

BOARDS & COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT  
2006

DATE: January 23, 2006

COMMITTEE NAME: St. Johns County Health and Human Services Advisory Council

CHAIRMAN: Jack Hardman

STAFF SUPPORT: Ann Henry, St. Johns County Social Services

BCC LIAISON (IF ANY): Commissioner James Bryant; 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 or 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 2005:** The Council continued refining the Request for Proposals (RFP) process in the conjunction with the County Purchasing office for its funding recommendations of service agencies to the Board of County Commissioners. In addition, following the Needs Assessments and demographics completed in St. Johns County, the Council requested agencies to address whether their agencies can assist with the needs identified. These needs include the identified service gaps in transportation, adult dental care, substance abuse prevention, affordable housing and affordable child care. In addition, the geographic areas identified as lacking in service provision are within the zip codes of 32095 and 32259. Lastly, key indicators have identified population increases in the age ranges of 0-18 and 65 and up. Priority will be given to proposals addressing these gaps in services, geographic areas and age ranges.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2006: The Bylaws of the Council will be revised, allowing for the Council to consist of 13 individuals, with five professionals in the Mental Health, Substance Abuses and Social Services fields; one representative from the County school district; one representative from the United Way of St. Johns office; one representative from the County Sheriff's office; and five at-large members, including but not limited to such areas as business, banking and finance, education, law enforcement, community religious leaders, consumers and any other interested parties comprising of the general public. Duties and responsibilities of the Council will be revised as well to include: that the Council participates in the planning process for Health and Human Services; review and evaluate community Health and Human Services programs, needs, services, and special issues; promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to Health and Human Service issues within the County; serve as a sounding board for a wide base of community response regarding the community's Health and Human Service issues and programs; establish an ongoing program of education and dissemination of information to its own members; and continue to participate in the RFP Process for Health and Human Services through the Health and Human Services Director and make reports and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Health and Human Services Director and other such bodies as appropriate.