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**To:** Lee County Legislative Delegation  
**From:** Kevin Lewis, President/CEO  
**Re:** Presentation on Mental Health and Substance Abuse State Funding  
**Date:** December 17, 2014

*Kevin B. Lewis*

As a long-time partner with state and local government, SalusCare (and its predecessor companies) is aiming to share information that is critical to your work in the upcoming legislative session. **Mental health and substance use disorders can and do impact all sectors of our community** – including healthcare systems, child welfare and the criminal justice system. Each of these are areas of focus for elected officials, and are often “big ticket” items for your consideration.

Mental health and substance use disorders are also chronic, brain-based disorders that have been proven to be treatable in the majority of instances. We have all seen recovery in our communities, friends and often our families.

Access to treatment, and offering quality treatment services, are key elements in achieving positive treatment outcomes.

Statewide, Florida’s financial commitment to mental health treatment services is significantly less than national averages. Per the attached information from the Kaiser Family Foundation, Florida’s 2012 expenditures for mental health services per capita was under \$40, while the national average was over \$120 per person. Comparing Florida’s investment to five other states in our region (Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana) reveals that their per capita expenditures are just over \$72, or 82% more than Florida’s comparable expenditures. It may be of value to note that over 50% of SalusCare’s expenditures annually are state general revenue and federal block grant monies. The remaining expenditures are from fees, local support and fund-raising efforts.

Combined with the decision to not expand Medicaid coverage (which leaves Florida with one of the highest rates of uninsured residents at around 20%), there are more Floridians seeking publicly supported care with limited public funding. The result is care denied or delayed, and frequently a downward substitution of care, in an effort to offer hope and help to as many in need as possible.

When looking at substance abuse and mental health funding channeled through the Department of Children and Families (DCF), there is an attached graph that looks at actual funding from 2000-01 to 2012-13 within Florida. In simple dollars, funding had increased by \$1.27 per person over

this twelve year period. When inflation is factored in (cost of living impacts all sectors of our businesses) the DCF funding “value” has been reduced by +21% over the same time. This reduction occurred at the same time the prescription drug epidemic impacted our healthcare and child welfare systems, and when we have increasing identification of untreated mental illnesses impacting us as seen in Newtown’s tragedy and others. Lesser funding during these times of increased demand for services has limited our ability to respond to critical emerging needs.

The last piece of information to share is how DCF funding is allocated throughout the region. It looks at judicial circuits from Pasco County to the north through Collier County (and our own 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit). DCF substance use and mental health funding now goes through a managing entity, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network (CFBHN) for our region. CFBHN has operated transparently, so we were able to compare how each Circuit is funded for acute (crisis stabilization and detoxification) and non-acute (all other treatment) services. **Circuit 20 is the lowest funded Circuit by far for non-acute services** (where most people receive treatment) at \$88.17 per person, while the regional average is \$108.26 per person. Essentially, Circuit 20 has the least resources per person in an overall environment where funding is inadequate.

We will be asking our legislative delegation to support initiatives brought forward by the Florida Council for Community Mental Health and Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association to improve our ability to respond to community needs and demands, to help us partner more effectively with state and local governments, and to offer timely access to quality care to Floridians. Key areas for “asks” will include improving Medicaid rates for behavioral healthcare providers, to restore non-recurring funding for existing work underway, and to increase overall funding so issues of inequity can be addressed to assure our community has equal access to services as elsewhere in Florida.

Expect to hear from us and other stakeholders as we develop new strategies to respond to needs in our community. We have a long history of partnership, and our Board and staff members will continue to work closely with you and your staff in response to the needs of our communities we both serve.

# THE FUNDING

Filling the need for trusted information on health issues...

Trending on KFF

CONSUMER RESOURCES

DUAL ELIGIBLE

MARKETPLACES





TOPICS

OUR WORK

PERSPECTIVES

NEWSROOM

ABOUT US

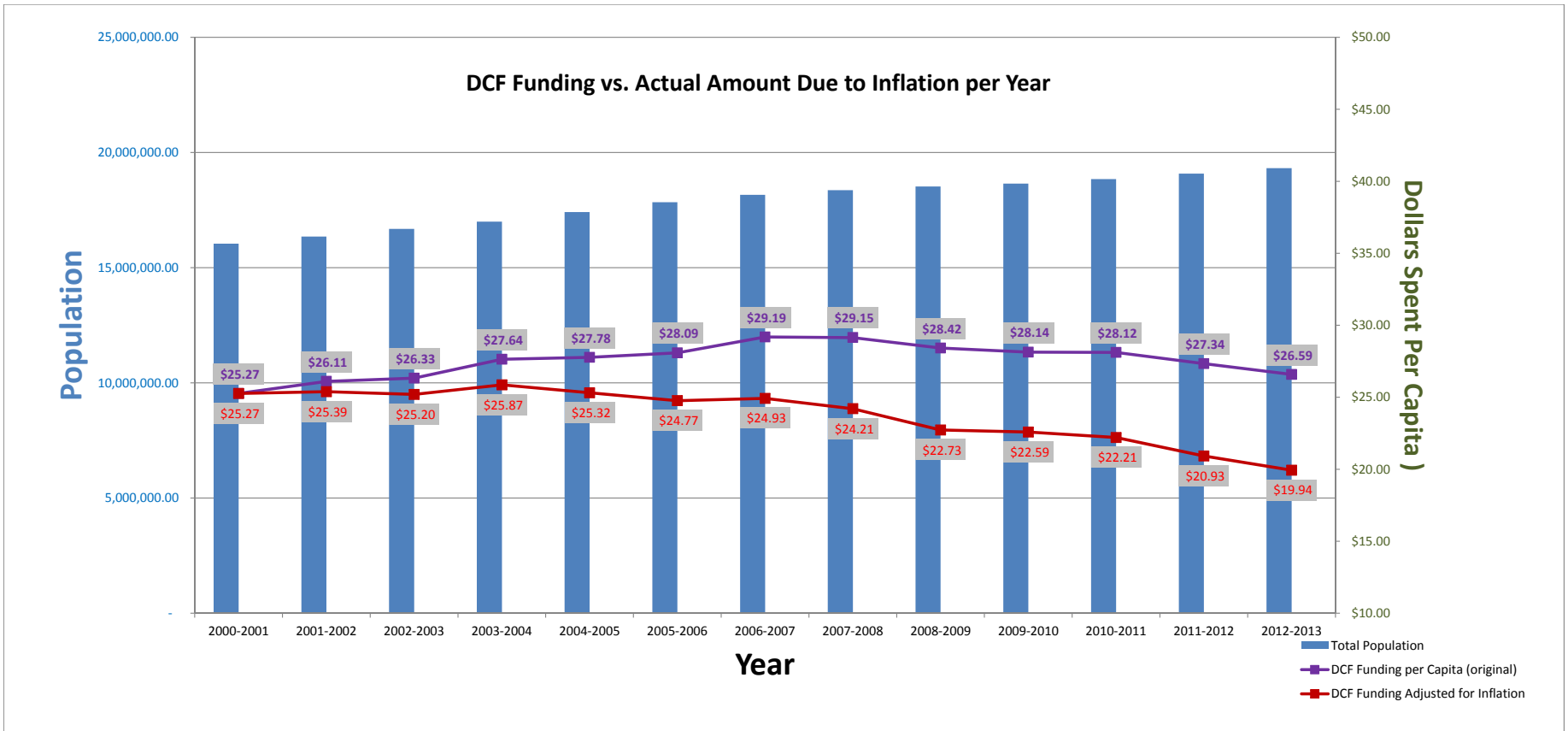
## SMHA Expenditures Per Capita

United States Average	\$120.56	Montana	\$173.59
Alabama	\$78.19	Nebraska	\$80.73
Alaska	\$310.01	Nevada	\$68.32
Arizona	\$221.27	New Hampshire	\$146.40
Arkansas	\$42.02	New Jersey	\$200.09
California	\$152.60	New Mexico	\$93.37
Colorado	\$88.41	New York	\$256.31
Connecticut	\$189.34	North Carolina	\$165.75
Delaware	\$106.04	North Dakota	\$96.37
District of Columbia	\$360.57	Ohio	\$73.13
Florida	\$39.55	Oklahoma	\$53.05
Georgia	\$46.54	Oregon	\$157.08
Hawaii	\$169.99	Pennsylvania	\$280.78
Idaho	\$36.64	Rhode Island	\$90.51
Illinois	\$80.43	South Carolina	\$59.75
Indiana	\$81.73	South Dakota	\$85.35
Iowa	\$134.46	Tennessee	\$77.40
Kansas	\$132.33	Texas	\$38.99
Kentucky	\$53.69	Utah	\$64.17
Louisiana	\$62.37	Vermont	\$239.84
Maine	\$346.92	Virginia	\$90.72
Maryland	\$164.11	Washington	\$113.57
Massachusetts	\$109.07	West Virginia	\$72.88
Michigan	\$119.23	Wisconsin	\$108.15
Mississippi	\$114.95	Wyoming	\$133.24
Missouri	\$86.75	Puerto Rico	\$22.97



SalusCare

Recovery Begins Here



## State Rate Comparison For Substance Abuse Services

	Non-acute care	Acute care
<b>Circuit 20</b> <i>Lee, Charlottee, Collier, Hendry &amp; Glades Counties</i>	<b>\$88.17</b>	<b>\$9.33</b>
<b>REGION AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$108.26</b>	<b>\$8.12</b>

### AROUND THE REGION

Circuit 6 <i>Pinellas County</i>	\$131.88	\$8.33
Circuit 10 <i>Hardee, Highlands and Polk Counties</i>	\$101.45	\$6.44
Circuit 6 <i>Pasco County</i>	\$103.07	\$7.08
Circuit 13 <i>Hillsborough County</i>	\$103.57	\$8.02
Circuit 12 <i>DeSoto, Manatee &amp; Sarasota Counties</i>	\$101.35	\$10.72

*Source: Central Florida Behavioral Health Network*