



Florida Partners In Crisis

Advocating mental health and substance abuse services.

FY 2005-2006 Budget Priorities: Moving Toward Recovery and Self-Sufficiency

Today's treatment services for people with mental illnesses and addictions are geared to recovery and self-sufficiency. But this goal will remain out of the reach of many Floridians until adequate services are available throughout the state.

Year one phase-in of enhanced community-based services for adults with serious mental illness to areas of the state outside of Southwest Florida \$21 million

These funds would pay for year one of a five-year plan to expand services for adults with serious mental illnesses in areas outside Southwest Florida, where a model service array was developed. If fully implemented, the plan would extend throughout the state the same level of services currently available in the model area. These enhanced services would dramatically reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illnesses who are in jails or who are homeless, as well as help prevent repeat admissions to CSUs. The request is based on cost estimates developed by the Department of Children and Families and submitted to the Florida Senate in 2001.

Improve mental health crisis (Baker Act) services \$17 million

This request would increase the total number of adult and children's crisis stabilization unit (CSU) beds purchased by the Department of Children & Families. The 2004 Legislature approved \$10 million to increase CSU capacity by 88 beds. However, there is still unmet need in some areas of the state. This need may increase as a result of the new involuntary outpatient placement law. In addition, state mental health officials estimated last year it would cost an average of \$350 per day to provide quality crisis stabilization services. DCF currently pays up to \$292 per day. The Legislature should allocate additional funding in FY 2005-06 to begin moving the rate to \$350 a day.

Access to children's mental health services \$24 million

These funds would be used to expand a range of outpatient services for children with emotional disturbance and severe emotional disturbance who are not eligible for Medicaid. This amount would bring all districts in Florida to the goal of \$619 per child. This is the amount being spent in "benchmark" District 15, which has the highest level of children's mental health funding in Florida.



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Indigent Psychiatric Medication Program

\$6.7 million

This program pays for psychotropic medications for individuals who are indigent and have a serious and persistent mental illness. The proposed request would double the current appropriation, an increase of \$6.7 million. This increase would provide medication to an additional 2,950 people.

Closing the Treatment Gap

\$16 million

While substance abuse treatment has been found to be a cost-effective investment—saving \$7 for every \$1 invested—increased funding is needed to reach the significant number of underserved adults and children in Florida's communities. Current funding meets only 13% of the treatment needs of adults and 22% of the treatment needs for children. Services are particularly needed to meet the needs of families involved in Florida's child protection system.

Substance Abuse Family Intervention Specialists

\$1.6 million

Parental substance abuse is a major contributing factor in child abuse and neglect cases. Substance abuse in the family is one of the key reasons for out-of-home placements and a major barrier to family reunification. This funding would provide for an additional 18 Substance Abuse Family Intervention Specialists (FIS) to expand substance abuse case management and support services for families involved in the child protection system. These services have been demonstrated to be effective in improving the likelihood of successful completion of treatment.

Detoxification Services

\$3.3 million

Detoxification services are a critical crisis stabilization service. This request is in response to recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and would provide an additional 47 detoxification beds statewide.

Improving the Quality of Services

\$4 million

A significant percentage of individuals in treatment for substance abuse also have a co-occurring mental disorder. In order to more effectively treat these individuals, increased resources are necessary to provide additional services, including psychiatric and case management services, as well as psychotropic medications.



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Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation

\$350,000

This request would increase funding for the Florida Substance Abuse and Mental Health Corporation from the current level of \$250,000 to \$350,000. Created by the Legislature in 2003, this private, nonprofit corporation is charged with reviewing and assessing the status of the publicly-funded mental health and substance abuse systems and recommending policy designed to improve coordination and effectiveness of the system. The Corporation reports annually to the Legislature and the Governor with its findings and recommendations. With enhanced research capability, the Corporation will be able to continue to be responsive in carrying out its regular activities, as well as conducting special projects assigned by the Legislature and Governor.

Funding to Comply with HB 751

\$100,000

HB 751 requires Department of Children & Families to perform an actuarial analysis of mental health services needs for use in developing legislative budget requests. Funding is needed to enable the department to complete this analysis, so that an accurate assessment of need is available to the Governor and Legislature.

Total Appropriations Request - \$94.05 Million