

RENE BARRETT
myadvocate@bellsouth.net
954 257-4568

BIO

Rene Barrett, Vice President of Options Plus, Inc., Broward director for the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, Inc. (FSPC), is also the founding executive director of the Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention, Inc. (FISP) and an Honorary Board Member. As a leader in the community, she spearheaded an organization dedicated to changing the environmental factors that contribute to helplessness, hopelessness and isolation as causes of suicide. Hers is an impassioned voice for strategies that reduce risks for suicide and also for support to help those who have lost loved ones to that devastating consequence. As a founding member of the Florida Task Force for Suicide Prevention, n/k/a the Florida Suicide Prevention Council, Rene has fought to bring the acclaimed SUNsm program to Florida schools. Through that project, adolescents at risk are targeted and supported by peer and professional intervention. She is noted for her willingness to collaborate to expand public and professional education and to promote advocacy initiatives in support of her cause. At the request of the Office of the Surgeon General, Rene participated in the development of a national strategy for suicide prevention and used her leadership in ongoing efforts to secure an office of suicide prevention for Florida. Rene was invited by the State of Florida to present and was well received at the 2008 Florida Suicide Prevention Symposium for her pioneering efforts in the prevention field.