



AUGUST 2011

PEMHS PULSE

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Certainly the guiding principle for funding agencies is return on investment (ROI); certainly the case for community investment is made by these facts:



Best Return on Investment (ROI): Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Tough economic times require legislators to maximize the use of taxpayer dollars. Funding behavioral health services is one of the most effective investments of public dollars. Here's why:

Treatment saves taxpayers money.

Treatment	No Treatment
Average crisis stabilization bed cost per day \$292	Average Florida emergency room cost per visit \$2,887
Average detox cost per day \$205	Average hospital cost per day \$2,000
Average annual substance abuse treatment cost for an adult \$2,400	Average prison cost for a drug offender \$55,000
Average annual mental health treatment cost for an adult \$1,551	Average state hospital cost \$112,000

Treatment works.

- ✓ It is estimated that the economic benefits of expanded diagnosis and treatment of depression has a ROI of \$7 for every \$1 invested.
- ✓ \$1 invested in treatment for alcohol and other drug-related problems saves taxpayers \$7.14 in future costs.
- ✓ 93% of offenders who complete community drug treatment do not re-offend. One percent change equals \$8 million over three years.
- ✓ Prevention and treatment result in safer communities. Orange County's mental health diversion program has saved law enforcement \$2.2 million over seven years by reducing or eliminating time spent at emergency rooms.

Treatment supports jobs and local economies

- ✓ Community mental health and substance abuse agencies provide over 50,000 private sector jobs.
- ✓ Treatment gets people back to work: 69% of adults are employed post treatment.
- ✓ Over 1,490 vendors supply community treatment companies.

Maintain Funding for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

Disabilities Rights Florida • Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association • Florida Council for Community Mental Health • Florida Peer Network • NAMI Florida • Florida Partners In Crisis