

## › *Active Voice Advocacy*

### *Behavioral Health Day*

The Association hosted Behavioral Health Day at the Florida Capitol to raise awareness on the importance of substance abuse and mental health issues and services.

### *Federal Issues*

FADAA continued to be a strong voice for Florida on substance abuse and mental health services at the federal level.

As a member of the State Association of Addiction Services FADAA actively supports the organization's National Advocacy Campaign *Roadmap for Smarter and More Effective Alcohol and Drug Policies*. The campaign seeks to remove the stigma of addiction and increase funding for services.

FADAA and its member providers met in Washington with key members of Congress and other officials to raise awareness and urge action on the following important issues:

- Substance abuse treatment as an integral part of health care reform.
- Federal substance abuse/mental health parity legislation.
- Federal Second Chance Act (re-entry for offenders).
- Increased federal substance abuse block grant.

When traditional face-to-face events were appropriate, the Association conducted professional development activities for more than 1,100 individuals at the following event gatherings:

- 2008 FADAA Annual Conference.
- 3rd National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery.
- 2009 Adolescent Treatment Issues Conference.
- Detox Provider Symposium.
- Multi-Cultural Symposium.

### *Supportive Housing*

FADAA in 2008-09 reaffirmed its commitment to safe and affordable housing for Floridians in recovery and other special-needs individuals through its work with the Florida Supportive Housing Coalition. During the past year the Association:

- Promoted legislation to provide in statute a definition of special needs housing which includes individuals with substance disorders.
- Supported implementation of the FLSHC's statewide, five-year strategic plan *Common Sense: A Strategic Plan to Provide Supportive Housing Throughout Florida*.
- Served as conference coordinator for a joint statewide conference to address housing issues. A Home for All: Bringing the Pieces Together was held October 6 - 7 in Orlando.
- Hosted/participated in several events across Florida to promote affordable housing and the Coalition, including Behavioral Health Day, Mental Health Day and a Neighborhood Stabilization Program Workshop.

### *FADAA Staff*

Executive Director - Mark Fontaine  
Assistant Director - Mary Booker  
Coordinator of Finance and Human Resources - Elly Lott  
Director of Research and Practice Improvement - Polly Ryan  
Director of Communications and Distance Learning - Ron Fowler  
Technology and Communications Manager - Barker Powell  
Executive Assistant - Carol Hyden  
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*“If your actions inspire others to  
dream more, learn more,  
do more and become more,  
you are a leader”  
– John Quincy Adams*

**FADAA**  
FLORIDA ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE ASSOCIATION

**2008 - 2009**  
**Annual Report**

LEADERSHIP

*Navigating an Ever-Changing Landscape*

## State and National Public Policy

FADAA renewed its strong tradition of advocacy by working aggressively and tirelessly to ensure the voices of Floridians who need substance abuse services were heard in Tallahassee and Washington.

### State Budget

With revenue shortfalls forcing cuts to many programs, FADAA's advocacy efforts resulted in positive outcomes for substance abuse services.

- Although \$38 million in substance abuse and mental health services funding was at risk for cuts, only \$6.15 million in correctional program funding was lost.
- New funding for drug court treatment: \$7 million per year for two years.
- An increase of \$1.2 million for services under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.
- Budget authority of \$5.5 million to return Community Medicaid Based Administrative Claiming revenue back to providers that generate it.

### Legislation

The Association actively supported five bills that were passed by the Legislature and signed into law.

- A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program intended to curb the abuse of prescription medications. (SB 462)
- An overhaul of Florida's substance abuse services law (Chapter 397) that includes establishing priority populations for services, issuing licenses according to service component rather than by program site, and clarifying the process for medication-assisted treatment. (SB 2612)
- Integration of Adult Mental Health Crisis Stabilization and Addiction Receiving facilities. (HB 767)
- An expansion of post-adjudicatory treatment-based drug court programs as a sentencing option for a limited, specified group of nonviolent felony offenders. (SB 1726)
- A prison diversion program that allows courts to divert certain nonviolent offenders to services and treatment. (SB 1722)

## Practice Improvement – Constantly Raising the Bar

FADAA and its partners in 2008-09 continued to chart new courses in the never-ending search to improve substance abuse services in Florida. During the past year, the Association:

- Served on Florida Learning System Advisory Committee to review service delivery and assist the Department of Children and Families in pursuing quality improvement.
- Convened the inaugural Detox Provider Symposium to improve detoxification services and outcomes.
- Chaired with the Florida Council for Community Mental Health the Co-occurring Disorder Committee to advance the capability of providers to deliver integrated substance abuse and mental health services.
- Served as project coordinator and service provider liaison for the Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention - State Initiative (STAR - SI). The project has expanded client access and retention in outpatient treatment.
- Along with the Department of Children and Families conducted the 2009 Florida Best Practices Recognition Awards which recognizes programs that exemplify best practice methods in prevention and treatment.
- Published for DCF the 2009 Best Practices Resources Guide.
- Conducted for DCF activities to improve the Family Intervention Specialist service delivery system by ensuring uniformity and the use of evidence-based practices. This included an evaluation of the system and an FIS symposium.
- Conducted for DCF the Evidence-Based Practice Initiative, a measure to gather information, feedback and impressions from stakeholders regarding the use and fidelity of evidence-based practices by contracted providers.

## FADAA Resources – Empowering Communities

The Association continued its tradition of supporting individuals and organizations concerned with preventing and treating substance abuse. The FADAA Resource Center serves as Florida's Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource (RADAR) network center, a national and international system to distribute information on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Along with the FADAA website, the Resource Center provides stakeholders the necessary tools to make a difference in their communities.

**In 2008-09 the FADAA Resource Center disseminated substance abuse**

**information at:**

- 2008 FADAA Annual Conference.
- 2008 Statewide Prevention Conference and Suicide Symposium.
- 3rd National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery.
- 2009 Behavioral Health Day.
- 2009 Suicide Prevention Day.
- 2009 Adolescent Treatment Issues Conference.
- 2009 Family Intervention Specialist Symposium.

**The FADAA website registered:**

- 3,461,552 hits.
- 99,326 hits from frequent visitors.
- 468,253 page views.

**The FADAA Resource Center through direct dissemination:**

- Disseminated 36,597 pieces of literature.
- Provided 644 referrals for treatment services.

## Professional Development – Staying On Top

Recognizing that a knowledgeable staff is key to providing quality substance abuse services, FADAA throughout the year conducted both on-site and distance learning professional development activities.

**FADAA On Demand Webinars**

The Association in 2008-09 bolstered its reputation as Florida's leader in distance learning services by expanding its web seminar, or webinar, program. In 23 webinars last year FADAA trained more than 1,500 individuals on the following topics:

- Brief Intervention and Treatment for Elders (BRITE).
- Co-occurring Disorders.
- Multicultural Treatment Issues.
- Process Improvement.
- Process Improvement – Women and Families Issues.
- Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG).
- Suicide Prevention.

Webinars were conducted for the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention.

**Conferences, Meetings, Symposiums**