



## **Northeast Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration**

April 23, 2026, 10:00am

Jacksonville DCF Office and Virtual via Teams  
5920 Arlington Expressway Jacksonville, FL. 32211

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Attendance:**

In-Person: 24

Virtual: 88

Total: 112

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

#### **Host/Facilitator:**

**Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) – Harlee James**, Regional Collaboration Coordinator; **Cara Thomas-Bryant**, Regional Operations Supervisor; **Idris Gaines**, Regional Operations Manager

#### **Presenter:**

**Dr. Deborah Beidel**, Executive Director, UCF Restores

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

Harlee James called to order the Northeast Region Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration meeting at 10:00 AM

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### **II. WELCOME**

Harlee James welcomed attendees. She introduced the Department of Children and Families SAMH staff in attendance and the meeting Presenter, Dr. Beidel.

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### **III. PRESENTATION – UCF RESTORES**

Dr. Beidel presented an overview of UCF Restores data and services. Topics included the following:

- The Challenge of Combat-Related PTSD
  - History of Trauma Management Therapy (TMT)
  - Challenges to Exposure Therapy for Veterans
  - Virtual Reality Experience
  - TMT outcomes compared to other models
  - TMT for First Responders
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- UCF Restores - Single Session Consultation
- First Responder Support Training
- Critical Incidence Response
- UCF Restores Resiliency Command Center
- Clinical Trainings
- Success Story Video

### Question and Answer:

**Kimberly Jensen** from New Smyrna Beach Police Department Co-Responder Unit asked whether any specific diagnoses are required for treatment, given that UCF Restores does not bill insurance.

**Dr. Beidel** responded that because they are not required to release records, no specific diagnosis is required for individuals to receive treatment.

**Hannah Graham** from Flagler County Sheriff's Office asked about the ratio of male to female clients served by UCF Restores and whether differences exist in treatment response between genders.

**Dr. Beidel** responded that due to combat-related populations still being predominantly male, they see higher male participation in treatment. She also noted no significant differences in treatment response between men and women, aside from some clients preferring limited participation in mixed-gender group settings.

**Josh McCumber** from Alachua County Community Support Services asked via chat what scenarios exposure therapy is most effective for, noting potential limitations for MST, moral injury, or non-combat trauma.

**Dr. Beidel** responded that exposure therapy is not commonly used for moral injury due to its more depression-based presentation. She added that it has been used in cases of sexual assault and other trauma-related triggers, particularly when addressing flashbacks, nightmares, and trauma re-experiencing symptoms.

**Dana McCool** from Foundation to Freedom asked whether Dr. Beidel has municipal program packages available and how to obtain additional information.

**Dr. Beidel** directed attendees to the UCF Restores website and shared her contact information for follow-up, both of which were provided in the chat.

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### IV. IMPACTFUL MOMENTS

Harlee James shared impactful moments from the Northeast Region.

- An impactful moment from the Co-Responder Program, operated by the Mental Health Resource Center, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and Lutheran Services Florida Health Systems, was shared, highlighting strong collaboration and a person-centered approach to crisis response.
  - A second Impactful from Meridian Healthcare was shared, highlighting a case involving a mother and son who received family-centered, trauma-informed care.
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### V. WORK GROUP SURVEY DATA

Idris Gaines, DCF SAMH Regional Operations Manager, provided an overview of the selected workgroups, including their implementation and emphasized the need for stakeholder participation. The following topics were discussed:

- Workgroups Overview, including their purpose and intended outcomes.
- Workgroup Coordination, including the roles of the Regional Collaboration Coordinator and workgroup members.
- Workgroup Implementation, including meeting dates, participant capacity, and meeting frequency.

**Idris Gaines** also outlined the focus areas of each workgroup:

- Coordination of Services, focusing on data sharing across systems, behavioral health collaboration across regions, general coordination among providers, and co-responder connections.
- Systems and Policy Concerns, focusing on reimbursement rates and mental health barriers.
- Housing, Transportation, and Capacity, focusing on transportation challenges and gaps, capacity concerns, and collaboration with the Coordination of Services workgroup to address identified needs.

**Idris Gaines** discussed the need for leadership within each workgroup and the open availability for workgroup registration.

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**Shelley Katz** from LSF Health Systems asked how statewide concerns will be addressed through the workgroups.

**Idris Gaines** responded that efforts will focus on identifying similarities across regions and using the information gathered to inform a formal statewide report of identified needs.

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### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Harlee James** opened the floor for public comment.

**Salvatore Gintoli** from SMA Healthcare asked whether anyone in attendance planned to apply for the AHCA Rural Health Transformation Grant and, if so, how the funds would be used.

**Shelley Katz** from LSF Health Systems responded that they plan to develop a collaborative focused on workforce training and development, as well as first responder mobile integrative paramedicine initiatives.

**Alexis Bousquet** from the University of South Florida asked whether any credentials are required to participate in the workgroups.

**Harlee James** responded that no credentials are required to join a workgroup. **Idris Gaines** added that Alexis could be connected with the Regional Collaboration Coordinator in her area for additional information.

**Cassandra Hert** from My Angel Kids asked via chat how to join a workgroup and host a table at the upcoming resource fair.

**Harlee James** responded that she could be contacted via email to join a workgroup and reserve a table. Contact information was shared in the chat.

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### VII. CLOSING REMARKS

Harlee James thanked participants for their engagement and feedback. She encouraged follow up communication and provided contact information for herself, Cara Thomas-Bryant and Idris Gaines.

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Idris Gaines provided a final reminder of the importance of participation in collaboration meetings to support informed recommendations and identify community barriers. He also noted that the Collaborative events originated as a recommendation to the Commission.

Harlee James shared the QR code for the post meeting survey and closed the meeting with a final thank you to all attendees.

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### **VIII. ADJOURN**

Harlee James adjourned the meeting at **10:59 AM**.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Harlee James

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### APPENDIX A

Bethune Cookman University	Abegayle	Goldblatt
Advocate Program, Inc.	Milton	Fonseca
Agency for Healthcare Administration	Kirk	Hall
Agency for Healthcare Administration	Michael	Licciardiello
Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Diana	Burgos Garcia
Aging True	Brooks	Mondares
Alachua County Community Support Services	Josh	McCumber
Alachua County Crisis Center	Ariel	Drescher
Alachua County OPUS program	Meghan	J. Hamblet-Moore
Alachua County Sheriff's Office	Olivia	Hollier
Baptist Medical Center	Heather	Peltack
BAYS Kids	Diamond	Alridge
BAYS Kids	Patrick	Stallwood
Bradford School District	Sabrina	Howland
C7 Guardian ad Litem	Rachel	Hopkins
CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc.	Alex	Culbreth
Changing Homelessness	Danika	Mitchell
Changing Homelessness	Vera	Brown-Floyd
Child Guidance Center	Theresa	T. Rulien
Children's Home Society	Priscilla	Thomas
Children's Medical Services/ Medical Foster Care	Linda	B Peterson
City Council Office	Rahman	Johnson
City of Jacksonville	Renae	Lewin
Clay County Sheriff's Office	Katherine	Black
Community Coalition Alliance, Inc.	Kathleen	Roberts
Department of Children and Families	Lita	Amin
Department of Children and Families	Jessica	Boylston
Department of Children and Families	Donna	M Johnson
Department of Children and Families	Jessica	Durant
Department of Children and Families	Dalton	Elliott
Department of Children and Families	Idris	Gaines
Department of Children and Families	Christy	Gillis
Department of Children and Families	Ann	Gustafson
Department of Children and Families	Brad	Hill
Department of Children and Families	Jesse	Kemper



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Department of Children and Families	Zoha	Khan
Department of Children and Families	Melanie	Mitchell
Department of Children and Families	Cristina	Perez
Department of Children and Families	Cara	Thomas-Bryant
Department of Juvenile Justice	Alison	Fulford
Department of Juvenile Justice	Tracy	Shelby
Disability Rights Florida	Patrick	Heidemann
DISC Village	Adrienne	Ayers
DOH Alachua County	Kourtney	Oliver
Duval County Public Schools	Latonya	Conner
Elder Source	Linda	Levin
Encompass	Jacqueline	Brown
Family Integrity Program	Jessica	Gossett
Family Support Services of North Florida	Kasia	Ford
First In Clay	Irene	Toto
Flagler Cares	Carrie	Baird
Flagler Cares	Rachael	Gerow
Flagler County Sheriff's Office	Deanna	Uhl
Flagler Open Arms Recovery Services/Discover & Recover	Hope	Walton
Florida Department of Health	Hannah	Graham
Florida Department of Health in Baker County	Kassie	Knoll
Florida Department of Health in Clay County	Nikayla	Bagmon
Florida Department of Health	Jessica	Walroth
Foundation to Freedom	Dana	McCool
Gateway Community Services, Inc.	Sarah	Kim
Halifax Health	Jeannette	Simmons
Hubbard House	Kitana	Ortiz
Hubbard House	LaDetrick	Smith-Ellis
Hubbard House	Lanetta	Spivey
LifeStream Behavioral Center	Linda	DeTommaso
LifeStream Behavioral Center	Lismarie	Pacheco
LSF Health Systems	Brittany	P. Flora
LSF Health Systems	Meghan	Riley-Reynolds
LSF Health Systems	Shelley	Katz
Marion Senior Services	Briana	Kelley
Marion Senior Services	Kathleen	Kratz
Mental Health Resource Center	Alison	Boehnke
Mental Health Resource Center	Shayla	Green-Flanders



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Meridian Healthcare	Ashley	Brooks
My Angel Kids	Cassandra	Hert
NAMI Jacksonville Florida, Inc.	Suzanne	Mailloux
NAMI Jacksonville Florida, Inc.	Cheryl	Virta
Nassau County Schools	Rosalina	Stelma
Nassau County Sheriff's Office Detention Center	Storm	Gibbs
New Smyrna Beach Police Department	Kim	Jensen
Northeast Florida State Hospital	Cheryl	Lannen
One Voice Volusia	Kristy	Amburgey
Ormond Beach Police Department	Courtney	Fraine
Partnership for Child Health	Jocelyn	Turner
Partnership for Child Health	Shirley	Moon
Partnership for Strong Families	Justen	Ostreicher
Putnam Schools	Kimberly	Simmons
SAYS Kids	Dennis	Maneja
SAYS Kids	Schuyler	Siefker
School Board of Clay County	Melissa	Moree
SMA Healthcare	Salvatore	Gintoli
St. Johns County Sheriff's Office	Michelle	Lima
Sunshine Health	Angie	Adams Martin
Sunshine Health	Angelena	Paarlberg
Sunshine Health	Julie	Smythe
Sunshine Health	Sara	E. Pham
Thaise Educational	Lisa	Barton
The Nehemiah Project	Melissa	Rea
UCF Restores	Deborah	Biedel
UF Health	Rachel	Cordle
UF Health	Kelly	J. Goll
UF Health St. Johns	Sheena	Reichenberg
University of South Florida	Abigayle	Walke
University of South Florida	Alexis	Bousquet
University of South Florida	Audra	Adams
University of South Florida	Bianka	Wodnicki
University of South Florida	Halle	Rainey
University of South Florida	Jarielys	Correa
University of South Florida	Malena	Bullock
University of South Florida	Patriot	Buck
Volunteers of America Florida	Bakary	Ceesay
Youth Crisis Center	Ashly	Bond