



Florida Partners in Crisis

Legislative Priorities for 2003-04 *SUBSTANTIVE*

Florida Partners in Crisis supports the following legislative efforts:

1. Compliance with 2002 HB 751

- HB 751 requires DCF to do periodic actuarial analyses to develop estimates of the actual need for mental health services for use in preparing its annual legislative budget requests
- DCF did not comply with HB 751 in preparation of their legislative budget requests for 2003-04
- DCF should complete the actuarial analysis by Spring 2003 for use in developing their legislative budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year

2. An Independent Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

- More focused mission
- More consistent policy and program standards
- State of the art services
- Better coordination of mental health and substance abuse service delivery
- Better able to maximize and leverage Medicaid dollars
- More effective management structure

3. S 543/HR 4066 – Federal Legislation for Mental Health Insurance Parity

- Eliminates discriminatory insurance coverage practices
- Requires health insurance system to treat serious mental illness like any other disease
- 34 states have enacted similar parity laws