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**CONTACT:**

Kevin B. Lewis, CEO  
Southwest Florida Addiction Services  
(239) 931-9689  
[K\\_lewis@swfas.org](mailto:K_lewis@swfas.org)

Susan Bennett, APR, CPRC  
Susan Bennett Marketing & Media  
(239) 277-5255  
sbennett@susanbennett.biz

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GOVERNOR APPOINTS SWFAS CEO  
TO STATEWIDE DRUG POLICY BOARD**

**FORT MYERS, FLA., August 17, 2009** – Governor Charlie Crist has appointed Kevin B. Lewis, chief executive officer of Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS), to serve on the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council.

Lewis was among eight people with substance abuse treatment or prevention credentials to be appointed to the council, which is created within the Executive Office of the Governor.

“I am honored to be appointed to this very important panel, which will help guide substance abuse policy and funding as well as make recommendations to the governor and Florida Legislature,” Lewis said.

The Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council is charged with conducting a comprehensive analysis of substance abuse in Florida and making recommendations to the governor and legislature for developing and implementing state drug control policy.

In addition, the council will make recommendations on funding and changes to the law which would remove barriers to or enhance the implementation of the state drug control strategy. Expansion and funding of drug courts also will be reviewed by the council.

In addition to the eight members appointed by the governor, the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council includes the following members or their designee: Attorney General, executive director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, secretary of Children and Family Services, State Surgeon General, Secretary of Corrections, Commissioner of Education, Secretary of Corrections, Secretary of Juvenile Justice, executive director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Adjutant

General of the state as the chief of the Department of Military Affairs.

The President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court also appoint one member each from their respective bodies.

Lewis, who has been CEO of SWFAS since 1993, was recognized as the top substance abuse leader in the state in 2003 by the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) and was honored as the Paulette Burton Lee County Citizen of the Year in 2008. He has more than 25 years of experience in the substance abuse field, has been an adjunct professor with Florida Gulf Coast University, a former board member and officer for the Florida Certification Board and past president of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association. He has traveled as far away as Barbados to provide consultation for substance abuse services delivery.

SWFAS is the most comprehensive substance abuse treatment and prevention program in Southwest Florida, serving 6,000 people per year from ages 9 to 90. SWFAS offers outpatient and residential programs for both adults and youngsters from five locations in Lee County and two in Hendry County. In addition, SWFAS provides detoxification services for adults, prevention programming, and an Employee Assistance Program for about 60 Southwest Florida businesses.

Fees are charged on a sliding scale, based on family income. In many cases, private insurance is accepted. SWFAS is a United Way agency.

For more information about SWFAS, visit [www.swfas.org](http://www.swfas.org).