



**Candidates for Florida's Legislature to Address Tough Questions
on Mental Health, Substance Abuse & Work Release Programs**
Moderated Event Free and Open to the Public

For Immediate Release
October 12, 2012

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Jacksonville, Fla. - Bridges of America, The Smart Justice Alliance of Florida, Florida Partners In Crisis, Sutton Place Behavioral Health, Inc. and Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association will co-host a **Candidate Forum** on **Tuesday, October 16 at 7 pm** in the **Florida State College Downtown Campus Auditorium**. It will focus on the value and importance of programs that address **substance abuse** and **mental health** from an economic as well as humanitarian perspective.

Did you know ... that one out of every eight people and fully 75 percent of those incarcerated in state prisons are battling a substance abuse disorder?

Moderator **Barney Bishop**, vice chair of The Center for Smart Justice, will lead the discussion and take questions from the audience central to understanding the problems Florida faces. **Bishop** is the former president and CEO of Associated Industries of Florida and is the current founding chair of the Volunteer USA Foundation. He also serves as chair of the Florida Juvenile Justice Foundation.

Voters are invited to attend this open-to-the-public event.

WHAT: Moderated Candidate Forum

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 16, 2012**
Doors Open: 7 pm
Candidate Mingle: 7 – 7:30 pm
Moderated Forum: 7:30 – 9 pm

WHERE: Florida State College Downtown Campus Auditorium
101 W. State Street, Jacksonville FL 32202

WHO: **ALL Candidates for Legislative Seats from Broward County**

Invited to Attend: Janet Adkins, State Representative, Dist. 11
Daniel Walsh, State Representative, Dist. 11
Dave Smith, State Representative Dist. 11

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Karen Morian, State Representative, Dist. 12
Lake Ray, State Representative, Dist. 12

Reggie Fullwood, State Representative, Dist. 13

Mia Jones, State Representative, Dist. 14
Jonathan Loesche, State Representative, Dist. 14

Daniel Davis, State Representative, Dist. 15

Charles McBurney, State Representative, Dist. 16

Aaron Bean, State Senate, Dist. 4
Nancy Soderberg, State Senate, Dist. 4
Kyle Alexander Bedran, State Senate, Dist. 4
Patrick Dewayne Mency, State Senate, Dist. 4

Audrey Gibson, State Senate, Dist. 9
Cherron "CC" Newby, State Senate, Dist. 9

About Bridges of America

Bridges of America has a 32-year successful history as the oldest criminal justice substance abuse treatment provider for adult male and female offenders in the State of Florida. The program was established on the holistic approach to recovery, and predicated on the 12-Step Model. Its unwavering purpose has been a commitment to providing thousands of felony offenders the opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration into their communities as law-abiding and tax-paying citizens.

Bridges of America was founded by Frank Costantino, an ex-felon who served a 22 ½ year prison term for burglary and other related crimes. Upon his release, Frank founded "Christian Prison Ministries" to share the Gospel with other prisoners. In 1980, Frank opened up the first "after-care" resident program in Orlando to provide that bridge. What started as a local ministry has now parlayed into a worldwide vision that serves over 1000 men and women daily. Lori Costantino-Brown, Frank's daughter, now continues to provide the vision and leadership of Bridges of America. In Florida, multiple Bridges facilities are located in Orlando, Bradenton, Broward, Auburndale, and Jacksonville. **We believe people can change.**

For more information, visit www.bridgesofamerica.org

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