



Volume 5, Issue 1

July 2006

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Newsletter



Partner Organizations:



Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association



Florida Partners in Crisis

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Florida Supportive Housing Coalition has a New Managing Entity

The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) is the new managing entity for the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FLSHC).

FADAA, a longtime member of the FLHSC, is a non-profit, member driven organization currently representing over 100 community based substance abuse treatment and prevention agencies and over 1000 individual mem-

bers. FADAA's mission is to represent its members by advancing public policy, providing leadership, communications, professional development and quality member services.

The FADAA team has created a new logo for the FLSHC and updated the website with the new logo, address and phone number. Visit www.flshc.net to view the updates.

Legislative Session Review

Affordable housing was a major topic of discussion in the legislature this session. Representative Dan Gelber sponsored House Bill 869 requiring that the housing needs of extremely low income Floridians, those earning 30% or less than the Area Median Income, be served by the state's affordable housing programs. While the Bill did not become law, its introduction helped shape the discussion revolving around affordable housing.

In the end an omnibus housing bill incorporating a plethora of housing initiatives was passed. House Bill 1363 covered the spectrum of housing needs - from Floridians with ex-

tremely limited incomes to essential service professionals such as teachers, police officers and firefighters.

Addressing the housing needs of extremely low income families, HB 1363 implemented statutory revisions to the SAIL program. The statutory changes include treating funds for the development of apartments targeted to extremely low income families as grants rather than loans. It exempts these funds from leveraging requirements and it increases the score of applications that produce the greatest number of targeted apartments.

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A Message From The President



Shannon Nazworth

Shortly after the annual conference Maria Baeza, the Coalition executive director, had to resign her position for personal reasons.

She will be sorely missed by the Coalition and its many members. We wish her well and hope she prospers in her new endeavors.

Needless to say, the Board of Directors had a hard time filling Maria's shoes. In fact, it's going to take an entire army of people.

The Board took Maria's departure as an opportune time to review the Coalition's operations and see if there were opportunities for improvement.

Rather than hire an individual to fulfill the many functions the Coalition requires to keep operating, we have contracted with FADAA to fulfill these many duties.

FADAA will now be staffing the Coalition, organizing our annual conference, assisting with marketing and supporting our advocacy efforts.

We are greatly looking forward to working with them and believe you will see the Coalition "move to the next level" with FADAA's support.



5th Annual Conference: *"Affordable Housing for All"*

The conference will highlight the benefits of supportive housing for populations reentering the community, whether moving from shelters to permanent homes; veterans returning from service abroad; young people exiting the foster care system; individuals released from incarceration; persons with disabilities transitioning from facilities or institutions; or senior citizens leaving hospitals for community based housing.

The conference is designed to feature resources and information for practitioners, financiers, and policymakers and advo-

cates of supportive housing in Florida.

Join us!
November 6 & 7 in Orlando
Embassy Suites Hotel
Lake Buena Vista
8100 Lake Avenue
Orlando, FL 32836

Conference Sponsorship Information

Sponsorship is available at the following levels:

- Platinum Sponsor** **\$10,000**
- Primary Sponsor** **\$5,000**
- Major Sponsor** **\$2,500**
- Supporting Sponsor** **\$1,500**

For more information about sponsorship and marketing opportunities at the conference contact:

Saad Ouahidi
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition
850 878-7403 Phone
admin@flshc.net

Recovery Home Loan Program

The guidelines for the Florida Recovery Home Loan Program are established in accordance with Section 1916A of Subpart 1, Part B. Title XIX of the Public Health Act (42 USC 300X). The Florida Home Loan Recovery Program is designed and implemented to prevent recovering substance abusers in Florida from relapsing.

The group homes for recovering Substance Abuse Programs provides for the statewide establishment of self-help recovery housing services and cost effective

methods for many recovering individuals to avoid relapse.

Under the law, recovering individuals will have the opportunity to develop a new alcohol and drug-free lifestyle by accepting responsibility for operation of alcohol and drug-free recovery housing. By having responsibility for operating a recovery house within a democratically run and self-supported system, individuals gain confidence in exercising responsibility without the use of alcohol and drugs.

If you or individuals you know in Florida are interested in applying for the Recovery Home Loan Program, you will find step-by-step procedures for applying for this loan on the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association's (FADAA) website (www.fadaa.org)

The guidelines provide procedures for application, approval and disbursement of loans, and establish policies and rules for use of these funds to provide homes for recovering substance abusers.

Blueprint for the States

Report-Blueprint for the States: Policies to Improve the Way States Organize and Deliver Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment from Join Together, a national organization advancing effective alcohol and drug policy in prevention and treatment.

State treatment and prevention organizations are not the only agencies whose expenses and activities are driven by the needs of individuals with substance use disorders. Work by agencies responsible for criminal justice, child welfare, public health, mental health, and education are all affected by these issues.

In fact, substance use disorders are responsible for about 13% of all state expenditures, not the 0.5% that is allocated for substance use treatment and prevention. However, drug and alcohol policy, treatment and prevention rarely get the attention they deserve at the state level.

In response to this, Join Together convened a national policy panel to investigate the role state governments can play in improving the treatment and prevention of substance use disorders.

The panel was interested in exploring what could be done by senior state leaders, including the governor and other elected officials. Its goal was to present state government leaders and concerned citizens with practical suggestions for organizational structures that foster leadership, effective policy development and collaboration, best clinical practice, and appropriate levels of funding to actually address that scale of their state's substance use disorders and prevention challenges.

The panel heard testimony from over 30 experts in the country. The testimony as well as public testimony was critical in helping the panel formulate their recommendations on

how states can improve alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment. Testimony to the panel was presented on the issues of leadership, financing, workforce development, prevention, and performance outcomes, and state models.

The ensuing report is a blueprint for governors, legislative leaders and chief judges to adapt and use to gain control of the biggest single financial drain they face. The message to state leaders in this report is straightforward: pay attention to alcohol and drugs because they are the root of the most expensive and serious problems in all the human service and criminal justice agencies.

The entire report can be downloaded or ordered at www.jointogether.org/aboutus/policy-panels/blueprint.

Legislative Session Review

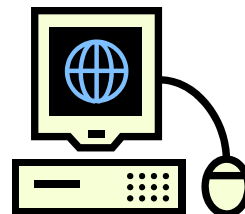
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Partnered with these statutory revisions, HB1363 appropriated \$30 million for the creation of rental housing for extremely low income families. Together these elements

of the HB1363 begin to address the needs of Floridians earning 30% or less of the Area Median Income.

There is still much advocacy that needs to be done to expand the provision of housing for

these families; however, HB1363 has begun the process and opened the eyes of many within the legislature of the housing needs of so many Floridians.



Visit our new website at www.flshc.net



Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

2868 Mahan Drive
Suite 1
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Phone: 850 878-7403
Fax: 850 878-6584
E-Mail: admin@flshc.net
Web: www.flshc.net

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