

BOARDS & COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT  
Calendar Year 2018

DATE: June 1, 2019

COMMITTEE NAME: Health and Human Services Advisory Council (HHSAC)

CHAIRMAN: Charles Daly

STAFF SUPPORT: Mary Garcia, St. Johns County Health and Human Services

BCC LIAISON: Commissioner Jeb Smith

**BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMITTEE:** In 1997, the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Committee were combined to form the Health and Human Services Advisory Council to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council evaluates human services programs in the community, assists in determining the effectiveness of programs to help reduce duplication of services and assures the health and human services needs of the residents of St. Johns County are met. The Council review applications requesting County funding for programs that provide health, mental health, substance abuse, and social services and submit recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council performs its functions and duties without regard to the race, religion, gender or national origin of any affected person.

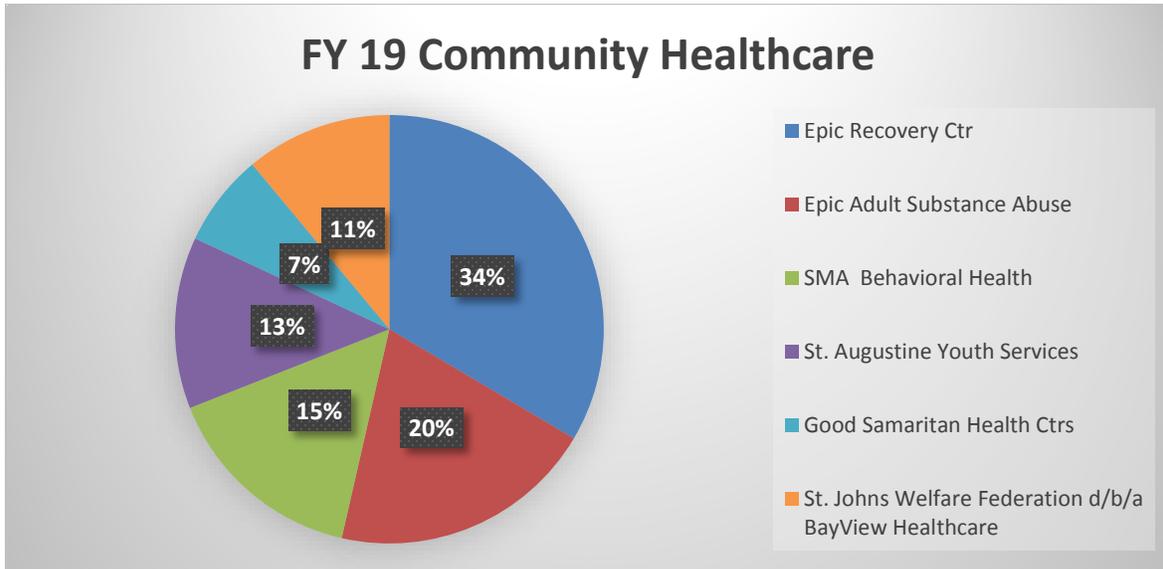
**MISSION STATEMENT:** The health and well-being of a community is a function of its quality of life, including the delivery of health and human services supported by public policy and funding those in need of such services. Our mission is to be responsive to those needs and to recommend funding programs worthy of public support for citizens of St. Johns County.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018:**

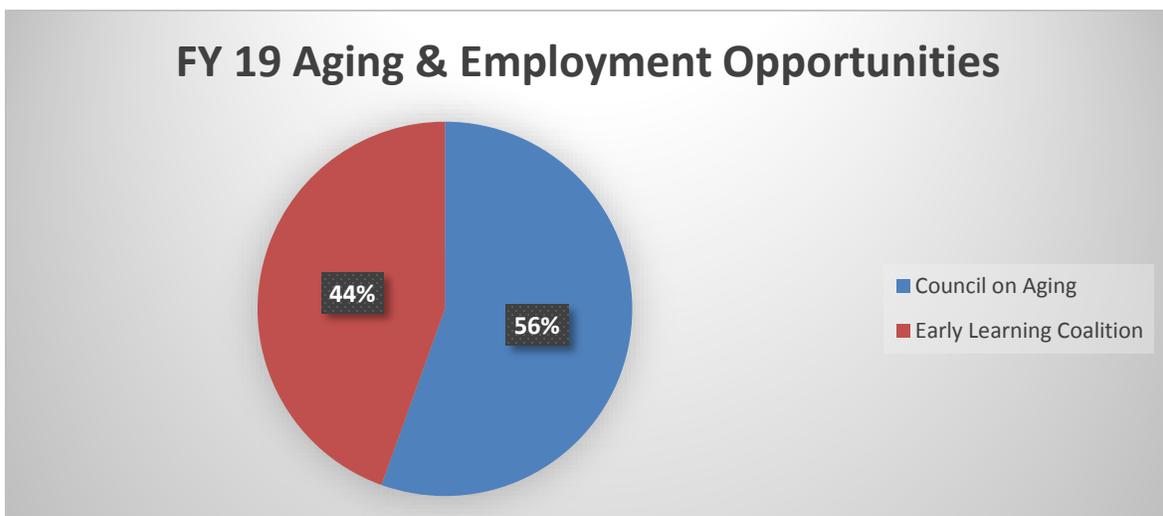
- Advisory Council members attended Health Leadership Council meetings and meetings with staff from the Florida Department of Health of St. Johns County as they gathered data from the community for the Community Health Assessment through surveys and focus groups. According to the Department of Health, 1% of St. Johns County is represented in their findings and the Advisory Council intends to use the finished Community Health Assessment to guide them with independent agency funding.

- The Advisory Council requested a representative from Flagler Hospital, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care for Homelessness, attend Advisory Council meetings so that a monthly update would be provided to the Council concerning the 207 site, the Point in Time Count and other matters related to homelessness. Council members also made a point to attend the general meetings of the St. Johns County Continuum of Care, in order to ensure a close working relationship.
- The Advisory Council encouraged community partners to present at their monthly general meetings on relevant and timely topics, such as the opioid crisis, from the perspective of those in behavioral healthcare and from those in law enforcement.
- In addition to providing written quarterly reports, local agencies gave presentations to the Advisory Council in an effort to keep them informed of the effectiveness of the services being provided through County funding. Each funded agency was expected to present at the general meetings of the Advisory Council, on a rotating basis.
- The Advisory Council invited Gordon Blalock, County resident and volunteer with the organization Remote Area Medical (RAM), to speak at their November 15, 2018 general meeting. RAM is a major nonprofit provider of mobile clinics, delivering free medical, dental, and vision services to underserved and uninsured individuals. The Advisory Council sponsored Mr. Blalock so area agencies might learn more about what is required to host RAM in St. Johns County in the future.
- The Advisory Council, in conjunction with Health and Human Services and County Purchasing staff, refined the Funding Application process, and Fiscal Year 2019 funding decisions were based, in large part, on the Department of Health's new Community Health Assessment. The funding methodology was based on several factors including, but not limited to, application scores, identified community priorities, and a focus on direct program costs. The funding was broken down into four categories: Community Healthcare, Aging, Employment Opportunities and Affordable Housing and Homelessness. The HHSAC voted unanimously on the following funding amounts, broken down by these

categories, for Fiscal Year 2019, and recommended these for approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

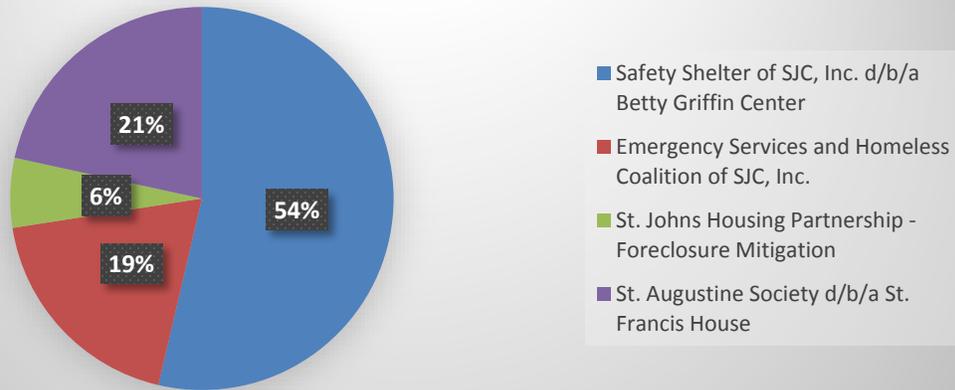


Total Recommended Funding: \$857,095  
Epic Behavioral Healthcare - Recovery Center: \$287,214  
Epic Behavioral Healthcare - Adult Substance Abuse: \$171,928  
SMA Behavioral Health Services: \$132,377  
St. Augustine Youth Services: \$111,006  
Good Samaritan Health Centers d/b/a Wildflower Healthcare: \$60,012  
St. Johns Welfare Federation d/b/a Bayview Healthcare: \$94,558



Total Recommended Funding: \$300,478  
Council on Aging: \$166,766  
Early Learning Coalition of North Florida: \$133,712

## FY 19 Affordable Housing & Homelessness



Total Recommended Funding: \$352,403

Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Inc., d/b/a Betty Griffin Center: \$189,059

Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of SJC, Inc.: \$66,581

St. Johns Housing Partnership Foreclosure Mitigation: \$20,700

St. Augustine Society d/b/a St. Francis House: \$76,063

The Council has developed five (5) goals for 2019 based on what we believe to be critical issues that need to be addressed moving forward. These goals and objectives are noted below. Milestones and target completion dates are being developed as are quantifiable metrics that will allow us to see our progress.

### GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2019:

1. The Advisory Council will continue to work with the Continuum of Care for Homelessness to ensure the effective coordination of services by all community service providers and continued participation by community stakeholders to address homelessness in St. Johns County.
2. The Advisory Council, with the assistance of the County Health & Human Services Department, intends to revamp the independent agency funding process by creating a digital application through eCivis.
3. In an effort to assist independent agencies with their applications for funding, the Advisory Council will arrange a grant workshop, led by Jim Clark, former CEO of Daniel Memorial and current state and federal grant evaluator. The Council would like to assist independent agencies with seeking funds outside of the County and

they believe a grant workshop will better prepare the agencies for more competitive funding opportunities.

4. The Advisory Council will focus on pediatrics - specifically drug abuse and mental health issues in children in St. Johns County. The Council intends to establish the number of pediatricians practicing in St. Johns County and to establish the number of children without health care coverage and how this affects their access to basic medical care.
5. The Advisory Council will evaluate performance data for healthcare resources that address opioid overuse, including detoxification, treatment, care coordination and peer support.

Commissioner Jeb Smith, BCC Liaison, attended nearly all of the Council meetings this year. His input and updated information concerning our County provided needed educational information to the Council and assisted them in completing their duties.

The HHS Advisory Council would like to thank Commissioner Smith and all of the County Commissioners for their ongoing support, as well as the County staff members who supported the HHSAC throughout the year.