

ANNUAL REPORT
January through December 2004

COMMITTEE NAME: Health and Human Services Advisory Council

CHAIR: M. Maximillion Wilson, Ph.D.

STAFF SUPPORT: Ellen S. Walden

BCC LIAISON: Commissioner James Bryant

BCC ALTERNATE: Commissioner Ben Rich

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 2004:

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/>

Control key and click on the link. Look on the right side and click on "Committees and Boards". Click on Health and Human Services Advisory Council and that will take you to the HHSAC Home Page.

In January 2004, the Council held a Technical Assistance Workshop for all Independent Agencies requesting funding from the County for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Agency representatives from twenty two non-profit organizations were in attendance. The Council recognizes and supports the principles of community planning and collaboration in the area of Health and Human Services. The workshop emphasized coordination and collaboration amongst the independent agencies to provide and deliver services to county residents. The importance of Performance Measures and Outcomes were stressed to attendees and assistance was available to the agencies upon request.

In February 2004, the Council began reviewing Requests for Funding from Independent Agencies for thirty one programs, with requests totaling \$2,816,906.82.

In March 2004 the County, as “lead agency” signed a five year, \$19 million contract for the Community Based Care Initiative.

In March and April 2004 the County Social Services, Mental Health Department and Community Based Care budgets were presented and reviewed for FY 2004-2005.

The Council spent the Summer 2004 doing “Goodwill” visits to all the independent agencies. The summer was wrapped up with a BCC Workshop on Funding Reform. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from the commissioners to most of the recommendations.

The final three months of 2004 were spent working on bringing uniformity and accountability between the Hastings Clinic and the Flagler Primary Care Clinic in areas of performance measurements, outcomes and contract requirements. The Council worked and finalized the funding reform package to go to the BCC for approval in January 2005 that included the funding priorities for Health and Human Services in St. Johns County for FY 2005-2006, the “Partnering for Results Request for Proposal” and the recommendations for HHS funding for 2005-2006 fiscal year.

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 continue to work with the BCC and county administration as we transition the independent agencies (when possible) to performance-based funding and payments based on units of service versus by line item. This strategy will assure that the county funds only the service activity needed by our citizens.

The Council continues to assess the future health and human service needs of St. Johns County and will continue to do so throughout the year as we provide assistance in building a quality system of care our County can be proud of.