

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(29)

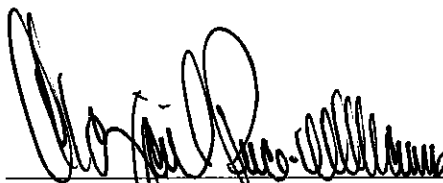
TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 20, 2016

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to increase funding
to mental health hospitals
to support increased staffing
and implement enhanced
safety measures

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 20, 2016

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(29)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's _____, 3/5's _____, unanimous _____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(29)

Veto _____

1-20-16

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
INCREASE FUNDING TO MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITALS
TO SUPPORT INCREASED STAFFING AND IMPLEMENT
ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are biological conditions that impact a person's brain and body and include, but are not limited to, anxiety, autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, eating disorders and borderline personality disorder; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are identifiable by signs, symptoms and functional impairments; and

WHEREAS, mental illness can affect anyone, regardless of age, religion, or social, economic, ethnic or educational background; and

WHEREAS, mental illness diagnoses are made to men, women, the elderly and children and there is a growing demand for mental health care from veterans returning from service; and

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that approximately 660,000 adults and 181,000 children in Florida live with serious mental illness and nearly half the population will be affected by less severe forms of mental illness at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Florida has six primary mental health hospitals, three are operated by the Department of Children and Families and the other three are run by Correct Care Recovery Solutions, a private company with oversight by the Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, these hospitals treat patients who are either civilly committed, deemed mentally unfit to stand trial for a criminal offense or found not guilty because of insanity; and

WHEREAS, according to a March 2015 report by *Florida TaxWatch*, Florida is currently ranked 49th in the nation for mental health funding; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, Florida has cut funding for mental health hospitals by approximately \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, directly related to the funding cuts, are staffing shortages that contribute to inadequate monitoring and supervision of patients, resulting in, among other things, injuries to patients and staff, deaths from treatable conditions, suicides and increased episodes of violence between patients; and

WHEREAS, recently the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Sarasota Herald Tribune* ran a series chronicling conditions at the state's mental health hospitals and investigative reporters created a comprehensive database identifying injuries, violent episodes and deaths that occurred within the hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Sarasota Herald Tribune* series reports that since 2009, at least 55 people died while in the care of a Florida mental institution from causes, which include abuse, neglect, injuries inflicted by other patients and suicide; and

WHEREAS, costs attributed to emergency room care for injured patients of mental health hospitals have also increased as funding decreased, a number of these injuries can be linked to insufficient monitoring and supervision of patients caused by staff shortages; and

WHEREAS, without increased funding to support additional staffing and enhance safety measures, patients in mental health hospitals are not able to obtain the treatment they need and were intended to receive and staffing levels will remain deficient; and

WHEREAS, according to *Florida TaxWatch*, in fiscal year 2014, 36 states identified behavioral health services as a priority and increased state mental health funding; and

WHEREAS, despite being the third most populous state in the country, Florida did not increase funding for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, although Governor Rick Scott proposed a \$19 million increase in funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment services in his recommended budget for fiscal year 2016-17, the bulk of the funding is allocated for treatment outside of state mental health hospitals; and

WHEREAS, increased funding for mental health hospitals could support increased staffing, counseling and training classes for patients and additional staff training on interacting with patients, physical intervention tactics and basic lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to strongly support increased funding for mental health hospitals,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to increase funding to mental health hospitals to support increased staffing and implement enhanced safety measures.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the funding set forth in Section 1, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2016 State Legislative Package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.
It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion
was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote
was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman	
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Daniella Levine Cava
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	Xavier L. Suarez
Juan C. Zapata	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 20th day of January, 2016. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Shanika A. Graves

