



State of Florida
Statewide Advocacy Council
Betty Busbee, Chair
Craig Rappel, Vice Chair
William E.C. Marvin, Executive Director



Dear Governor Bush, President King and Speaker Byrd:

I am pleased to join Betty Busbee, Statewide Advocacy Council Chair, and members of the Statewide and Local Advocacy Councils throughout the state in presenting this annual report. The report provides a review of the accomplishments, funding, areas of continued concern and our future commitment to serving Floridians.

This past year has been filled with many successes as a result of members intervening on behalf of citizens in need of our assistance. Local Advocacy Council members throughout the state monitored over 4,225 programs or facilities, a 600 percent increase over last year, and in several cases, Council visits initiated corrective action. A few facilities were closed, and some programs were shut down. In the vast majority of situations the programs and services were determined to be beneficial to the consumers receiving them. One of the outreach activities the Council performed again this past year was to put on a seminar at the annual CAFÉ for individuals with disabilities. The Statewide Advocacy Council has undertaken an investigation into the use of psychotropic drugs in foster care. This report should be ready for distribution in early 2003.

Our objective will continue to help all Floridians who feel that their rights have been violated and assist them in receiving those services in a safe and compassionate manner and with dignity. The Statewide and Local Advocacy Councils have had an excellent relationship with both Executive and the Legislative branches and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

William E. C. Marvin
Executive Director