



# FLORIDA STATEWIDE ADVOCACY COUNCIL

Jeb Bush, Governor

Betty Busbee, Chair

Craig Rappel, Vice Chair

William E.C. Marvin, Executive Director

April 24, 2002

The Honorable Jeb Bush  
The Capitol, PL 05  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Honorable John McKay  
320 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Tom Feeney  
420 Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Bush, President McKay and Speaker Feeney:

The Florida Statewide Advocacy Council has reviewed the operations at Atlantic Shores Healthcare, Inc./South Florida State Hospital since the commencement of privatization on November 1, 1998. The Council has found that the treatment philosophy and approach have been enhanced by the implementation of the psychiatric rehabilitation model. This treatment philosophy has demonstrated more positive outcomes as opposed to the previous philosophy, which was devoted primarily to custodial care.

The Florida Statewide Advocacy Council has observed the following improved outcomes:

- Significantly reduced average length of stay from eight (8) years to less than one (1) year.
- Reduction in the use of restraints and seclusions to an average of less than one (1) per month as compared to an average in excess of 15 per month prior to privatization.
- The elimination of an admission waiting list, which existed prior to privatization. As a result, the total number of persons served under privatization is many times greater.
- Under privatization, Atlantic Shores Healthcare, Inc./South Florida State Hospital received JCAHO accreditation for the first time in its history and remains the only accredited state civil hospital.

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*Protecting and advocating for a better quality of life for Floridians with unique needs.*

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Through efficiencies in operations, Atlantic Shores Healthcare, Inc./South Florida State Hospital has been able to manage the facility under the same funding as previously allocated and absorbed the cost of the construction of a new replacement facility with the same number of beds.

The Florida Statewide Advocacy Council supports the privatization of additional state facilities in Florida and recently, unanimously passed a motion to that effect.

Sincerely,



Betty Richee  
Chair

cc: William Marvin, SAC Executive Director  
Craig Rappel, SAC Vice Chair  
SAC Members