

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**January through December 2003**

**COMMITTEE NAME:** Health and Human Services Advisory Council

**CHAIR:** M. Maximillion Wilson, Ph.D.

**STAFF SUPPORT:** Ellen S. Walden

**BCC LIAISON:** Commissioner James Bryant

**BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMITTEE:**

In 1997 the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Committee were combined to form the Health and Human Services Advisory Council to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council evaluates human services programs in the community. Assists in determining the effectiveness of program, reduce duplication of services and assure the health and human services needs of the residents of St. Johns County are met. They review applications requesting county funding for programs that provide health, mental health, substance abuse and social services and submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council performs its functions and duties without regard or condition as to the race, religion, gender or national origin of any affected person.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

The health and well being of a Community is a function of its quality of life, including the delivery of health and human services supported by public policy and funding those in need of such services. Our mission is to be responsive to those needs and to recommend funding programs worthy of public support for citizens of St. Johns County.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2003:**

The Health and Human Services Advisory Council has its own web page which continues to provide information to the public. You may view it at the following web site:

<http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/BCC/Public-Health/HHSAC/index.htm>.

In January 2003, the Council reviewed possible allocations for St. Johns County "Choose Life" License Plate Funds. These funds are distributed to only non-governmental not-for-profit agencies providing services limited to counseling and meeting the physical needs of pregnant women already committed to placing their children for adoption. No funds are permitted distribution to any agency involved or associated with abortion activities, including counseling or referrals to abortion clinics. Nor are funds permitted to be distributed to any agency that charged women for services received. The Council made a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to split the available funds between St. Gerard Campus, Inc. and Alpha-Omega Miracle Home. The Council is confident that this funding source will continue in the years to come.

In May 2003, the County Social Services and Mental Health Department budgets were reviewed.

In December of 2003, the Council received "letters of intent" for funding from 22 agencies serving the county. All agencies were sent applications.

The funding application was revised and updated for use in the 2004/2005 County fiscal year. Newly defined reporting of actual revenues and expenditures from agencies on their past, current

and proposed year and the actual number of clients served. The Council reviewed needs in the County revised priorities for funding to include:

### **Community Health**

To improve the state of physical and mental health for the individuals and families in St. Johns County. Population served - children and adults with physical, developmental, and/or mental disabilities, homeless, elderly and residents of rural areas.

### **Supportive Housing/Living**

To allow special populations the opportunity to achieve their highest potential. Population served - children and adults with physical, developmental and/or mental disabilities, homeless, elderly, and farm workers.

### **Economic Opportunity**

To ensure that people have the job skills and economic opportunities they need to be self-supporting and self-sufficient. Population served - low and moderate-income households, people with physical, developmental, and/or mental disabilities, homeless, elderly, farm workers, immigrants, and ex-offenders.

### **Basic Assistance**

To assist children and families in meeting their subsistence needs. Population served - low and moderate-income households, people with physical, developmental and/or mental disabilities, homeless, elderly and farm workers.

The most significant evolution in the 2004/05 priorities is better incorporation of children into all areas of health and human services. "Activities for Youth" was removed from the priority language to distinguish the needs for health, dental, and prevention services from needs for recreation needs.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Council is deeply committed to continuing to meet the goals outlined in the Resolution that created it. In some ways, this requires the Council to adapt to new roles, such as monitoring the Family Integrity Program.

The Council's goals are:

- (1) to encourage efficient and effective delivery of quality health and human services to the residents of this county;*
- (2) to fulfill the purposes, function and services of the Council without regard or condition as to the race, religion, gender or national origin of any affected person*
- (3) to concentrate on evaluating health and human services available, assessing unmet needs, and to fund and establish services to improve the overall welfare of St. Johns county residents; and lastly*
- (4) To plan, promote and monitor for an effective health and human service delivery system within St. Johns County.*

With respect to the first goal listed above, the Council hopes to work with the BCC and county administration on transitioning independent agencies (when possible) to performance-based funding. This strategy will assure that the county funds only the service activity needed by our citizens.

The Council is in the early stages of examining ways to better assess the future health and human service needs of St. Johns County. Deliberations on this issue are likely to take place in the summer or fall of 2004.