



Happy Friday Justice Seekers!

We are only days away from our Rally for Mental Health. Yesterday at the County Commission meeting, we found out that the County is not planning on spending ANY money towards a central pathway next year. Worse than that, many Commissioners voiced support for pushing off any further next steps for the central pathway until next year! Experts suggested that a coordinated access model would cost \$1 million over a year. We're concerned what it says about our County's priorities if the jail and law enforcement budget proposal is \$325 million, but they won't set aside \$1 million to ensure that people struggling with mental health and drug addiction don't wind up in jail instead of getting the help they need.

We can't wait another year. There was over a 9% increase in overdose calls to 9-1-1 in March-May of this year compared to the same time last year. Yesterday, at an event with Governor DeSantis, the CEO of Crisis Center for Tampa Bay said "a behavioral health tsunami is coming" this fall due to all the economic and mental stress caused by COVID-19. If the Commission puts off working on a central pathway, more people will end up in crisis and Baker Acted, put in jail, or even pass away. This is simply unacceptable.

Join with us as we highlight the need for more mental health and addiction services and determine our next steps to make sure the County funds the central pathway! The Rally will be Tues, July 28th at 7pm. Please use the Zoom link [here](#) to register.

We need as many people as possible so please invite your network members and your congregations. Click [here](#) to view the flier. Don't simply forward this email along but please follow up via phone call to make sure they got the information and see if they can attend!

#### **Congregational Updates**

Summer has flown by and we are now getting ready to start our house meetings once again! By now you should start scheduling your congregation's team meeting for August! At this team meeting your congregation's team should choose house meeting dates and decide which team leaders are calling with congregation members to invite them to their house meetings. If your congregation does not yet have a team meeting date set, please call your organizer ASAP!

We are still also working on our investment drive, and we still have many network members that have not been asked to invest! Do not take away their opportunity to invest by not asking, remember asking is winning! Follow up should be two-fold: 1. Asking network members who have already made commitments to turn it in and 2. Asking network members who have not yet been approached if they can invest their \$200. Even if network members can't invest \$200, we want EVERY network members to have the chance to invest what they are able to for our important work.

***Some important dates you should have in your calendar are:***

Tuesday, July 28th CEO visit with TFS Financial Corporation. Pre-meeting at 9 am and meeting at 10 am.

Thursday, July 30th CEO visit with Florida Blue. Pre-meeting at 2 pm and meeting at 3 pm.

Tuesday, August 4th CEO visit with Steve Raymund. Pre-meeting at 9 am and meeting at 10 am.

Thursday, July 30th, at 6:45 pm will be our affordable housing committee meeting.

Please RSVP by responding to this email if you're interested in attending any of these meetings.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns!

With Peace,

FAST Staff