

AN INSIDE LOOK



February News Brief

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Amy Mercado contacted CFCHS to submit an appropriations request to the Florida House of Representatives for a regional SOAR pilot. SOAR is an initiative designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for persons who have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or co-occurring substance use disorder who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. CFCHS provided updated information; CFCHS was notified that the appropriations request was accepted.

WHAT'S NEW? – PROJECT OPIOID

Over 300 Central Florida leaders gathered to unite government, business, nonprofit, and faith communities in battling the opioid epidemic, which is killing 130 people across the nation each day. The project will address education, prevention, treatment, recovery, legal remedies, and funding issues. The first steps are to figure out who is already working on the problem locally, what the gaps are, and how to fill them. There will also be a public awareness campaign on the drugs' dangers and where to seek help. CFCHS is involved in Project Opioid.

(Cited by Orlando Sentinel on January 30, 2019.)

ECKERD CONNECTS - PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT

Eckerd Connects' provides case management and financial assistance to children, families, and individuals who have an identified history of substance use and are currently experiencing homelessness or are at an imminent risk of homelessness in Brevard County. Since February 2016, Eckerd Connects has served 874 families through the project. CFCHS started this project as a pilot and continued to fund the project due to its success and community partnerships. Through a collaborative approach with Brevard Public Schools, landlords, community services agencies, etc., services include substance abuse treatment, one-time rental housing assistance, support services (summer camps, educational technology, food, etc.).

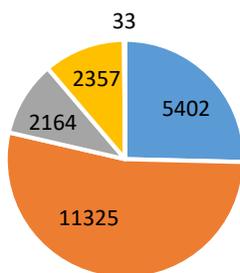
Did you know each year in the US 1.6 million children experience homelessness?

GOVERNOR UNVEILS

Governor DeSantis announces The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget totaling \$84.6M in total funding to fight the opioid epidemic. The budget provides \$49M in federal funding from the State Opioid Response Grant to address the opioid crisis by providing evidence-based prevention, medication-assisted treatment and recovery. The budget also provides \$1.3M to the Dept. of Health for increased epidemiology and surveillance to prevent and reduce opioid related morbidity.

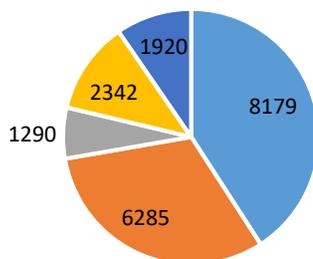
The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget provides an additional \$25.7M in funding to support those with behavioral health needs. The budget includes \$6.7M to expand the capacity of CAT for children ages 11-21 with mental health and/or substance abuse diagnosis and provides \$4.2M to expand FIT capacity for parents who have a child ages 0-10 who has been determined unsafe. The Bold Vision for a Brighter Future budget also includes \$4.2M in new funding for an additional 48 forensic community transition beds and \$3M for expanding civil bed capacity. The budget includes \$7.5M in federal funding for services to individuals with behavioral health needs. (Cited by: <http://www.boldvisionforabrighterfuture.com/webforms/Budget/BudgetService.aspx?rid1=45916&rid2=16788&ai=60000000&title=CHILDREN AND FAMILIES>)

By County



- Brevard
- Orange
- Osceola
- Seminole
- Other Counties

By Service



- AMH
- ASA
- CMH
- CSA
- Multiple

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join CFCHS for the 5k NAMIWalk event at Cranes Roost Park, Altamonte Springs, on April 27th where we will be celebrating mental health and wellness while raising awareness and funds to combat stigma. Last year the walk raised over \$162,000 to help those with mental health conditions and their families.



Chief Carl Metzger, Board Member

CARE COORDINATION SUCCESS STORY

Dear Angela Gambino & Dr. Weiseler,

From the depths of my soul and all of my heart I can't thank you enough. What your program has allowed me to do is nothing but pure wonderment. Not only has it allowed me to focus purely on my recovery but also has played a part in transforming me into a beautiful, strong, confident, grateful, humble, sober women who has now also become a graceful, self-sufficient, independent, product member of society.

With this gift you have so freely given me, I can now live a life worth living. Pairing me with Marybeth has just been blessings upon blessings. She has been such a significant part of my journey. Freeing me from the stress of financial difficulties, I was able to dive full heartedly into a program that on a daily basis continues to make me the best [NAME REDACTED] I can be. Knowing that Marybeth would be there for me, for whatever reason, gave me such a sense of safety, security, and stability.

Admitting that I could not control my drinking and that my life had become unmanageable was the first step and that first step led me into your program which carried me into a life of becoming a positive role model for other women, who like me, were lost and broken and HOPELESS.

In 7 months I have found HOPE and I have learned how to continue to do the next right thing. I have built a solid foundation. I have accomplished short term goals like re-entering into the work force, starting at Subway and then regaining my employment at Publix which is not just a job but a career that has endless opportunities. I have come to care about taking care of my health. I have taken steps to obtain my driver's license again. I have learned how to help and care about other's well being.

All of these things, your program, played a huge part in. Just like active addiction can be a rippling effect well so can continuing to do the next right thing. By helping me, I in turn help others, and that, by far, surpasses anything I could have ever imagined.

Once again, I thank you for allowing me to learn how to actually live and enjoy life and not just survive it!!!!

Sincerely,

[NAME REDACTED]