



# Florida Police Chiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

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**RESOLUTION 2011-1, Supports statewide funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment services on behalf of Florida residents who receive mental health and substance abuse treatment services.**

WHEREAS, on any given day in Florida, there are approximately 15,000 local jail detainees and 40,000 individuals under correctional supervision in our communities with a mental illness or substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, annually as many as 125,000 people with mental illnesses requiring treatment are arrested and booked into Florida jails and a recent study found that 31% of women and 14% of men being booked into local jails have a major mental illness; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in mental health treatment funding and 35<sup>th</sup> in substance abuse treatment funding when compared to other states; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations has proposed catastrophic reductions to community mental health and substance abuse services effectively eliminating all community-based non-emergency treatment including medications; and

WHEREAS, if the Senate is successful with its proposal, Florida is at risk of losing all federal mental health and substance abuse block grant funding for failing to maintain a state treatment system; and

WHEREAS, we will see a marked increase in emergency room and hospital admissions, forensic commitments, county jail admissions, prison incarcerations, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Courts and law enforcement would lose their safety net of emergency crisis services they have depended on for decades; and

WHEREAS, investing in mental health and substance abuse treatment helps turn lives around and diminishes the need for more jails and prisons to house those whose criminal activities centered around their addictions or mental illnesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Florida Police Chiefs Association:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2: The Florida Police Chiefs Association respectfully requests the support of the Florida Senate to continue funding of mental health and substance abuse treatment services with no cuts to an already poorly funded system.

Section 4: This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of March, 2011** by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Florida Police Chiefs Association.