



## **Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration**

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Total 92

**Hosts/Facilitators:**

**Department of Children and Families** – Diveka Anderson, Regional Collaboration Coordinator; Morgan Schell, Regional Operations Manager

**Presenter:** LeeAnne Sacino, Executive Director of Florida Coalition to End Homelessness

**Full Attendee List is Provided in Appendix A**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Diveka Anderson, Regional Collaboration Coordinator, called to order the Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Quarterly Meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

---

#### **II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Morgan Schell, Regional Operations Manager, welcomed attendees and introduced the following:

Morgan Schell, Regional Operations Manager, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Substance Abuse & Mental Health (SAMH)

Diveka Anderson, Regional Collaboration Coordinator, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Substance Abuse & Mental Health (SAMH), and

LeeAnne Sacino, Executive Director from the Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, who would also be presenting at the meeting.

Housekeeping reminders were provided regarding microphone muting, Q&A procedures, and the use of the chat feature.

---



## **Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration**

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

### **III. PRESENTATION – FLORIDA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS**

A PowerPoint was shared by LeeAnne Sacino, Executive Director of the Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, providing an overview of the Homeless Response System and the role of Homeless Continuums of Care (CoCs). Key points included:

- CoCs are local/regional planning bodies that coordinate services, set priorities, and apply for funding.
- Responsibilities include annual Point-in-Time counts, coordinated entry systems, capacity building, and monitoring outcomes.
- CoCs operate with open membership, encouraging broad community participation.
- The Coordinated Entry System prioritizes individuals least likely to self-resolve, ensuring intensive services for those most in need.
- Collaboration emphasized through peer-to-peer problem-solving, trend analysis, and state/federal advocacy.
- Attendees were encouraged to join CoC networks to share resources, contribute to data collection, and strengthen access.
- Importance of client and peer education, advocacy, and leveraging shared data to close service gaps and improve outcomes statewide.

After presentation concluded, Question and Answer portion of the presentation began, microphones were unmuted, and open discussion with Ms. Sacino discussed the following:

Officer Elijah Shabazz, Belle Isle Police Department, raised concerns about housing resources for families with autistic children living in transient housing, and challenges for those with language barriers. He asked if there was there anything he could do to get them services or some type of permanent housing?

LeeAnne Sacino, Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, advised exploring Rapid Rehousing (up to 2 years rental assistance with supportive services) and contacting the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida for translation resources.



## **Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration**

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

---

Dr. Mery Lossada, Empath Health, Hospice of Marion County (HMC), addressed the increasing amount of homelessness among seniors with cognitive decline and chronic illness; lack of legal representation for benefits access. She asked if there was a way to measure and develop a plan to expedite the process due to not having a POA (power of attorney)?

Leeanne Sacino Florida Coalition to End Homelessness, discussed the SOAR program for expedited benefits applications and noted statewide initiatives targeting elderly and chronically ill homeless individuals.

---

### **IV. PROVIDER SUCCESS STORIES**

Diveka Anderson highlighted stories from the following Network Service Providers:

- Space Coast Health Centers – Single mother of six stabilized health, avoided eviction, and returned to work.
  - Aspire Health Partners (Insight Program) – First-episode psychosis client achieved one-year sobriety and reconnected socially.
  - Tri-County Human Services – Former amphetamine user transitioned from homelessness to full-time employment.
  - LifeStream (Anthony House) – Mother overcame opioid addiction and reunified with her child.
- 

### **V. FOCUS TOPIC AND OPEN DISCUSSION**

Diveka Anderson led the open discussion portion of the meeting and discussed questions with the focus topic: Strengthening Community Networks & Cross-Agency Collaboration.

Question 1:

How can this collaboration assist with bridging the gaps with providers and agencies?

---



## Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

- Dr. Mery Lossada, Empath Health, (HMC), suggested creating a centralized statewide resource site with clear service descriptions.

### Question 2:

What existing partnerships have been the most impactful in supporting behavioral health outcomes in our region?

- Tracy Grey, Heartland for Children, Inc., discussed robust partnerships with child welfare agencies and Polk County Public Schools through leadership meetings and a collaborative council.

### Question 3:

What strategies can agencies implement together to strengthen partnerships?

- Tracy Grey, Heartland for Children, Inc., emphasized identifying points of contact and setting intentional goals for collaboration.
- Brianna Kelley, Marion Senior Services, recommended high-utilizer case review meetings to assess strengths, weaknesses, and streamline services.

### Question 4:

If you could enhance one aspect of cross-agency collaboration, what would it be?

- Dr. Mery Lossada, Empath Health, (HMC), suggested improving communication and sharing real-time service capacity updates.
- DJ Ryan, Marion Senior Services, noted “communication and data” as priority needs in the chat.

Diveka Anderson concluded the discussion by thanking attendees for their participation and engagement.

## VI. FUTURE COLLABORATIVES

Diveka Anderson presented information on the future of the collaborative to include:

- Attendance metrics.



## **Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration**

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

---

- Survey outcomes - statewide priorities, regional priorities, need for additional resources and supports.
  - Lunch and Learns – previous presenter and schedule of future meetings.
  - Upcoming meeting dates with November meeting being held virtually and 2026 meeting locations to be determined. The next Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration meeting was announced to be held virtually, via TEAMS on Thursday, November 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- 

### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Diveka Anderson opened the floor for public comment. During public comment the following attendees shared:

- Catherine Rea, Heart of Florida United Way, 211 and Crisis Services, shared that 211 is available 24/7 statewide for resources and referrals in the chat.
  - Nicole Sainz, Community Liaison with Chrysalis Health, noted she had no comment in the chat, just happy to be a part of this meeting. Thank you.
- 

### **VIII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Diveka Anderson discussed future quarterly Collaborative Meetings to include Agency specific presentations and thanked the attendees for their attendance.

---

### **IX. ADJOURN**

Diveka Anderson adjourned the Central Region Behavioral Health Interagency Quarterly meeting at 10:56 A.M. on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

---



## Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

### Appendix A

Alison Fulford	Department of Juvenile Justice
Amanda Gallo	Aspire Health Partners
Anna Kesic	IMPOWER
Babette Hankey	Aspire Health Partners
Blake Prince	Ocoee Police Department
Brad Alix	Office of the Public Defender
Brandin Suarez	Kissimmee Police Department
Brianna Kelley	Marion Senior Services
Calvin Massiah	Orange County Public Schools
Candace Barnes	Peace River Center
Carolyn Hix	Department of Children and Families
Catherine Rea	Heart of Florida United Way; 211 and Crisis Services
Chana Speir	Brevard Public Schools
Chandra Walker	The School District of Osceola County
Chelsea Poff	Marion County Sheriff's Office
Christine Stilwell	Informed Families; The Florida Family Partnership
Cindy Lawson	Volunteers of America of Florida, Inc.
Cody Bauer	BayCare Behavioral Health
Cory Fisher	Recovery Connections of Central Florida
Darla Oringderff	Mount Dora Police Department
Deanna Obregon	Ibis Healthcare, Inc.
Denise Holden	Substance Abuse Services, Inc. dba RASE Project
Devona Pickle	Agency for Healthcare Administration
Diana Cardona	Department of Children and Families
DJ Ryan	Marion Senior Services
Donna Evanecky	Polk County Sheriff's Office
Dr. Christine Cauffield	LSF Health Systems
Garrett Griffin	Osceola Mental Health Inc. dba Park Place Behavioral Health Care
George Margoles	Recovery Connections of Central Florida
Harry Prochet	Orange County Sheriff's Office
Heather Kaufmann	Tri-County Human Services
Hillary Grondin	Polk County Public Schools; SEDNET
James Riddle	Lake Mary Police Department



## Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

Jason Wieseler	Space Coast Health Centers
Jason Woertman	Apopka Police Department
Jeannese Castro	Ora Clubhouse
Jodi Hawthorne	Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida
Joe Guerra	Sanford Police Department
Kalae Menard	Seminole County Public Schools
Karla Hadley	Orange County Public Schools
Karlene Cole-Palmer	The School Board of Seminole County Florida
Katelyn Lee	Department of Children and Families
Kevin McGinley	Kissimmee Police Department
Kristine DeKany	Hernando County Sheriff's Office
Kristy Hust	BayCare Behavioral Health Center
Larry Davis	Polk County Sheriff's Office
Leeanne Sacino	Florida Coalition to End Homelessness
Lisa A Bryan	Hanley Foundation
Luis Rivas	Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Lyanna Alvarez	Aspire Health Partners
Magge Gonzalez	Chrysalis Health
Maria Fernanda Urdaneta	Catholic Charities of Central Florida
Marie Ange Pierre Juste	Catholic Charities of Central Florida
Mark Dainty	Polk County Sheriff's Office
Mary Ann Duncan	Hardee County School District
Meagan Towner	Aetna Better Health of Florida
Meghan Harrigan	Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services
Melissa Blackman	The School Board of Highlands County
Merari Perez	Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Mery Lossada	Empath Health HMC
Michael Caruso	Casselberry Police Department
Michelle Norman	Ocoee Police Department
Nicole Sainz	Chrysalis Health
Nicole Sweat	Lakeland Regional Health
Nikaury Munoz	Central Florida Cares
Officer Elijah Shabazz	Belle Isle Police Department
Rachael Cuculino	Space Coast Health Centers
Randy Reynolds	Department of Juvenile Justice



## Central Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration

August 8, 2025, 10:00am-12:00pm EST

Virtual via Teams

Regina Padgett	Support Unlimited, Inc.
Rick Hankey	LifeStream Behavioral Center
Rodney Letterman	Universal Health Services, Inc.
Rosa Rodriguez	Orange County Sheriff's Office
Ruby Washington	Family Partnerships of Central Florida
Samantha Breslin	Devereux
Sandra Marrero	BayCare Behavioral Health
Shelley Katz	LSF Health Systems
Shivana Gentry	Sunshine Health
Stanley Brizz	Brevard Prevention Coalition
Steven Bailey	Lakeland Police Department
Tara Hormell	Children's Home Society of Florida
Teresa Even	BayCare Behavioral Health
Tonya Robertson	Apopka Police Department
Traci Klinbeil	Department of Children and Families
Tracie Eagle	NAMI Hernando
Tracy Grey	Heartland for Children Inc
Valerie Holmes	Family Partnerships of Central Florida
Wanda Arocho	Family Partnerships of Central Florida
Wynter Solomon	Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
Yabercia Perez-Cubillan	Aspire Health Partners
Yamira Ayala Pujols	Hispanic Family Counseling
Yvette Del Nodal	Marion County Public Schools