



Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Workshop Agenda

Monday, November 16, 2020 • 3:30 p.m.
(Special Meeting to Follow)

Government Services Complex, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bldg 2, Board Chambers, Bunnell, FL 32110

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge to the Flag and Moment of Silence
3. Welcome: Flagler County Board Chair
4. Flagler County 2021 Local Legislative Priorities Discussion
5. Public Comment
6. Adjournment

While this is a workshop only and no decisions are expected to be made by any of the governmental bodies, if a person decides to appeal any matter that may be discussed for a future proceeding, a record of the workshop may be needed and, for such purposes, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the workshop is made.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in this meeting should contact the (386) 313-4001 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.



Flagler County Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 16, 2020 Following Workshop

Government Services Complex, 1769 E. Moody Blvd., Bldg 2, Board Chambers, Bunnell, FL 32110

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Request the Board take actions as deemed necessary regarding issues discussed at the workshop this date.
4. Adjournment

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**FLAGLER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP ITEM # 4**

SUBJECT: Flagler County 2021 Local Legislative Priorities.

DATE OF MEETING: November 16, 2020

OVERVIEW/SUMMARY: The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) annually establishes a list of legislative priorities to present at the Legislative Delegation meeting that is held locally each year. The legislative priority listing is an important tool used throughout the year during the regular legislative session by legislators and their staff. The list is also provided to the County's lobbyist for bill tracking and for advancing the County's priorities.

Each year hundreds of bills are filed. Staff cannot anticipate all of the bills that will move past the committee process but will try keep the Board abreast of legislative developments through briefings, email, newspaper articles. Similarly, you will receive frequent updates through the Florida Association of Counties, the Small County Coalition, and your legislative delegation. Our lobby firm the Fiorentino Group and our Legislative Liaison, Holly Albanese will be our point person trying to monitor issues on a daily basis.

Flagler County's legislative day will be held in early December at the Flagler County Government Services Building. These priorities will be packaged for presentation to our delegation, their staff, our lobbyists and our website.

FUNDING INFORMATION: N/A

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Holly Albanese, Library Director/Legislative Liaison

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Flagler County's 2021 Local Legislative Priorities



Flagler County 2021 Local Legislative Priorities

Board of County Commissioners Workshop – November 16, 2020

Policy Priorities

1. Support the Legislature Appropriation funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program.
2. Protect and Increase Funding for the State of Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program.
3. Continue Support of the SCRAP and SCOP Grant Programs to Assist Small Counties in Paving Farm to Market Roads.
4. Restore and Protect Florida's Housing Trust Funds.
5. Increase the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Population Cap.
6. Eliminate the Digital Divide Through Expanded Digital Infrastructure and Enhanced Internet Access.
7. Maintain Short Term Vacation Rental Legislation Status Quo.
8. Continue to Support Home Rule.

Funding Priorities

1. Plantation Bay Water and Wastewater Utility Subsidy Relief
Requested Funding - \$550,000
2. Willow Woods Potable Water and Coastline Resiliency Project
Requested Funding - \$1,600,000
3. West Flagler County Stormwater Management Planning Project
Requested Funding: \$ 500,000
4. Collaborative Project to Create a Mental Health Drop-In Center in Flagler County.
Requested Funding: \$245,000

Policy Priorities

1. **Support the Legislature Appropriation funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program.**

Encourage the Legislature to appropriate the funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program in which Flagler County is ranked #1 for the 5th year in a Row. This will allow the County to construct a larger library and fill a much-needed gap in the underserved southern part of our community.

Background: The Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, provides state funds to governments to construct public libraries under Chapter 257.191, *Florida Statutes*. The maximum grant amount is \$500,000 and requires a dollar for dollar match unless the applicant is designated a rural community in accordance with Sections 288.0656 and 288.06561, *Florida Statutes*. Once applications are received and ranked the Legislature will appropriate funding for this program during the budget process.

Flagler County applied in 2016 and 2017 and ranked #1, but because of a zero appropriation by the Legislature, the county did not receive the funding to build. In 2018, we were ranked #1 again but we had to withdraw because of funding issues. In 2019, the Legislature appropriated funding but due to COVID, the Governor vetoed the spending. The fact that Flagler County Public Library has ranked # 1 in the State for the 5th year speaks less to the talent of the grant writer and more to the need. Each year we have outweighed the need of every other library applying. If the Legislature fails to appropriate funds for the construction grant this fiscal year, the county may not be able to move forward and adequately fund and build a new library.

The Flagler County Public Library system has one library in Palm Coast, which was built in 1999 using this construction grant program to assist with funding. In 2004 in order to provide service to the Southern end of Flagler County, a small branch was opened in Bunnell in a county owned building. Although there has been a need for a much larger library in the Southern part of Flagler County, due to the downturn in the economy and loss in the Equalization Grant, we were unable to move forward. In 2006 Flagler County was declared no longer eligible for the Equalization part of State Aid, Chapter 257.18, *Florida Statutes*, which resulted in a loss of more than \$220,000 of the approximately \$250,000 it was receiving annually. Equalization grants are available to counties that qualify for operating grants and serve counties with limited local tax resources.

With the population now over 115,000, the county can no longer delay the construction of a larger library in the Southern part of Flagler County. According to the *Standards for Florida Public Libraries*, Flagler County Public Library is more than 100% below the standard for facility square footage. This grant program is critical to the future growth of our Library so that we may provide better access to an underserved part of our community.

Requested Action: Appropriate funding for the Public Library Construction Grant Program under Chapter 257.191, *Florida Statutes*.

Effect: The requested action will allow Flagler County to construct a larger library in the Southern part of Flagler County, fill the gap on the Standard for facility square footage and provide service to the underserved part of our community.

- 2. Protect and Increase Funding for the State of Florida Transportation Disadvantaged Program.** Urge the Legislature to protect the Transportation Disadvantaged program and increase funding to support the unmet trip requests.

Background: The Transportation Disadvantaged Program is a coordinated statewide effort, which groups riders together for a shared ride service. Transportation services are available in all 67 counties including Flagler County for those individuals that are eligible and have no access to transportation. The Florida Legislature created the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged in 1989 to set policies, provide direction to staff, administer, and implement all provisions of the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund per Chapter 427.013 F.S. The overall mission of the Commission is to insure the availability of efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation-disadvantaged persons. The Commission is assigned to the Florida Department of Transportation for administrative and fiscal accountability but they function independently of the department. The Commission develops a budget that is submitted to the Governor by the Florida Department of Transportation. The Commission works with the local Governing body to assist in meeting its responsibilities for the transportation disadvantaged. Northeast Florida Regional Council as the planning agency appointed members to a Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board to oversee the transportation-disadvantaged program for Flagler County residents. The program in Flagler County provides mobility to older adults, persons with disabilities, people with low incomes and at-risk children.

Flagler County as a small county with limited resources does not have a transportation system similar to VOTRAN or JTA, so its residents without a vehicle of their own are severely limited in their ability to get to a place of employment, doctor's visits, school, the library or to a local retail store. In 2019, Flagler County provided 101,089 total trips for medical, employment, education/training/day care, nutritional or other life-sustaining needs. Because of limitations to service and funding, unmet trip requests in Flagler County are increasing leaving residents without the ability to have their needs met. In the past three years, the number of unmet trip requests has increased while the revenue available to fund the program has decreased. In fact, in 2019 the number of unmet trip requests has doubled to 512. As the population in Flagler County continues to increase, there is a good probability that the number of residents considered transportation disadvantaged will also increase and should the funding follow the current trend, the number of unmet trips may double again by 2021.

Requested Action: Urge the Florida Legislature to protect the Transportation Disadvantaged Program and request an increase in funding to support unmet trip requests.

Effect: Protecting and increasing the Transportation Disadvantaged Fund will not only continue the service but also allow more individuals without means of transportation to access much needed medical care, employment, food, education or other life sustaining needs. It contributes to the well-being of our residents and allows them to thrive in Flagler County.

3. **Continue Support of the SCRAP and SCOP Grant Programs to Assist Small Counties in Paving Farm to Market Roads.** Maintain the amount of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance (SCRAP) and Outreach Programs (SCOP).

Background: Currently, Flagler County receives millions of dollars each year of SCRAP & SCOP funding for projects. These funds make up the bulk of our entire capital improvement program. We use these funds to construct new roads, improve intersections, resurface and widen roadway and replace failing or aging stormwater structures. Many of the roadway projects that have been completed over the past several years provide some benefit to existing farming and agricultural operations in that we have been able to widen and resurface roadways that they utilize to move their crops/product to packing and from packing to market. There are existing packing house operations on CR 305, CR 304 and CR 2006.

Requested Action: Maintain the amount of financial support to FDOT for the Small County Road Assistance and Outreach Programs.

Effect: Flagler County will be able to continue constructing new roads, improving existing roads and replacing any other infrastructure failure because of age or breakdown of the system. This infrastructure is an essential ingredient for economic development and growth in Flagler County.

4. **Restore and Protect Florida's Housing Trust Funds.** Urge the Florida Legislature to use ALL of Florida's housing trust fund monies for Florida's housing programs and stop the sweep of the housing trust funds.

Background: The Sadowski Act, passed in 1992, increased the doc stamp tax paid on all real estate transactions and placed these monies in a dedicated state and local housing trust fund. Seventy percent of monies go to the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program, which funds housing programs in all 67 counties and larger cities. The remaining 30% of monies go to the State Housing Trust Fund for Florida Housing Finance Corporation programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program.

In Flagler County, SHIP funds are used for repair of existing housing stock to allow seniors to age in place and to provide retrofitting of persons with special needs or disaster assistance for critical home repairs. Flagler County assisted 60 families after hurricanes Matthew and Irma, and provided first-time homeownership with down payment and closing cost assistance, as well as preservation of existing housing. SHIP funds are strongly leveraged, with private sector loans and equity providing \$5 for every \$1 of SHIP funds in Flagler County. In addition, SHIP funds can be leveraged with federal funding such as the Community Development Block Grant, Low Income Housing Tax Credit and the most recent COVID-19 SHIP funds for rent and mortgage assistance. Flagler County Assisted 25 households using COVID-19 related SHIP funds.

Affordable housing needs in the community are greater than ever. According to the University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies:

- 18,247 households in Flagler County (46%) are headed by a person age 65 or older in 2018 (in comparison, 30.1% of households' statewide average). Of these 8,211 elderly households (36%) pay more than 30% of income for rent or mortgage costs.

- 13,409 households in Flagler County (34%) are cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of income for housing, of which 6,051 households pay more than 50% of their income for housing.

Affordable housing continues to be out of reach for many residents due to high rents, low wages and the lack of affordable rental homes. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a local worker must earn at least \$21.56 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at the Fair Market Rent of \$1,121/month in Flagler County, but the average wage of a renter in Flagler County is only \$12.79 per hour. Furthermore, there are only 490 affordable rental units in Flagler County with each property having long wait lists.

Our community cannot afford to see continued cuts in SHIP funding. In 2018 and 2019, Flagler County received only \$350,000. If the SHIP program had been fully funded in 2021, Flagler County would have received \$1.2m. Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 these funds were vetoed from the State Budget. Full funding of the state and local housing trust funds is more critical as federal funding for housing continues to decrease and the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act has discouraged corporations from investing in tax credits in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, the largest federal program for creating and preserving affordable housing.

Requested Action: Urge the Florida Legislature to use ALL of Florida’s housing trust fund monies for Florida’s housing programs and stop the sweep of the housing trust funds.

Effect: Using Florida’s housing funds solely for housing creates a positive economic impact for Florida by fueling economic development, creating jobs, investing in our local communities, and contributing to the well-being of Florida’s families, veterans, elderly, persons with disabilities, persons experiencing homelessness and deserving Floridians in need across the State. Allow the housing trust funds to be used for its intended purpose for which it was created by the Sadowski Act – HOUSING – and help our lower-income seniors, families, and workforce find and keep their home in Flagler County.

5. **Increase the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Population Cap.** Increase the Grant’s population-cap requirement criteria to match that of a REDI county, and help Flagler County continue to receive the needed grant dollars to continue to service our landfill solid waste management needs.

Background: Flagler County has been receiving the Small County Consolidated Waste Grant since 2007. These funds assist Flagler County with general solid waste management, litter prevention and control. This past year Flagler received \$140,878.00 and since we no longer qualify under the current population criteria, this is Flagler County’s last year to receive grant funding.

According to F.S. 403.7095, the Small County Consolidated Waste Grant program is for small counties having populations fewer than 110,000. The U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts estimates the population for Flagler County at 115,081 as of July, 1 2019. As a result, Flagler County will lose this grant funding putting a burden on the General Fund to make up the difference or increase collection rates for residents. If the Legislature changed the population cap criteria to match that of the REDI county criteria, this would increase the population threshold to 125,000 and/or allow use of the population of a contiguous county that is 75,000 or fewer in order to meet the population requirement. This would provide Flagler County the ability to continue utilizing this grant program to offset costs.

Requested Action: Increase the population cap requirement criteria on the Small County Consolidated Solid Waste Grant Program to match that of a REDI county.

Effect: Flagler County would continue to receive the grant funding to support the operations of for the Solid Waste Program and maintain status quo for residential collection rates.

6. Eliminate the Digital Divide Through Expanded Digital Infrastructure and Enhanced Internet Access.

Urge the Legislature to support a coordinated and collaborative effort to advance and expand internet access in all areas of Florida through creation of a comprehensive plan and a grant program for service providers to increase and improve access in rural Florida.

Background: In Florida and in Flagler County there are major digital gaps in coverage. This gap in coverage has created challenges within our community and especially some of the most remote and rural areas of Flagler. Some of these challenges include:

- The ability of our schoolchildren to have access to the best educational opportunities, including access to and effectively engage in virtual education.
- The ability for our residents in the west side of Flagler County to access telemedicine for more positive health outcomes and reducing the need to travel and locate transportation.
- The ability for our public to access public safety and for our public safety to have full coverage without gaps in communication creating a public safety crisis.
- The ability for our community to expand business opportunities, stimulate job growth and allow rural areas of Flagler to employ innovative technologies to enhance our economy.

Requested Action: Support efforts to provide increased access, speed and affordability to broadband technology and support public funding to improve the infrastructure so service providers may build out their networks across Florida.

Effect: Through a collaborative effort, a comprehensive plan and public funding to improve infrastructure, we will see a higher quality of life in Flagler County and across the State of Florida.

7. Maintain Short Term Vacation Rental Legislation Status Quo. Maintain the Status Quo in regards to local government regulations for Short Term Vacation Rental legislation.

8. Continue to Support Home Rule. Continue to encourage the State Legislature in seeking local government input on all legislative matters that have the potential to directly impact local communities.

Funding Priorities

1. Plantation Bay Water and Wastewater Utility Subsidy Relief

Requested Funding - \$550,000

Background: The Plantation Bay Water and Wastewater Plants are located on the south side of Old Dixie Highway, west of Interstate 95, in unincorporated Flagler County near Old Dixie Park. The utility serves the Plantation Bay DRI (Development of Regional Impact) that straddles Flagler and Volusia Counties and several smaller areas adjacent to the development. The Plantation Bay DRI originally approved in September 1985. Currently, the DRI is approved for a maximum of 5,000 dwelling units and a maximum of 90,000 square feet of commercial that will likely be developed as retail/shopping center and office uses. In January 2013, the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners reached consensus for the former County Administrator to create a partnership with the City of Bunnell to acquire the Plantation Bay Utility System because many residents were concerned about a 2011 Florida Governmental Utilities Authority report that estimated \$3.9 million in improvements were needed. The Authority noted that the problems existed because of deferred maintenance of the system. The utility was purchased later that year for \$5,682,833 – at 2.37% for 30 years through the State Revolving Fund (SRF), Funding Agreement No. 180520. As of the 2020-21 fiscal year, the outstanding principal is \$ 4,785,052.00.

In July 2020, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to turn over the Plantation Bay Utilities to Florida Governmental Utilities Authority (FGUA). According to the agreement approved by the county, FGUA will pay the county an amount equal to the principal balance on the County Utility System Debt, currently projected to be \$16,365,356 as of Oct. 15, 2020. Those funds will be used to repay the debt. However, the County did agree to subsidize the cost of services for the next two years in order to alleviate any possibility of an increase in user rates. The amount Flagler County will pay in subsidies over the two-year period is a total of \$550,000.

Requested Action: To provide relief from the cost of the two-year subsidy of \$550,000.

Effect: Assisting with the cost of the two-year subsidy will allow Flagler County to turn over the Utility to the Florida Governmental Utilities Authority (FGUA) so they can continue to make major capital improvements to the Water and Wastewater Plants while not increasing Utility user rates.

2. Willow Woods Potable Water and Coastline Resiliency Project

Requested Funding - \$1,600,000

Background: The Willow Woods Potable Water project, located in coastal northeastern Flagler County is being developed to provide a reliable source of drinking water for this small coastal community of 45 parcels. The community is located south of the Town of Marineland and northeast of the City of Palm Coast and approximately one mile west from an existing waterline that provides water from the city of Palm Coast to the Town of Marineland. Citizens of the community there have experienced difficulty obtaining reliable, clean water from their individual, residential wells. Wells that have been in place for decades have become unusable; some draw only salt water now and other have large amounts of solids rendering them unusable. The project proposes to connect the community with existing drinking water infrastructure from A1A. In addition, the project places dry sewer lines to provide residents with the option to tie-in to sewer and eliminate their onsite septic systems. Once complete, the project will connect the Willow Woods community to this existing waterline and sewer line.

Surficial coastal aquifers are already experiencing salt-water intrusion. This General Infrastructure Project will mitigate health risks associated with access to clean drinking water. The dry sewer lines will prevent release of contaminants into surficial groundwater and eventually nearby surface water in the Matanzas River/ Intracoastal Waterway. As indicated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's "Climate Change and Seal Level Rise in Florida" report, Sea level is rising and is likely to rise faster as each decade passes, continuing for a considerable period of time". Further the report identifies that inland habitats (like that at Willow Woods) are being affected by sea level rise because of groundwater intrusion of saltwater as rising sea-level facilitates further saltwater intrusion as hydraulic back-pressure on coastal aquifers reduces groundwater flow towards oceans. Access to this source of clean drinking water and modern waste disposal will mitigate some of the short-term and "middle-term" effects of sea-level rise by preventing the community's need to try to access fresh water from deeper in the aquifer, further exacerbating this increased hydraulic back-pressure. Likewise and as before mentioned, the connection to sewer lines will provide for a controlled disposal of household effluent.

The project cost is currently estimated at \$1,621,171.63. Project design will include current industry standards and provide water supply and sewer facilities to existing and proposed future development of the area. The project will be maintained as a part of the City of Palm Coast's water utility infrastructure.

Requested Action: Provide the \$1.6m needed to move forward with the Willow Woods Potable Water and Coastline Resiliency Project.

Effect: Long-term access to a reliable source of clean drinking water for existing and future Willow Woods community residents along with controlled disposal of household effluent invariably improving coastline resiliency.

3. West Flagler County Stormwater Management Planning Project

Requested Funding: \$ 500,000

Background: Flagler County is seeking funding to create a Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) for the western portion of the county that would identify potential shelf-ready mitigation projects and guide its stormwater program into the future. This stormwater management plan has been an identified need on the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Project List, but the project has been deferred due to limited funding opportunities for planning. The Plan will include the western portion of Flagler County, which encompasses the entire extent of the Lower St. Johns hydrologic unit (HUC 03080103), an area of approximately 357 square miles.

Flagler County has a population of nearly 115,000 people. In general, a ridge runs north/south throughout Flagler County along US-1, which divides how water drains. The majority of the water east of US-1 to drain towards the Intracoastal Waterway and the Atlantic Ocean, whereas the land west of US-1 generally flows to the southwest of the county near Dead Lake, Mud Lake and Crescent Lake. More than half of the county's land is west of US-1. While the majority of the population resides east of US-1, there are close to 3,500 low-to-moderate income residents west of US-1 in the study area.

The primarily low-income community in western Flagler County is known as Daytona North. The community is highly prone to flooding. There are more than 900 mobile or manufactured homes in the community and it is common after heavy rainstorms for the homes to be inaccessible or damaged from floodwaters. Western

Flagler County is significantly lacking in all areas of infrastructure, including an adequate stormwater drainage system. The substandard infrastructure results in the area being easily overwhelmed by rainfall, and consequentially, experiencing hazardous flooding during regular circumstances. These impacts are further exacerbated during natural disasters, namely hurricanes, bringing both heavy rainfall and the potential for inland storm surge from Crescent Lake to the area already ill equipped to handle any influx of water. The proposed Stormwater Management Plan, and resulting update of the LMS, will provide the county with the information needed to design projects that reduce flood risk and enhance the overall resiliency in this area. The scope of work will include identifying potential opportunities and actions to reduce pollutant loadings that may be pursued in the potential development of a Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP).

The budget for the project includes funding for contracting with a consultant to assist with the development of the stormwater plan. It is expected a comprehensive plan such as this, which incorporates such a large geographical area will cost approximately \$2 million. As such, Flagler County is pursuing funding from the CDBG Mitigation General Planning Support Program of \$1,500,000 in addition to this request of \$500,000 to meet the total needed so we can move forward with this project.

Requested Action: Provide the \$500,000 requested to support the Stormwater Management Planning Project for the western portion of Flagler County.

Effect: The Stormwater Management Plan will provide direction for developing flood mitigation projects that will drastically improve quality of life and protect against future flood-related property damage in western Flagler County. It will also generate a roadmap for long-term mitigation solutions that will prove invaluable to those whose livelihoods reside in the area, and who have repeatedly suffered flood-related loss in years' past. Coupled with the subsequent LMS update, the documents will provide an outline for viable, sustainable solutions to bolster flood resiliency and safeguard the wellbeing of the Western Flagler County community.

4. Collaborative Project to Create a Mental Health Drop-In Center in Flagler County. **Requested Funding: \$245,000**

Background: In 2017, Flagler County had the highest suicide rate in the State of Florida and while our numbers have been dropping, in 2020 because of the pandemic, we are seeing a rise in depression and suicide. We are also seeing a rise in domestic violence and substance abuse resulting from serious mental health illnesses and currently Flagler County has 446 residents diagnosed with a serious mental illness. As a result, Flagler County is proposing a Drop-In Center to serve Flagler County residents experiencing serious mental illness combined with a Community Access Point.

Drop-In Centers provide an informal, supportive environment to assist consumers with mental illness in the recovery process. They provide opportunities to learn and share coping skills and strategies, and to build and/or enhance self-esteem and self-confidence. In addition, they provide organized support groups or peer to peer counseling to address the need for peer socialization, and recovery-based approaches that emphasize self-determination, consumer strengths, encouragement and hope. Daily services will include socialization activities; daily groups; guest speakers; expert advisors; leisure activities; assistance with life skills and securing benefits; and grooming/hygiene/home maintenance.

The Flagler County Drop-In Center will be a collaborative effort by Flagler County, Advent Health and a private behavioral healthcare provider for a true public private partnership. Advent Health will deed over to Flagler County a building located at 1101 E. Moody Blvd., Bunnell, FL for the new Drop-In Center. The County will then provide this building at no cost to the private partner and make any necessary renovations. The Drop-In Center will be staffed with approximately 3.0 FTEs and a licensed mental health counselor or social worker. The Community Access Point will operate 8 hours a day Monday through Friday. It is estimated, that the behavioral healthcare provider will need approximately \$245,000 per year to operate the Drop-In Center/Community Access Point. While Flagler County and Advent Health are providing the renovated building, the private provider will not have the funds or funding mechanism in the first year to operate the new Drop-In Center without time for partnership building, grant writing and fundraising.

Requested Action: To provide funding for the first year of operations allowing time to apply for grants and to create a public-private partnership known as the Flagler County Behavioral Health Consortium. This Consortium moving forward will create a funding mechanism through donations from local non-profits and public entities for future sustainability.

Effect: Create a community-based mental health resource that will assist Flagler County residents to receive the counseling and assistance needed to improve their quality of life, enhance self-esteem and provide them with the self-confidence and coping skills to meet the demands of daily activities. Through provision of access to the needed mental health resources the number of residents dying from suicide, substance abuse or other related mental health illnesses should decline.