

**Strategy and Planning Subcommittee
Final Report Draft Recommendations
February 26, 2026**

Recommendation #1: Complete a gap analysis every three years.

Background: In 2025, Florida completed a comprehensive gap analysis that anticipates system needs through 2029. This provides a strong foundation for planning and investment over the next several years. To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, a recurring gap analysis is needed.

Prospective Impact: Ensures Florida's behavioral health planning remains evidence-driven, with each analysis providing actionable guidance to inform appropriations, workforce planning, and system design.

Key Partners: Department of Children and Families, Managing Entities, Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Sheriff's Association, Florida Hospital Association (FHA), Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and other stakeholders.

Recommendation #2: Convene a meeting of Health and Human Services' State Agency leaders (open to the public/stakeholders) at least annually to elevate and address system wide/systemic issues emerging from the regional collaborative meetings.

Background: Florida's Behavioral Health Regional Collaboratives unite stakeholders to improve local behavioral health systems and can be leveraged to inform statewide strategy.

Prospective Impact: Information gleaned from the regional collaboratives can serve as a springboard for higher level critical discussions around system design/improvements. It also serves as an opportunity for decision-makers to collectively problem-solve systemic gaps/ issues and to consider stakeholder recommendations for improvement.

Key Partners: Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Health Care Administration (co-leads), Regional Collaboratives and managing entities, providers, Medicaid managed care plans, the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Department of Education, local governments, advocacy organizations, individuals with lived experience, and small, medium and rural counties, and other stakeholders.

Recommendation #3: 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 for every service population across the lifespan, and to evaluate the implementation of a validated screening tool.

Background: Co-location of behavioral health and primary care providers in settings has been shown to improve access to care, reduce stigma, and support early identification and intervention. Embedding this approach in Florida's planning framework ensures alignment across state agencies and partners responsible for funding and delivering services.

Prospective Impact: Formalizing co-location within the framework will drive cross-agency collaboration, reduce fragmentation, improve health outcomes, and support sustainability by linking funding and evaluation mechanisms to integrated care delivery.

Key Partners: Department of Children and Families, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, managed care organizations, managing entities, primary care providers, behavioral health providers, and other stakeholders.