



Volume 4, Issue 1
February 2005

Florida Supportive Housing Coalition Newsletter



Partner Organizations:



FLORIDA COUNCIL
For Community Mental Health



Florida Alcohol
And Drug Abuse
Association



Florida Partners in Crisis

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“A Time of Change, a Time of Opportunity” Participants Hail the Supportive Housing Conference a Success

The recent Supportive Housing Conference, “A Time of Change, a Time of Opportunity,” was declared a huge success by conference participants. One participant noted she had received “good information, heard excellent speakers, and attended very informative policy sessions” at the conference held in St. Petersburg on No-

vember 8th and 9th, 2004. Another participant said she had “benefited tremendously from the sessions with experts.” The conference, attended by 170 registered participants, began with a powerful presentation by Dr. Robert Bernstein on the role of Supportive Housing in the Olmstead Movement. Sub-

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Governor Bush Rolls Out Long Awaited Proposal to Modernize Florida’s Medicaid System

Governor Bush’s Proposal to Modernize Florida’s Medicaid System was announced statewide on January 11, 2005 and already a number of forums, community meetings informational sessions and select hearings have been announced to discuss the Medicaid Reform Proposal. The proposed plan seeks to curb state spending by encouraging a healthy competitive environment for multiple vendors. At a United Way Forum on Medicaid in Miami Thomas Arnold, Deputy Secretary for Medicaid, stated “if Medicaid continues to grow at its current rate (13% average per year over the last six years) while the overall budget maintains its 4% average growth rate, the program will consume more than half of all state spending in just 10 years”. The plan will transform Florida’s Medicaid program by

creating a new structure that empowers the participants, creates flexibility for providers, and facilitates program management for the government. Joan Alker, Senior Researcher for the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University and a panelist at the Miami Medicaid Forum commented that the plan appears to cap the amount of money spent by the Medicaid program on a per person (per capita cap) basis within an overall or global cap basis as well. According to Deputy Secretary Arnold, the proposal is just that, a proposal and the governor is open to revision and the refinement of the plan by the legislature, consumers, community providers advocates and local governments. The governor will also have to request waiver and approval from the Federal gov-

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A Message From The President

María Pellerín Barcus, supportive housing developer and tireless advocate for the homeless, has stepped down as president of the board of the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition (FSHC). María invested an incredible amount of time, energy, and dedication organizing and sustaining the FSHC. After three years at the Coalition’s helm, however, she decided the time had come for a change and for someone else to assume the task of leading this energetic organization. She saw a crucial unmet need and asked “why not” create a statewide coalition focused on supportive housing for people with special needs. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to María.



Shannon Nazworth

Florida is one of a few states with a coalition like the FSHC—a group concerned with a myriad of cross-disability issues effecting special needs populations throughout the state. The challenges facing the Coalition and our partner organizations are many. Changes to Florida’s Medicaid system will affect service providers and those they serve. Budgetary constraints will limit the amount of housing we can produce, the number of people we can serve, and the types of services we can provide. In response, the FSHC will redouble its efforts this year on advocating for supportive housing. Fortunately, for the Coalition and its constituents, María will remain very active and fully involved in the FSHC board.

As the FSHC faces these growing challenges to its mission, we must mobilize broad-based community support through the state. Please let us know if you are willing to help us. We must all speak as one, with a very loud voice, if we want to be heard.



Participants Hail the Supportive Housing Conference a Success

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sequently events included twelve break-out sessions covering a broad range of topics, including: "Transforming the Mental Health System to One of Recovery

and Rehabilitation"; "Where to Find Subsidized/Affordable Housing in Your Community"; and "Housing for Youth Exiting Foster Care." Several on-hands training sessions, such as "So You Want to Develop Housing," and "Working with Your Public Housing Authority," were also well received. For many of the participants the two-part session dealing with the comparison of "Various Models for Linking Housing and Services," followed by a tour of the Boley Center Supportive Housing, was the perfect combination of classroom training, observation, and experience. The Boley residents not only shared refreshments with over 50 conference participants but also expressed deep pride in their homes. The conference ended on an appropriate note with the showing of "Inside Outside." The film chronicles the stories of eight recovering individuals as they move from being on the inside of a hospital to being outside in the community. Asked about his overall assessment of the Conference, a participant exclaimed "the conference was excellent; keep them coming."

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Interest in Supportive Housing Grows – 170 Registered for Participation in the Supportive Housing Conference in St Petersburg. This is an increase of over 100 percent from 80 participants in 2003.

Save the Date. The 2005 Florida Supportive Housing Conference will be November 6th, 7th and 8th in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, please visit www.flshc.org.

Primary Sponsors

Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities *
University of South Florida/Louis de la Parte- Florida Mental Health Institute * Washington Mutual

Major Sponsors

Corporation for Supportive Housing * The Enterprise Foundation for Social Investment * Fannie Mae * Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta * Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS * Florida Department of Children and Families, State Office on Homelessness * Florida Housing Finance Corporation * Local Initiatives Support Corporation/National Equity Fund

Supporting Sponsors

Carlisle Development Group LLC * Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, Inc. * Miami Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. * MMA Financial, LLC * Neighborhood Lending Partners of South Florida, Inc. * Republic Bank * Reznick Group * Transatlantic Bank * Wachovia Bank

Sustaining Members

Carrfour Supportive Housing * Florida Council for Community Mental Health * Mental Health Care, Inc. * Volunteers of America, Florida

President Bush's Proposed 2006 Budget Raising Serious Concerns Among Advocates for Children, the Elderly, the Disabled and Low-Income Programs

A number of national organizations have begun to analyze in detail President Bush's 2006 proposed budget. Among these are: Corporation for Supportive Housing, The National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Coalition on Human Needs, The National Low Income Housing Coalition, United Way of America's Public Policy Office. The reports are not good. These groups, along with the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, have determined that the proposed cuts alone will not solve the deficit crises.

According to the Coalition on Human Needs the "Plan includes \$138 billion in entitlement spending reductions below current projections for the next 10 years, most of which would affect the Medicaid program, health payments made by the Veterans Administration, the food stamp program and child care payments".

The budget proposes increased spending on homeland security and defense, not counting the ongoing cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The expected cuts would produce even higher percentage reductions

in services for programs with growing populations or programs experiencing higher than average rates of inflation, as is the case for housing and the health care sector. All communities will feel the impact of these cuts and it is imperative that we work together to let our local, state and federal representatives know that the budget cannot be balanced on the backs of poor children, women, the disabled and the infirmed. Call or e-mail your representatives and let them know how these proposed cuts will affect your family and community.

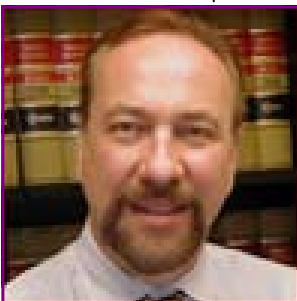
The Role of Supportive Housing in *Olmstead* Implementation

Submitted by: Mark Engelhart

The keynote address of the 2004 Florida Supportive Housing Coalition's Conference was "The Role of Supportive Housing in *Olmstead* Implementation". It was delivered by Dr. Robert Bernstein, Executive Director for the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington, DC.

On June 22, 1999, The United States Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Olmstead v L.C.*, finding that the unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is a violation of the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA). Dr. Bernstein, a national acclaimed advocate emphasized that it is the purpose of the ADA Act to provide a clear and comprehensive mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. He stated that "Supportive Housing is HUGELY important to achieving the promise of *Olmstead* and system transformation.



Dr. Robert Bernstein

Dr. Bernstein described the developmental phases of public mental healthcare and housing for persons with serious mental illnesses as periods in our history from institutional care to a period de-institutionalization, then community location and the more contemporary approach of "community membership". This goal of true "citizenship" is also supported by the *Olmstead* Decision by

mandating that public entities "shall administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities." Florida Supportive Housing Coalition members and board members are working with a variety of public entities, such as the Governor's ADA Workgroup, the Dept. of Children and Families and the Agency for Health Care Administration (Medicaid) to plan, implement and expand supportive housing with appropriate services. This is the beginning of our *Olmstead* journey.



Tell me more about joining the: *(Optional)*

- Advocacy Committee
- Capacity Building Committee
- Medicaid Committee
- Conference Planning Committee
- Board of Directors

Please fax me a conference registration form.



Mail with payment to:
Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

155 S. Miami Ave., Ste. 1150
Miami, Florida 33130
Web: www.flshc.org

Phone: 305-371-8300
Fax: 305-371-1376
Email: info@flshc.org

Membership Application Form

Become a Member:	Dues:
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Organization: 1-10 employees or Up to \$500,000 budget or 50 housing units or less	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Organization: Over 10 employees or Over \$500,000 budget or Over 50 housing units	\$350.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Entity: City or county dept., public housing authority, etc.	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation	\$350.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual: Must be accompanied by a personal check	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING MEMBER: Any entity or individual wishing to be recognized as a key supporter of the coalition's work	\$1,000.00

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

REFERRED BY (if applicable) _____

For memberships other than Individual, you may designate one alternate member:

Name _____

Title _____

Phone (if different) _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

REPORT TO THE FLORIDA COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS OUTLINES PROGRESS TOWARDS 2012 HOUSING GOAL

Maria Pellerin Barcus, Chair of the Council on Homelessness' Housing Committee, reported on the progress made in 2004 towards the 2012 goal of producing 12,000 units for the homeless. The Report refers to key findings of the study completed by the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition's study on the Resources for housing and services available in Florida and their impact on the production and operation of supportive housing. One important finding is that there is a lack of awareness about the "availability and effectiveness of the Predevelopment Loan Program administered by the FHFC as a capacity-building tool." Besides briefly discussing the main elements for providing supportive housing, the report also lists recommendations concerning the programs administered by the Office on

Homelessness which call for an increase in funding of 25% from \$5,000,000 to \$6,250,000 for HHAG. In addition, also approved was the reclassification of HHAG as capital funds so that "these funds would not have to be expended by the end of the State fiscal year and can serve as catalyst funds for new projects." The Committee also approved several measures that affect homeless set aside projects including redefining the number of "homeless-set-aside" from 80% to 50% of units which can reduce the concentration of the homeless population in a given project and makes non-homeless units available to "at- risk of becoming homeless populations." Also approved was the proposition that funds recaptured from projects for the homeless will be re-offered to projects for the homeless. In

terms of legislative initiatives, the Committee recommended that the State replicate the Federal McKinney-Vento provisions for the disposition of surplus state property to give preference to the homeless in the use of those sites. (42.U.S.C. Sec 11411) The Committee discussed the availability of operating subsidy sources in the present system including the federal Section 8 program, HUD homeless assistance grants and the Public Housing Authorities Section 8 vouchers. The Report briefly discusses the integration and full utilization of existing resources as well as proposing several measures to ensure the expansion of supportive housing efforts in the State. **The entire Housing Committee Report is available from the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition at www.flshc.org**

Proposal to Modernize Florida's Medicaid System

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ernment as well as seek changes to several Florida statutes, administrative rules and state plan revisions. Both the State House and Senate have formed select committees to gather information and receive public input in regard to the proposed Medicaid changes.

Senator Lisa Carlton is the Chair for the Senate select committee and Representatives Joe Negron and Holly Benson will Co-chair the house of representative select committees. The respective schedules of the hearings have already been announced and Medicaid recipients are strongly encouraged to attend and give their testimony regard-

ing the proposed changes. Following is a summary of the proposed plan.

Modern Medicaid Market Summary

- Change Medicaid to a defined contribution plan and establish maximum benefit limits similar to private insurance policies
- Create a market framework for consumers to select plans and services from competitive vendors.
- Offer consumers an enhanced benefit from complying with healthy practices
- Allow consumers to select

sources and forms of coverage. Offer a flexible spending account for selection of enhanced services.

- Redesign benefits to offer greater flexibility in coverage while providing all consumers with comprehensive care and catastrophic coverage. Establish monitoring and outcome measurement system and provide information to consumers.

For the Complete text of the Florida Medicaid Modernization Proposal go to: www.myflorida.com or www.empoweredcare.com



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