



**Commission on Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Members**

Jay Reeve, PhD
Chair

Representative Christine
Hunschofsky Co-Chair
Speaker of the House Appointee

Senator Darryl Rouson
President of the Senate
Appointee

Clara Reynolds
Governor Appointee

Ann Berner
Speaker of the House Appointee

Doug Leonardo
President of the Senate

Sheriff William Prummell
Governor Appointee

Dr. Kathleen Moore
President of the Senate
Appointee

Dr. Kelly Gray-Eurom
Governor Appointee

Larry Rein
Governor Appointee

Chief Judge Mark Mahon
Governor Appointee

Melissa Larkin-Skinner
Speaker of the House Appointee

Ray Gadd
President of the Senate
Appointee

Shawn Salamida
Speaker of the House Appointee

Secretary Shevaun Harris
Florida Department of Children
and Families

Secretary Jason Weida
Florida Agency for Health Care
Administration

Dr. Uma Suryadevara
Speaker of the House Appointee

Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrotta
Governor Appointee

Wes Evans
President of the Senate
Appointee

Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

In-Person Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2023
8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

8:45 a.m. – Call to Order/Welcome

Jay Reeve, Chair

Roll Call

Attendance Summary:

Chair Jay Reeve
Commissioner Darryl Rouson
Commissioner Christine Hunschofsky
Commissioner Wes Evans
Commissioner Ann Berner
Commissioner Doug Leonardo
Commissioner Kathleen Moore
Commissioner Kelly Gray-Eurom
Commissioner Larry Rein
Commissioner Circuit Judge Mark Mahon
Commissioner Circuit Judge Ronald Ficarrotta
Commissioner Melissa Larkin-Skinner
Commissioner Shawn Salamida
Commissioner Shevaun Harris
Commissioner Jason Weida
Commissioner Lee Fox
Commissioner Clara Reynolds
Commissioner Richard Weisberg

Opening Remarks

Opening remarks from Chair Jay Reeve and video messages from Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, and Representative Sam Garrison.

Florida Hospital Association, Presentation by Mary Mayhew

Mary Mayhew provided an overview of the Florida Hospital Association. This commission is a priority for the Florida Hospital Association. Stressed the importance of data to evaluate the system of care in Florida. Low intensity services reduce the need for hospitalization. Healthcare workforce shortages need to be addressed. How do we establish uniformity of services regardless of the payor. Does the payor dictate access to services? Looking at national data, the emergency department is the most expensive point of entry, what are the dominant payor sources. Data will help evaluate warm handoffs and outcomes. The goal is to integrate physical and behavioral health. Need to be real-time access to behavioral health data exchanges. Behavioral health data exchanges among providers are essential. Treatment based outcome measures are essential. Stressed avoiding the emergency department and housing stability.

Florida Association of Managing Entities, presentation by Natalie Kelly, Alan Davidson, John Newcomer, Christine Caufield and, Silvia Quintana

Natalie Kelly presented overview of managing entities. Not in competition with providers as, managing entities manage the system of care and providers provide the service.

Alan Davidson stressed the relationship with providers.

John Newcomer discussed various means in which an individual enters the system of care.

Discussed national suicide trends, Florida mobile response teams and care coordination.

Christine Caufield discussed accountability and transparency. Indicated ME's assess gaps in care on annual basis. Rural communities, faith-based communities, and peer specialist

Silvia Quintana stressed care coordination and youth services.

Florida Behavioral Health Association, presentation by Melanie Brown-Woofter

Melanie Brown-Woofter discussed the FBHA and how they were formed. Medicaid and DCF are their main partners. Community service teams are integral to diverting individual from deep end services. Central receiving models are integral to access effective interventions. Workforce issues need to be addressed. Co-responder issues, prevention efforts, law enforcement intervention programs are important to strengthening behavioral health system of care.

Florida Association of Health Plans, presentation by Audrey Brown

Background of Medicaid managed care organizations. Medicaid in the managed care space provides more accountability and oversight and, improved outcomes for individuals served.

Over 3 million people taking part in the program. Over 50% of enrollees are children.

Additional behavioral health monitoring occurring. Health plans are providing services beyond what the contract requires but must be medically appropriate. Experiencing workforce challenges. Plans are subject to HEDIS measures and must achieve quality measures. Telehealth health allows 24-7 access.

Lunch Break

System of Care Subcommittee Report Out

Commissioner Harris – System of care subcommittee will review and evaluate the management and functioning of the existing publicly supported mental health and substance abuse system.

Key themes: real-time data sharing, workforce challenges, data driven decision making, need for true gap analysis, coordination of care, need for acute and chronic behavioral health care issues and those who are cycling in and out. Need to address how people navigate the system.

Data driven decision making. Will examine patient centered medical behavioral health homes,

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, 24-7 access to care. Rural vs urban gaps in

care. Capacity of mobile response teams and central receiving facilities. Would like to get MRT response times down, CCBHC model propels us forward, must determine what the framework would be for Florida.

Commissioner Reynolds - Suicide subcommittee examining 988, mobile response teams and crisis stabilization, is there any MRT that should be given to Suicide subcommittee?

Chair Reeve: Suicide subcommittee should examine the 988 systems conceived in statute. MRT falls within system of care. 988 MRT intersection falls between subcommittees.

Commissioner Harris: System of Care focus is on network adequacy, do we have enough. Maybe Suicide Prevention can examine how deployment of MRT's work.

Commissioner Reynolds agrees for Suicide subcommittee to focus more on the operationalization of the 988 mobile response and crisis stabilization versus the 30,000-foot view.

Commissioner Hunschofsky inquiry into whether the DCF took advantage of ARPA funding for mobile response teams. Secretary Harris will check and get back with her.

Commissioner Berner requests the gap analysis examine the expectations of the MMA contracts and liquidated damages because they don't have adequate coverage as another way of assessing the availability of services. Commissioner Harris agrees to examine.

Finance Subcommittee Report Out

Commissioner Rouson reviewed the charge of the Finance Subcommittee, including the vision, goal and scope of work. The Finance subcommittee has requested information from eleven state of Florida agencies on how they manage behavioral health funding. A second letter has been sent to agencies requesting data on needs assessments, budget authorization, methods of payment and process utilized to evaluate the impact of behavioral health services funded through state and federal dollars. Responses are due on September 11, 2023, and the subcommittee will review at next meeting on October 2, 2023.

Data Analysis Subcommittee Report Out

Commissioner Moore discussed primary goals and strategies of the Data subcommittee. Several "Aims" have been created all with the goal of developing a statewide data repository that will include data from AHCA, DCF, DJJ, DOC, DOE, and possibly additional agencies. The subcommittee will examine both qualitative and quantitative data. Subcommittee member Heather Flynn, PhD discussed examining information on the availability and adequacy of behavioral health data sources to evaluate key questions related to cost, access, quality and outcomes. Will initially focus on publicly funded supports. Will have full-day in-person data subcommittee meeting on September 13, 2023. Several leading data experts will be coming in to discuss the development of the statewide data repository.

Commissioner Leonardo asks if the repository will contain commercial and Medicare data as well and, data from providers who do not receive publicly funded dollars. Commissioner Moore responded yes.

Commissioner Reynolds ask for clarification of "Behavioral Health Network of Resources"

Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Report Out

Commissioner Reynolds provide an overview of statutory requirement regarding 988 and the crisis response systems. The subcommittee has split the statutory requirements into four separate buckets, each with a champion; 988, mobile response teams, crisis stabilization and marketing and dissemination. The subcommittee is examining what happens after the 988 call, the "hand-off". 988 data systems are not consistent across the state. Need to address the disparities in mobile response distribution throughout the State. May have some overlap with the System of Care subcommittee regarding mobile response. Reviewed draft recommendations from all four buckets.

Commissioner Harris identified potential areas of overlap such as the entry points for MRT, need for clarifying the roles. System of Care will examine the composition of MRT, are the

teams operating as effectively as they could, address the challenges with transportation and accessibility. The Suicide subcommittee could examine how to maximize the MRT's to benefit those coming through that particular crisis point.

Commissioner Reynolds asks Commissioner Harris to identify which overlap topics should transition to the system of care subcommittee. Commissioner Reynolds also agreed to identify which subject matter experts are currently working on those topics so they can assist the System of Care subcommittee.

Commissioner Larkin-Skinner calls for adequate funding for CSU's.

Children and Youth Subcommittee Report Out

Commissioner Hunschofsky reviewed charge of the subcommittee. Provided an overview of the specialized therapeutic group care (TGC) recommendation.

Commissioner Harris clarified the issue surrounding TGC is broader than just TGC, it is access to residential treatment services in general and the DCF has been working closely with AHCA to address. Working to streamline regulatory processes.

Commissioner Hunschofsky indicates reimbursement rates and housing issues are frequent topics of conversation.

A second recommendation is school mental health language requiring school districts to negotiate an agreement with their local managing entity to address student behavioral health concerns.

Commissioner Weida will share school district contacts from a workgroup formed between AHCA and the DOE charged with revising AHCA's school-based services policy for Medicaid.

The Children and Youth subcommittee is also examining transportation issues. Commissioner Reynolds volunteers to assist on the transportation front. Children and Youth will also examine how to improve public education and awareness of the access points into the behavioral healthcare system.

Commission-wide Issues

Chair Reeve informed Commission a recommendation template will be sent out soon. Subcommittees should use this template to submit their respective recommendations. Template will go out by end of the week (August 18, 2023)

The Commission will also examine access, workforce issues and public awareness of the behavioral health care system of care.

Commissioner Harris suggest the group examine the utility of having different subgroups because of the overlaps versus the Commission coming together and tackling these issues.

Commissioner Berner suggest the CCBHC issue may be better served under the Finance subcommittee.

Public Comments

Carolyn McClain, Chief Compliance Officer for Heart of Florida Health Center. Expressed support of integrated primary care and behavioral health. Need sustainable funding to make it work.

Mark Copin, CEO of Alpert Jewish Family Services. Expressed support for the expansion of mental health first aid.

Heather Flynn, PhD, Florida State University. Discussed her support of workforce examination.

Becca Teeter, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County. Offers the Commission support from the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Kimberly Comer, Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition. Expressed her support of the Commission.

Teresa Raylin, Child Guidance Center. Addressed support for school-based therapist and mobile crisis teams and, “Talk About Communities” program.

Jack Wood expressed support for certified parent care giver specialist.

Closing Remarks

Chair Reeve provided closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned