-school and college-related expenses such as laptop computers and graduation expenses.

Tiana Robinson, a young adult who aged out of the foster-care system, says the help she's received from the Foundation allows her to keep her focus on school. In 2013, the foundation paid for her cap and gown expenses, a ticket and dress to her senior prom and college application fees.

Foster a Dream also paid for two local youth advocates to attend the statewide Florida Youth SHINE meeting in January. Youth SHINE is an organization that coordinates members to advocate on behalf of children still in foster care.

Daniel Pettus, the group's statewide chair, and Mary Power, both aged out of the local foster-care system and spend much of their time meeting with local legislatures. During the January meeting, they discussed priorities for the group's legislative agenda for the 2014 session. One of those priorities was getting legislation passed that makes it easier for teens in foster care to get their driver's licenses.

Devereux Community Based Care
10570 S. Federal Hwy. Ste. 300
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

