



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2025

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

In-Person Meeting in Orlando and Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Members

Jay Reeve, PhD
Chairperson

Representative Christine
Hunschofsky, Co-Chair
Speaker of the House Appointee

Senator Darryl Rouson
President of the Senate Appointee

Clara Reynolds, LCSW, MBA
Governor Appointee

Ann Berner
Speaker of the House Appointee

Sheriff William Prummell
Governor Appointee

Kathleen Moore, PhD
President of the Senate Appointee

Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD
Governor Appointee

Larry Rein
Governor Appointee

Judge Mark Mahon
Governor Appointee

Melissa Larkin-Skinner
Speaker of the House Appointee

Lee Fox
President of the Senate Appointee

Secretary Taylor Hatch
Department of Children and
Families

Secretary Shevaun L. Harris
Agency for Health Care
Administration

Richard Duggan
President of the Senate

Richard Weisberg, CRPS
President of the Senate
Appointee

Welcome/Call to Order:

Jay Reeve, Commission Chair, opened the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (Commission) meeting. Chair Reeve requested that DCF Staff Liaison Amanda Regis take roll.

The following members or designees were in attendance:

Jay Reeve, PhD, Chairperson (Governor Appointee: Apalachee Center)
Representative Christine Hunschofsky (Speaker of the House Appointee)
Senator Darryl Rouson (President of the Senate Appointee)
Clara Reynolds (Governor Appointee: Crisis Center of Tampa Bay)
Ann Berner (Speaker of the House Appointee: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.)
Sheriff William Prummell (Governor Appointee: Charlotte County Sheriff's Office)
Kathleen Moore, PhD (President of the Senate Appointee: University of South Florida)
Larry Rein (Governor Appointee: ChildNet)
Chief Judge Mark Mahon (Governor Appointee: Fourth Circuit Court)
Melissa Larkin-Skinner (Speaker of the House Appointee: Community Assisted & Supported Living, Inc.)
Lee Fox (President of the Senate Appointee: All Points North)
Taylor Hatch (Secretary, Department of Children and Families)
Shevaun Harris (Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration)
Richard Duggan (President of the Senate Appointee: Collier County Public Schools)
Richard Weisberg, CRPS (President of the Senate Appointee: Weisberg Wealth Management)

Review and Approval of the July 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

A motion was entered to approve the July 23, 2025 minutes. The motion was carried. The minutes were approved with no opposition.

Opening Remarks

Chair Reeve provided opening remarks including a brief history of the Commission along with a review of the meeting agenda.

2025 Legislative Update

William Hardin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Children and Families-Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health reviewed several legislative bills related to substance abuse and mental health that made it through the 2025 Legislative session. The bills included House Bill 1019-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Care, Senate Bill 1620-Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, and Senate Bill 168-The Tristan Murphy Act.



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Strategy and Planning Subcommittee Report Out

Strategy and Planning subcommittee Chair Secretary Harris provided the report out which included preliminary recommendations from the subcommittee. Recommendations include completion of a statewide behavioral health gap analysis every three years, convene a meeting of health and human services state agency leaders annually to elevate and address system wide/systemic issues emerging from the regional collaborative meetings, and to continue to evaluate opportunities for enhanced integration of primary care and behavioral health into the statewide planning and evaluation framework to improve access and promote coordinated care. All three recommendations were voted on and approved by the Commission, with an amendment to the second recommendation to include the addition of small, medium and rural counties along with the inclusion of the Department of Elder Affairs.

Data Analysis Subcommittee Report Out

Data Analysis subcommittee Chair Kathleen Moore and Subject Matter Expert Heather Flynn discussed the accomplishments and ongoing work of the Data Analysis subcommittee. The Recommended Data Collection Roadmap was shared to inform the Commission of the proposed phased in approach for data sharing, collaboration and analysis in the state of Florida. The roadmap is comprised of three separate "Aims". The Aims include Aim 1: Formalize a key stakeholder coalition to determine optimal sources, and outcomes of data within the state of Florida, Aim 2: Create a Florida behavioral health data repository or comparable effective system that includes harmonization and cleaning of identified data sources for analysis, and Aim 3: Provide information on availability and adequacy of behavioral health sources in Florida for high risk individuals.

Funding Subcommittee Report Out

Senator Darryl Rouson provided the update for the Funding subcommittee. During the most recent subcommittee meeting, the focus was on the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Subcommittee members reviewed behavioral health services for Medicaid members with attention placed on how individuals qualify for the serious mental illness specialty plan under Florida's new statewide Medicaid managed care contract. Medicaid service delivery under the new managed care contracts will be examined next including, the scope of inpatient and outpatient care. The subcommittee also examined the substance abuse and mental health budget including Federal Block Grant funding.

Dual Diagnosis Treatment Subcommittee Report Out

Subcommittee Chair Representative Hunschofsky provided a brief review of activities and presentations completed by the Dual Diagnosis Treatment subcommittee. Commissioner Melissa Larkin-Skinner reviewed the five areas of focus for the Dual Diagnosis Treatment subcommittee draft recommendations which are listed below.

1. Individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health needs: Several recommendations were made focusing on enhancement to the Mobile Response Team model, 988, stable housing, and the workforce.
2. Seniors with mental health needs: Recommendations were made focusing on increasing education, outreach, care coordination, and increasing community paramedicine teams such as the Marion County Pilot.
3. Addiction receiving facilities-supporting integrated care and recovery: Recommendations were made centering around after care and transition services, transportation, utilization reviews and expansion of Central Receiving Facilities (CRFs).



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4. Children and adolescents integrated continuum of behavioral health services:

Recommendations included increase short-term residential and CAT Teams, evaluate SIPP, and ensure the utilization of EBP's.

5. Treating complexity through community-based care (ACT): Recommendations included evaluate the need for ACT Teams, evaluate current intermediate interventions, cross-agency collaborations, and specialized residential treatment programs for seniors with co-occurring disorders.

There was not a vote on the draft recommendations.

In response to Commissioner Prummell's concerns regarding arresting seniors living in an Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) and their being unable to return to the ALF after release, Commissioner Harris will send an AHCA representative to the next Dual Diagnosis subcommittee meeting to discuss the regulatory framework of ALF's and their responsibilities surrounding de-escalation or other resources the agency could provide.

Regional Collaboratives Report Out

Jessica Durant, Regional Operations Manager for the DCF Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office provided background on the establishment of Florida's Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboratives. The objectives of the collaborative are to facilitate enhanced interagency communication and collaboration, and to develop and promote regional strategies tailored to address community-level challenges in the behavioral health system. The regional behavioral health collaboratives are held quarterly across all six DCF regions and are typically two-hours in length. Those attending the meetings include representatives from the network service provider community, managing entities, schools law enforcement and many more stakeholders.

General Discussion

Several commissioners praised the Commission's efforts to address the competence restoration process and the passing of the Tristan Murphy Act. Commissioner Representative Hunschofsky raised the question is the State utilizing all available federal funding prior to using state funds. Commissioner Secretary Harris volunteered to provide an update on where the Agency for Healthcare Administration stands on this issue at the next full commission meeting.

Commissioner Reynolds alerted the Commission to the increased use of Kratom in Florida. Commissioner Prummell agreed that there is an increased presence of Kratom in Florida and advises that there are no test kits for law enforcement to use in the field.

Public Comment:

Heather Flynn, PhD, Florida State University advocated for increased pediatric prevention and universal childhood screening.

Elizabeth Garcia Beckford shared her experience as a family member of an individual experiencing an acute mental health crisis and her family's navigation through the behavioral health system of care.

Gayle Giese, NAMI Broward expressed her gratitude for the Commission and the gains to the system of care as a result of the Commission's work. Ms. Giese also expressed her support for increased resources to supported housing efforts.



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Kimberly Comer, NAMI Florida advocated for “Social Return on Investment” and outcomes for individuals involved in peer support to be included as data points for collection within the Data Repository.

Bailey Brooks Mashburn, Kennedy Kids Foundation introduced the Kennedy Kids Foundation to the Commission stating the foundation’s goal is to end teen suicide and focus on giving teens the tools to tackle mental health challenges.

Closing Remarks:

Commission Chair Jay Reeve provided closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:05pm.