

2016



# MENTAL HEALTH REFORM LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



**Increase funding for outpatient and care coordination services** - appropriate new general revenue dollars to the Department of Children and Families' Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse budget in the amount of \$45 million recurring.



**Codify mental health courts and include peer specialists and SOAR benefits specialists** - authorize a mental health treatment based court that includes the use of peer specialists and SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) benefits specialists and provides a system for adults who are charged with a non-violent crime and who live with a mental illness.



**Pass legislation to increase the use of telebehavioral health** - authorize telebehavioral health services to increase access to mental health treatment particularly in rural and underserved areas.



**Support legislation relating to ARNP prescribing privileges** - Florida has an alarming shortage of psychiatrists leading to long waiting lists and increased mental health crises. Florida is also the only state that does not allow Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners to prescribe to the fullest extent of their training.

2015 Florida Mental Health Summit participants helped Mental Health America's statewide advocacy network craft its mental health reform agenda for Florida's 2016 legislative session.

- Improvements to Baker Act & Marchman Act
- Integration of Medical, Dental and Mental Health Care
- Ongoing Refresher CIT Training for Law Enforcement
- Mental Health Prevention Program

