

Talking Points - 2017 Suicide Prevention Day at the Capital

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in college aged students. Further, 75% of mental illnesses first symptoms occur by age 24.

The **SUS Mental Health Counseling Services** Legislative Budget Request is designed to increase campus counseling services in order to address the critical need for student mental and behavioral health coverage. The SUS centers have experienced a 67% increase in student client sessions in the past six years for issues of anxiety, depression, academic stress, and relationship issues.

The LBR is designed to raise the staffing levels of the SUS Counseling Centers to the minimum staffing ratios that are recommended by the profession's accreditation association. Currently, ten of the 12 SUS counseling centers (not New College and Florida Polytechnic) are operating above the IACS standard for minimum staffing of one professional staff member per 1,000 students, and eight of the 12 centers are operating above the high end of the range recommended by IACS of one staff member per 1,500 students.

| SUS Counseling Services Mental Health Counseling Services Legislative Budget Request | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| University | # Positions (FTE)* | Salary | Other/Related Expenses** | Total |
| Florida A&M University | 7.0 | \$499,110 | \$103,200 | \$602,310 |
| Florida Atlantic University | 13.7 | \$1,201,270 | \$448,671 | \$1,649,941 |
| Florida Gulf Coast University | 5.8 | \$483,390 | \$246,700 | \$730,090 |
| Florida International University | 9.0 | \$823,990 | \$137,586 | \$961,576 |
| Florida Polytechnic University | | | | |
| Florida State University | 19.0 | \$1,667,630 | \$218,500 | \$1,886,130 |
| New College of Florida and USF Man. | 4.0 | \$269,860 | \$165,000 | \$434,860 |
| University of Central Florida | 9.0 | \$606,530 | \$360,000 | \$966,530 |
| University of Florida | 23.0 | \$1,989,890 | \$241,500 | \$2,231,390 |
| University of North Florida | 6.0 | \$518,760 | \$60,000 | \$578,760 |
| University of South Florida | 25.0 | \$2,116,960 | \$159,500 | \$2,276,460 |
| University of South Florida St. Pete | 4.0 | \$312,435 | \$26,000 | \$338,435 |
| University of West Florida | 7.5 | \$705,840 | \$721,612 | \$1,427,452 |
| Total | 116 | \$9,618,425 | \$2,994,169 | \$12,612,594 |
| <p>*Positions include Psychologists, Mental Health Counselors, Psychiatric ARNPs, Case Managers, Prevention Specialists, Office staff.</p> <p>**Other/Related Expenses include benefits, hiring expenses, professional development, overhead, technology, and assessment.</p> | | | | |

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in college aged students. Further, 75% of mental illnesses first symptoms occur by age 24.

Urge legislators to vote **NO** on SB 1276 sponsored by Stargel and HB 1073 sponsored by Clemons. These bills prohibits increases in student fees , which in some schools funds a majority of the Student Counseling Center.

More officers die by suicide than in the line of duty.

Support HB 1019 sponsored by Rep. Mike Miller and SB 516 sponsored by Sen. Keith Perry

Under Florida law, workers compensation insurance won't provide benefits for first responders with PTSD unless they sustained a physical injury. Workers comp benefits for PTSD are equally as important as benefits awarded due to a physical injury!

- applies to law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics;
- would require workers compensation insurance to cover PTSD regardless of physical injury;
- would require a diagnosis from a psychiatrist; and
- would apply to cases arising from a job-related activity.
-

Ninety percent of people who die by suicide have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time of their death. (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and National Alliance on Mental Illness)

Florida is 50th out of 52 in per capital mental health spending, last in the SEC, last in the ACC behind Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

A bipartisan coalition of Florida House members and senators endorsed Gov. **Rick Scott**'s request to increase mental health funding by \$25 million, but said even more money is needed to move Florida out of the basement in funding for treatment.

Sen. **Rene Garcia** said, "This has to be a priority," he said. "It's costing us way too much money by not funding the system. It's a matter of educating legislators, educating the leadership, and putting the pressure on to ensure that we get that money."

"This is the biggest crisis in this country," Rep. **Kathleen Peters** said. "Mental illness and addiction are consuming resources out of every system in government at every level in government," she said. "It is the No. 1 reason that health care costs are rising. It is the No. 1 thing consuming all of the resources of our court system, our jail and prison systems, of our law enforcement system. It is the No. 1 reason children are taken away from their families and put into DCF." "Mental illness and addiction are consuming resources out of every system in government at every level in government," she said. "It is the No. 1 reason that health care costs are rising. It is the No. 1 thing consuming all of the resources of our court system, our jail and prison systems, of our law enforcement system. It is the No. 1 reason children are taken away from their families and put into DCF."



**AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR
Suicide Prevention**