

Florida Deserves a Comprehensive Mental Health Treatment System

- ▶ Florida ranks 49th of 50 states in per capita spending on mental health.
- ▶ In Florida, there are twice as many suicides as there are homicides.
- ▶ More than 66,000 Floridians have serious mental illness, no insurance and no access to care.
- ▶ Eight out of 12 Florida universities fall below minimum staffing levels for mental health counseling as the need for services grows on campuses.
- ▶ More than 60% of Florida's drug overdoses deaths involve opioids.
- ▶ Florida's lack of community services strains acute care hospitals and ERs. 36 private community psychiatric hospital closings since 1992, reflecting a loss of 4,430 psychiatric and substance abuse beds.
- ▶ Suicides cost Florida more than \$2.8 billion each year in medical costs and lost work.
- ▶ Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Florida children ages 10 to 18.
- ▶ Floridians who are mentally ill are five times more likely to end up in prison than in a treatment facility.
- ▶ Almost half of Florida inmates with mental illness are re-arrested within 90 days of their release.
- ▶ Mental illness causes an estimated \$26 billion in lost productivity for Florida each year.
- ▶ Florida saves up to \$72,000 each time a person with a mental illness is treated instead of jailed.
- ▶ 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 with a mental illness abuse alcohol or other drugs. When mental health disorders are left untreated, substance abuse is likely to increase.
- ▶ Half of all Floridians will experience mental illness at least once in their lifetime.

Support a comprehensive mental health and behavioral health treatment system for all Florida families!

* Findings from MHA of Northeast Florida