

RESOLUTION NO. R-11-094

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA REQUESTING MANATEE COUNTY'S
STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, ON BEHALF OF THOUSANDS OF
INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN MANATEE COUNTY WHO RECEIVE
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FROM AREA
NONPROFIT PROVIDERS, SUPPORT FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

WHEREAS, thousands of individuals residing in Manatee County receive mental health and substance abuse services from Manatee Glens, Volunteers of America and other area state funded providers; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature is floating proposals where only Medicaid recipients will receive state funded mental health and substance abuse care, and eliminate all or most of the outpatient mental health and substance abuse services administered through the Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid does not cover many individuals with mental health and substance use disorders because they do not meet the restrictive federal disability criteria or their income levels are slightly above the poverty income threshold that qualifies for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Florida will lose all federal mental health and substance abuse block grant funding for failing to maintain a state treatment system; and

WHEREAS, if the Legislature is successful with their proposals, Manatee County will see a marked increase in emergency room and hospital admissions, forensic commitments, county jail admissions, prison incarcerations, and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, suspended funding from the state may constitute an unfunded mandate which would be a violation of Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution which states that no county or municipality shall be bound by any general law which requires them to spend funds or take actions requiring the expenditure of funds unless certain conditions are met.

WHEREAS, the Courts and law enforcement would lose their safety net of emergency crisis services they have depended on for decades; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks 49th in mental health funding and 35th in substance abuse treatment funding, it is an undisputed fact that investing in mental health and substance abuse services saves taxpayer dollars by keeping individuals out of costly hospital stays, jails and other services mentioned above.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT

- 1) The forgoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.
- 2) This Board respectfully requests the support of the County's Legislature Delegation to request that State continue funding mental health and substance abuse services with no reductions to an already poorly funded system.
- 3) The County Administrator shall forward this Resolution to all appropriate persons and parties.
- 4) The provisions of this Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF APRIL, 2011.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____

Chairman

ATTEST: *R.B. "Chips" Shore*
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: *Nicole E. Vollmer*
Deputy Clerk



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Senator J.D. Alexander
412 Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1100

Dear Senator Alexander:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

Governor Scott and the Florida House recommend full funding for mental health and addiction services recognizing that other areas of the state budget would be adversely impacted if these essential services were cut. The Senate budget proposal virtually eliminates recurring state general revenue funding for outpatient mental health and addiction services including the indigent drug program. At a time when prescription pill misuse is reaching epidemic proportions, the Senate proposal also eliminates funding for detox.

Please consider the far-reaching impacts of this proposal. Without state funding for mental health and addiction services, 54 professional jobs with good benefits and career opportunities would be lost in Manatee County. Hospital emergency rooms would become the default service for uninsured persons with mental illness and addiction. The pressure on law enforcement and other first responders would increase exponentially.

In effect, the Senate budget proposal would shift the costs of the lack of behavioral health care provided by the state to local governments. Such a shift could be considered an unfunded mandate, a violation of Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution which states that no county or municipality shall be bound by any general law which requires them to spend funds or take actions requiring the expenditure of funds unless certain conditions are met.

Board of County Commissioners

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1000 Street Address: 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
WEB: www.mymanatee.org * PHONE: 941.745.3717 * FAX: 941.745.3790

LARRY BUSTLE * MICHAEL GALLEN * JOHN R. CHAPPIE * ROBIN DISABATINO * DONNA HAYES * CAROL WHITMORE
* JOE McCLASH

District 1

District 2

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District 7

Sen. Alexander
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that the Senate endorse full funding for mental health and addictions. There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Senator Mike Bennett
Capitol Office
216 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Senator Bennett:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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Sen. Bennett
Page 2
April 13, 2011

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Representative Jim Boyd
1102 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Boyd:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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We respectfully request that you continue to support funding for mental health and addiction services as budgeting talks begin. There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable House Speaker Dean Cannon
420 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1300

Dear Speaker Cannon:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Senator Nancy Detert
Senate Office Building
318 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Detert:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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Sen. Detert
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that the Senate endorse full funding for mental health and addictions.
There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Sen. Andy Gardiner
330 Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1100

Dear Senator Gardiner:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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Sen. Gardiner
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that the Senate endorse full funding for mental health and addictions.
There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
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Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Rep. Denise Grimsley
222 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1300

Dear Rep. Grimsley:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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Rep. Grimsley
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that you continue to support funding for mental health and addiction services as budgeting talks begin. There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

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Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President of the Senate
404 South Monroe Street
409 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Dear President Haridopolos:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

Governor Scott and the Florida House recommend full funding for mental health and addiction services recognizing that other areas of the state budget would be adversely impacted if these essential services were cut. The Senate budget proposal virtually eliminates recurring state general revenue funding for outpatient mental health and addiction services including the indigent drug program. At a time when prescription pill misuse is reaching epidemic proportions, the Senate proposal also eliminates funding for detox.

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Sen. Haridopolos
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that the Senate endorse full funding for mental health and addictions. There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



Carol Whitmore
Chairman

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Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Rep. Matt Hudson
222 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1300

Dear Rep. Hudson:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

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MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

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Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Senator Arthenia Joyner
202 Senate Office Bldg.
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL
32399-1100

Dear Senator Joyner:

Manatee Board of County Commission respectfully requests that you reconsider the total elimination of state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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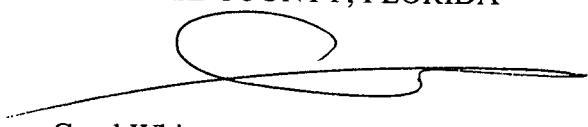
District 7

Sen. Joyner
Page 2
April 13, 2011

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MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



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MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Representative Ray Pilon
1101 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Pilon:

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In effect, the Senate budget proposal would shift the costs of the lack of behavioral health care provided by the state to local governments. Such a shift could be considered an unfunded mandate, a violation of Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution which states that no county or municipality shall be bound by any general law which requires them to spend funds or take actions requiring the expenditure of funds unless certain conditions are met.

Board of County Commissioners

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1000 Street Address: 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34206-1000
WEB: www.myanatee.org * PHONE: 941.745.3717 * FAX: 941.745.3790

LARRY BUSTLE * MICHAEL GALLEN * JOHN R. CHAPPIE * ROBIN DISABATINO * DONNA HAYES * CAROL WHITMORE
* JOE McCLASH

District 1

District 2

District 3

District 4

District 5

District 6

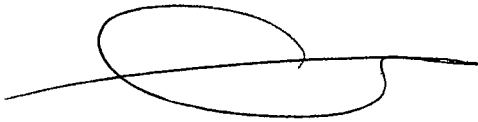
District 7

Rep. Pilon
Page 2
April 13, 2011

We respectfully request that you continue to support funding for mental health and addiction services as budgeting talks begin. There is no room for cuts without paying a much higher price.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Representative Darryl Rouson
405 House Office Bldg.
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Rouson:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

We appreciate that you understand other areas of the state budget would be adversely impacted if these essential services were cut. The Senate budget proposal virtually eliminates recurring state general revenue funding for outpatient mental health and addiction services including the indigent drug program. At a time when prescription pill misuse is reaching epidemic proportions, the Senate proposal also eliminates funding for detox.

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator
Tedd Williams, Manatee County Attorney
Cari Roth, Attorney, Bryant Miller Olive
Mary Ruiz, President/CEO, Manatee Glens



MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Representative Greg Steube
1102 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Steube:

Manatee Board of County Commission appreciates your support for mental health and addiction services funding in the House's current proposed budget and respectfully requests that you stand firm on your commitment to this critical area during upcoming budget conferences with the Florida Senate.

Manatee Board of County Commissioners on April 12, 2011 joined other counties across the state such as Hillsborough, Escambia, St. Lucie, Monroe and Brevard in adopting a resolution (attached) in support of full state funding for community mental health and addictions services.

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Rep. Steube
Page 2
April 13, 2011

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Carol Whitmore
Chairman

cc: Manatee County Legislative Delegation
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