

# Devereux

COMMUNITY BASED CARE OF OKEECHOBEE & THE TREASURE COAST

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## News & Media

### Devereux Welcomes New Board Members

**Port St. Lucie** – Logo, letterhead and the sign over the front door aren't the only things changing when Devereux Community Based Care transitions to Communities Connected for Kids next month. Its Board of Directors is also getting a new look.

"When Devereux Community Based Care was established in 2013, we promised to be fully integrated with our local community within five years," said Christina Kaiser, Community Relations Director for the organization that oversees the child-welfare system in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. "A big part of that is making sure our Board membership reflects the community."

New to the board are Steve Simon, a partner with Rosenthal, Levy and Simon, Vanessa Farnes, senior market manager with Seacoast Bank, and Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County Chief Operating Officer Melanie Wiles.



*Steve Simon is a partner at Rosenthal, Levy and Simon*



*Vanessa Farnes is a senior market manager at Seacoast National Bank*

They are filling vacancies left by outgoing Board members Michelle Llorens, assistant executive director for Devereux Florida; Leah Yaw, senior vice president of external affairs for Pennsylvania-based Devereux Foundation, and Devereux Massachusetts Executive Director Steven Yerdon.

"Our Devereux members were critical to our initial success," Kaiser said. "At this point in our development, it's important that our Board is reflective of the families who live and work in Okeechobee and the Treasure Coast."

Farnes brings more than 20 years' experience in the local banking industry. She serves as a Board Member for both the St. Lucie County United Way and Sarah's Kitchen, and the causes most important to her include children, civil rights, human rights and social services.

Simon, an attorney who lives in Palm City, brings extensive knowledge of the court system and insurance issues and is personally familiar with the foster-care system. He has served on several Boards including the Treasure Coast Food Bank, CASTLE and United for Families – the organization that oversaw the local child-welfare system prior to Devereux Community Based Care.

Some of Wiles' credentials include serving on the Treasure Coast Opioids Taskforce Education Committee and the Economic Development Council. She has been involved with youth development for more than 10 years and has an extensive background in marketing and resource development.



"We are fortunate to have the local knowledge and history that these individuals bring to our organization," Devereux Community Based Care Chief Executive Officer Carol Deloach said. "We are happy to have them on our Board."

*Michelle Wiles is the  
Chief Operating  
Officer with the Boys and  
Girls Club of St. Lucie  
County*

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