



The Role of Advocacy

Identifying Needs and Advancing
Solutions

Advocacy and Policy Session Contents

- **How to be an Effective Advocate**
 - Joe Pennisi, Florida Policy Institute
- **FSHC Strategies and Identified Needs**
- **FSHC 10,000 Lives Campaign**
 - Olga Golik, Board President, Florida Supportive Housing Coalition and In-House Counsel, Citrus Health Network
- **Legislative & Administrative Priorities**
 - Shannon Nazworth, CEO, Ability Housing and former Board President, Florida Supportive Housing Coalition

FSHC Advocacy Strategies

- Identify Needs
- Identify Solutions
- Communicate Needs and Solutions
- Advocate



Identified Needs

- **Need for Affordable and Supportive Housing**

- Data demonstrates that the supply of affordable housing, especially housing linked with services accessible to special needs populations is far below need.

- **Funding for Services in Supportive Housing**

- Florida continues to woefully underfund services for persons with mental health, substance use and complex needs

- **Housing for “High Utilizers” or Persons with Complex Needs**

- Research demonstrates persons who are homeless and have multiple, chronic, disabling health conditions cycle in and out of costly public funded systems of care, such as jails, ERs, CSUs, and shelters when they could be stabilized in less costly permanent supportive housing.

- **Loss of Assisted Living Facilities**

- There has been a trend of Licensed Mental Health ALFs switching to take Long Term Care clients for the extra \$1,200 incentive, resulting in the rapid loss of mental health beds. Mental Health clients with only a \$700+ SSI check are being turned away and ending up in so called “Independent Living Facilities (ILFs) that are not licensed.

Loss of Assisted Living Facilities

Creating increased need for supportive housing

Statewide

- According to AHCA data at least 514 ALFs have closed since 1/1/15 (for a variety of reasons)
- This has resulted in an estimated loss of over 5,000 beds statewide.
- Roughly half are licensed mental health (LMH) beds

Miami Dade County

- Estimated 194 ALFs have closed
 - 105 ALFs with an LMH License
- 2,231 Total Beds have been lost
 - 1,152 LMH Beds

FHFC High Utilizer Pilot Interim Findings

Criminal Justice Savings

- ▶ Arrests and bookings

78% reduction

\$32,708 (37 arrests) vs. \$7,072 (10 arrests)

- ▶ Days spent in jail

89% reduction

\$83,340 (1,386 days) vs. \$8,718 (145 days)

Health Savings

- ▶ Emergency room cost fell by 68%
- ▶ In-Patient cost fell by 60%
- ▶ Out-Patient cost fell by 71%

10,000 LIVES CAMPAIGN



**ISSUE:
FRAGMENTED
SYSTEM CREATES
HIGH COST/
HIGH UTILIZATION**

Existing funding sources for housing and services are separate and difficult to integrate.

High Risk Persons cycle in and out of public systems; jails, hospitals, shelters, costing thousands per individual.

Continued lack of **supportive housing** equals poor health outcomes and continues the cycle of high cost, high utilization.



**RESPONSE:
INTEGRATE
HOUSING WITH
SERVICES**

Supportive Housing integrates housing and supportive services, creating affordable, community-based housing options for people with special needs.



**ACTION:
INTEGRATE
FUNDING
SOURCES**

Identify **data-driven** target list of High Utilizers in need of housing.

Integrate **funding** of current Housing and Services programs.

Implement **Supportive Housing** through project-based developments and/or tenant-based rental assistance.

End the cycle of homelessness for high-risk individuals.

**GOAL:
10,000 LIVES
HOUSED**

Save lives
Create healthier communities
Reduce taxpayer costs





10,000 LIVES CAMPAIGN

See the following **DRAFT Documents:**

- One Page Summary
- Logic Model

State Priorities

Legislative – 2019 Session

- Fund affordable housing commensurate with need
- Target affordable housing to create supportive housing
- Support partner coalitions' advocacy for support services
- Monitor and respond as session progresses

Administrative Rule – Florida Housing Finance Corporation

- Florida Housing allocation of affordable rental housing resources
- Target units to persons with special needs and the homeless
- Target units to households with Extremely Low-Income; including those on SSI

Federal Priorities

Support national advocacy efforts

- **Definition of homelessness as relates to HUD Homeless Assistance Programs**
 - Cannot expand definition without corresponding increase in funding
 - Expansion will negatively impact resources dedicated to providing supportive housing
- **HUD Budget & Priorities**
 - Homeless Assistance Programs
 - Affordable Housing
 - Fair Housing

Federal Priorities – cont.

- **Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness**
- **Identify aligned stakeholders to engage in advocacy**
 - **Education**
 - **Healthcare**
 - **Seniors**
 - **Criminal justice**

Discussion

How you can participate

Hot issues from the audience

Questions