

## **MAINTAIN CURRENT FUNDING FOR DCF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES WHILE RESTORING RECURRING GENERAL REVENUE FUNDING**

In 2011 the Legislature maintained the 2010 funding levels for community mental health and substance abuse services for children and adults. It is important that the 2012 Legislature, at a minimum, do the same.

- The 2011 Legislature transferred \$43.1 million of recurring community mental health and substance abuse funding to non-recurring funding (\$3.6 million from Children's Mental Health, \$24.3 million from Adult Mental Health, \$7 million from Children's Substance Abuse and \$8.2 million from Adult Substance Abuse). Recurring funding in these amounts should be restored.

### **Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Funding Is Cost-Effective**

- Without appropriate levels of care, individuals with mental illnesses will experience poorer outcomes, poorer health, and a greater likelihood of involvement with other more costly systems of care. Failure to provide behavioral health care will result in societal costs being shifted to other sectors of government at a higher cost with less or no appropriate care.
- More than 50% of individuals in jails or prisons have a mental health disorder; 74% of this population meets the criteria for substance dependence or abuse; 21% of persons in hospital beds are there because of mental illness; 25% of homeless people suffer from a serious mental illness. (Department of Justice, 2006; NIMH, 2008).
- Mental disorders, including anxiety disorders, alcohol-related disorders, mood disorders, substance-related disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, constituted 36.5% of ER visits in Florida in 2009. The average charge (for all types of mental disorders) was \$2,887 per visit. There were a total of 111,502 ER visits for mentally ill individuals in 2009. (Emergency Department Utilization Report, AHCA, 2009).
- Over his or her lifetime, 1 out of every 2 Floridians will experience some form of mental illness.

### **Treatment is Cheaper**

- Intensive community mental health treatment costs approximately \$20,000/person/year or \$54.79/day
- The cost of a jail bed is \$40,000/person/year or \$110/day
- One year in prison costs \$60,000/person or \$164/day
- The average cost of state hospital care is \$112,000/person/year or \$307/day
- One day in a Crisis Stabilization Unit costs \$292 – one day in a hospital costs \$1,200 to \$1,800
- Chronic diseases cost up to 60% more to treat when an individual also suffers from depression

### **Treatment Works**

- Treatment success rates for such disorders as schizophrenia (60%), depression (80%) and panic disorder (70-90%) surpass those of other medical conditions, such as heart disease (45-50%) and other chronic illnesses. (National Institute of Mental Health, 2004)
- 93% of offenders who complete community drug treatment do not re-offend. A 1% reduction in recidivism saves the state \$8 billion over 3 years. (Florida Department of Corrections)
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment, mental health courts, and other mental health treatment services show on average a 45% drop in hospital days and a 77% decline in days incarcerated when treatment services are provided.