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**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2011-35**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES FUNDED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO VARIOUS SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND OPPOSING STATE FUNDING CUTS TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals residing in Monroe County receiving mental health and substance abuse services through programs funded by the State through the Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature is considering whether or not the State can rely solely on the Medicaid program for mental health and substance abuse care, and eliminate all or most of the mental health and substance abuse services and costs administered through the Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid does not cover many mental health and substance abuse individuals because they do not meet the restrictive federal disability criteria, or their income levels are slightly above the poverty income threshold that qualifies them for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Florida would lose all federal mental health and substance abuse block grant funding for failing to maintain a state treatment system; and

WHEREAS, if the Florida Legislature reduces State funding for mental health and substance abuse care, Monroe County will see a marked increase in emergency room and hospital admissions, forensic commitments, jail admissions, prison incarcerations, and homelessness would undoubtedly increase; and

WHEREAS, the Courts and law enforcement would lose their safety net of emergency room crisis services they have depended upon for decades; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks 49th in mental health funding and 35th in substance abuse funding; and it is an undisputed fact that investing in mental health and substance abuse services saves tax payer dollars by keeping individuals out of costly hospital stays, jails, and the other services mentioned above.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2: The City Council opposes any State funding cuts to mental health and substance abuse services and costs administered through the Department of Children and Families.

Section 3: The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to all members of the City's Legislative Delegation: Rep. Ron Saunders, State House of Representatives, 316 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300; Sen. Larcenia Bullard, Florida Senate, 218 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100; and to Sen. Joe Negron, Chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee for Health and Human Services, 404 S. Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100.

Section 4: This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 10th DAY OF MAY, 2011.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA



Ginger Snead, Mayor

AYES: Cinque, Keating, Ramsay, Worthington, Snead
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None


ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:



City Attorney