Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

Opioid Crisis: Request $20 million in recurring funds to recover services which were discontinued due to lapsed federal funding during FY17. This revenue will also be used to fill in gaps that current federal funding allocation will not cover, specifically detoxification services, residential placement, outpatient treatment/recovery support, and prevention services.

Critical Services: Restore previous funding levels to a) **Central Receiving Facilities**, reducing the number of individuals with behavioral health problems who enter the criminal justice system and fill our jails while also reducing the number of individuals defaulting to the state hospital system; b) **Care Coordination**, reducing deep end service utilization (emergency rooms, crisis stabilization units, institutionalization, etc.) by carefully coordinating care for individuals with multi-faceted and severe mental illness to ensure they access the full array of services needed for community-based stabilization; and c) **Housing,** to provide a stable and reliable living environment for the severe and persistently mentally ill.

Designated State Health Plan: AHCA and DCF were charged with developing a Designated State Health Plan Proposal (DSHP) for consideration by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This plan proposed utilization of current general revenue funds within the DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health services program to leverage Medicaid funding for behavioral health services. Currently these funds provide critical behavioral health services to uninsured and indigent individuals with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction. This program, if approved, mandates the continued access to services for those currently served and will not simply shift funding from the indigent and uninsured to the Medicaid enrolled individuals. The Managing Entities and their provider networks will implement and manage the system and a sustainability plan will be in place upon program initiation, as the DSHP program ends after 5 years.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) Expansion: $2.3M to expand the Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) program statewide. SNAP is an evidence-based behavioral model that provides a teaching framework for children who struggle with behavior issues, and their parents, effective emotional regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills. SNAP focuses on 6-11 year old children at risk for entry into the delinquency and/or dependency systems and has had significant success in Florida.

CINS/FINS Capacity: $200,000 to increase capacity for the CINS/FINS shelter programs in the state. Many shelters are experiencing demand for services exceeding current funded capacity and increased funding will help alleviate these situations.

We support of the Department of Children and Families request for Human Trafficking victims shelter and care funding.

Guardianship

Public Records Exemption: We support legislation being drafted by Senator Passidomo to exempt the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, places of employment, and photographs of current or former public guardians, public-guardian case managers and their families.

We support the Office of Public Guardianship to update the *cost per ward* allocation, which has not been updated for more than 5 years. We believe the current funding level of $216 per month is inadequate given the service level required to care for these indigent and incapacitated individuals.

Child Welfare

Child Welfare Targeted Case Management: This optional Medicaid service currently exists, however utilization must be maximized to improve the overall care and performance outcomes for the children placed in foster care. This program utilizes unmatched general revenue funds with the child welfare system to draw down Medicaid case management funding. A study conducted by the Florida Mental Health Institute in 2003 found that Child Welfare Targeted Case Management reduced caseloads, lowered length of stay for children in foster care, improved services, and improved safety. Targeted Case Management was also credited with improving staff retention and caregiver satisfaction. Due to changes in the Florida Medicaid program, these services are not currently being utilized in any Florida region, however the program is available and can be activated for any eligible child via an agreement between the Lead Agencies, the child welfare specialty health plan, DCF and AHCA. Child Welfare Targeted Case Management was successfully implemented and studied in Sarasota and Manatee counties from 1998 through 2005.

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About Lutheran Services Florida

Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) is a non-profit transforming lives by ensuring safe children, strong families and vibrant communities. Founded in 1982, LSF currently touches the lives of 1 in 50 Floridians every year through various programs, including early education, youth shelters, foster care, charter schools, refugee and resettlement services, substance abuse mental health services, and adult guardianship. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, LSF has more than 60 programs throughout Florida and approximately 1,400 dedicated employees.