

# Proposed Catastrophic CUTS to the Safety Net of Care

**Overview** Central Florida Behavioral Health Network has been **REQUIRED** to do a **3%** and **6% REDUCTION** exercise across the board to the current level of funding for the public safety net of behavioral health care for **TWO YEARS RUNNING**. This reduction would be **CATASTROPHIC** in scope and come at a critical time - following the worst pandemic in our lifetime - **COVID 19**. Professionals all expect to have a **tsunami** of need relative to this pandemic in the latter half of this year. The current exercise puts the cuts **each year** at:

**3% = \$ 3,929,044**

*CFBHN is filling this hole with \$1,022,267 in uncontracted funds*



2020-2021



**6% = \$ 7,858,088**

*CFBHN is filling this hole with \$1,022,267 in uncontracted funds*



2021-2022

**7,622 individuals** WILL NOT RECEIVE services in a time when more people will be eligible due to loss of employment and insurance coverage

## Impact by Circuit Year 2

### Circuit 6

Pasco ~ Pinellas

MAX CUT \$2,440,262

LIVES NO SERVICE = 2014

### Circuit 10

Hardee ~ Highlands ~ Polk

MAX CUT \$1,038,758

LIVES NO SERVICE = 939

### Circuit 12

Desoto ~ Manatee ~ Sarasota

MAX CUT \$1,157,794

LIVES NO SERVICE = 1236

### Circuit 13

Hillsborough

MAX CUT \$1,156,055

LIVES NO SERVICE = 1825



### Circuit 20

Charlotte ~ Collier ~ Glades  
Hendry ~ Lee

MAX CUT \$1,042,952

LIVES NO SERVICE = 1608

# CUTS = CATASTROPHE

## WHY THE SYSTEM OF CARE CANNOT SUSTAIN CUTS AT THIS TIME

**NOTE - Critical Services Never Stopped During COVID** During the pandemic, safety net services never ceased. Providers worked with the CFBHN Managing Entity to quickly launch Telehealth models on a scale never before seen to meet people where they were. *This response can't be maintained if cuts occur. Likewise – Your Managing Entity will be taking a 3% and 6% cut as well from an already razor thin administrative budget of less than 4%.*

**Increased Need for Services** There has already been an uptick seen in Crisis Center calls for food, housing, financial assistance and emotional support. These calls indicate a rising need.

**Where Will People Go for Services?** They will go to hospital emergency rooms and impact first responders like Law Enforcement, EMTs and jails. County social service systems will face collapse.

**Some Losses will be Permanent** Not only will some people die from overdose or suicide, some services *will cease to exist*. Tenuous infrastructures will have to close, never to reopen – the barriers are just too high.

Nancy Hamilton, leading expert in behavioral health services, states:

- Cuts of this amount can close services permanently
- Fixed costs make keeping doors open impossible
- Hard hit the most are services with statutory requirements for numbers or licensure of staff involved in care
- Many programs, like so many businesses during the pandemic, may close never to reopen
- Need shifts to cities and counties who may find it impossible to meet
- **Thousands of men, women and children won't receive needed care!**

Florida must ACT to preserve the safety net of care!