

HB 979 / SB 1336, CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604, SB12, PCB CFSS 16-01: Relating to Behavioral/Mental Health

***Florida deserves a comprehensive mental health
and behavioral health treatment system.***

What is the purpose of HB 979 / SB 1336, CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604, SB12, PCB CFSS 16-01?

- ▶ HB 979 / SB 1336 addresses gaps in the current system where behavioral health services for persons with complex, persistent, and co-occurring disorders may obtain needed services.
- ▶ SB12 provides for mental health services for those seeking custody of children involved in dependency court proceedings by creating a coordinated system of care to be provided for those suffering from mental illness or substance abuse.
- ▶ CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604 expands the authority of the courts to use treatment-based mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.
- ▶ PCB CFSS 16-01 makes changes to the statewide system of safety-net prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance abuse and mental health administered by the Department of Children and Families.

Why is HB 979 / SB 1336, CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604, SB12, PCB CFSS 16-01 necessary?

- ▶ Mental illness creates enormous social and economical costs; rates of unemployment for people having a severe mental illness range between 60% and 100%, and a person with mental illness is three times more likely to experience homelessness.
- ▶ According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, approximately 50% of individuals with severe mental health disorders are affected by substance abuse. NAMI also estimates that 29% of all people diagnosed as mentally ill abuse alcohol or other drugs. When mental health disorders are left untreated, substance abuse is likely to increase.

How would HB 979 / SB 1336, CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604, SB12, PCB CFSS 16-01 work?

- ▶ These bills would provide the opportunity for additional state and federal funding for behavioral and mental health services, a comprehensive and coordinated system of services to those with mental health and behavioral health problems, and improve the implementation of the Baker Act and Marchman Act.
- ▶ It would allow for additional service options for people with mental health and substance problems in the criminal justice system.

**Vote "YES" on HB 979 / SB 1336, CS/HB 439 / CS/SB 604, SB12,
PCB CFSS 16-01 and support those with mental/behavioral illness!**