



# Florida Partners in Crisis

## **Legislative Priorities for 2003-04** *SUBSTANTIVE*

Florida Partners in Crisis supports the following legislative efforts:

### **1. Compliance with 2002 HB 751**

- HB 751 requires DCF to do periodic actuarial analyses to develop estimates of the actual need for mental health services for use in preparing its annual legislative budget requests
- DCF did not comply with HB 751 in preparation of their legislative budget requests for 2003-04
- DCF should complete the actuarial analysis by Spring 2003 for use in developing their legislative budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year

### **2. An Independent Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

- More focused mission
- More consistent policy and program standards
- State of the art services
- Better coordination of mental health and substance abuse service delivery
- Better able to maximize and leverage Medicaid dollars
- More effective management structure

### **3. S 543/HR 4066 – Federal Legislation for Mental Health Insurance Parity**

- Eliminates discriminatory insurance coverage practices
- Requires health insurance system to treat serious mental illness like any other disease
- 34 states have enacted similar parity laws