

<b>2017 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA</b>
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**Invest in Mental Health Treatment**

- Encourage AHCA officials to continue to recognize mental health and substance abuse services as essential health benefits and require parity with other treatment services for Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Continue funding Managing Entities at levels that reflect the needs of the community.
- Ensure that revenue maximization efforts that draw down more federal funds for mental health services do not come at the expense of services to non-Medicaid eligible individuals.
- Support the Governor's recommendation to add \$6.3 million for 90 new positions in the state's three mental health hospitals.
- Oppose cuts to Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (ACT/FACT) teams; support funding and expansion as outlined in the Governor's recommended budget.

**End the Criminalization of Mental Illness**

- Support the creation of seven Community Forensic Multi-Disciplinary Teams and Housing Support that divert individuals who have committed non-violent offenses from involuntary commitments to a secure forensic facility (\$6.6 million in the Governor's budget).

**Support housing and employment**

- Support full funding of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for low-income individuals including those with disabilities.
- Adopt funding recommendations by the state DCF & Governor's office for Managing Entity Care Coordination and Housing Initiatives (\$3.3 million) and support \$2.75 million in housing initiatives in Alachua, Pinellas and Broward counties as part of the Governor's Executive Order.
- Support \$3 million in the Governor's recommended budget for supportive employment of up to 5,000 individuals with mental illness.

**Provide access to mental health services**

- Support HB 1019 and SB 516 so that worker's compensation insurance will cover treatment for law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics if they have mental or nervous condition that arose from a job activity.
- Oppose provisions in SB 1216/HB 1073 that would cap student fees and jeopardize funding for mental health counseling services at state universities; support the State University System's request for \$12.6 million in funding for counseling services.
- Support legislation (SB 182/HB 95) that would prohibit health plans from dropping medications mid-plan year, jeopardizing the health and safety of individuals with mental illness.