



Northwest Regional Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration

April 20, 2026, 10:00am-12:00pm CST
753 West Boulevard, Chipley, FL. 32428
Hybrid

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance:

In Person- 39

Virtual- 77

Total= 112

Full Attendee List is Provided in Appendix A

Hosts/Facilitators: Department of Children and Families Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) – April Busby, Regional Operations Supervisor; Shaleeah Marshall, Regional Operations Manager.

Presenters: Patti Hyde, Director of Family Based Intervention Services, Lakeview Center
Jenn Werden, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for FASD Program, The Florida Center for Early Childhood
Diana Snyder, Project Director, Florida Behavioral Health Association/Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA)

I. CALL TO ORDER

April Busby called to order the Quarterly Northwest Region Behavioral Health Interagency Collaboration meeting at 10:01 am.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Shaleeah Marshall welcomed the attendees.

III. PRESENTATION – FAMILY BASED INTERVENTION SERVICES

Patti Hyde, Director of Family Based Intervention Services at Lakeview Center

Overview of Services:

- Family Crisis and Care Team (FCCT)
 - Children's Case Management (CCM)
 - Family Intensive Therapy Team (FIT)
 - Community Action Teams (SRCAT/ESCAT)
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- Early Community Action Team (Early CAT)
- Walton County Community Action Team (WC CAT),
Lexi.White@lakeview-center.org, Director of Community Care Services, Walton
- Adolescents In Motion (AIM)

IV. PRESENTATION – FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

Jenn Werden, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for FASD Program at The Florida Center for Early Childhood

Overview of FASD:

- Introduction to FASD and its prevalence
 - Substance vs. Alcohol
 - How can Alcohol Affect Development
 - FASD Affects
- Characteristics of FASD
 - Primary Characteristics of FA/NB
 - Individuals With Neurodiversity Also Face Many Challenges
 - What You See Isn't What You Get
 - Secondary Characteristics: Behaviors
 - Secondary Behavioral Symptoms
 - Frustrations Everywhere!
- How The Florida Center's FASD Team can help
 - Locations of Diagnostic Evaluations
 - FASD Clinics at The Florida Center
 - Who Qualifies for a FASD Evaluation?
 - FASD Services
 - Success
 - No Caregiver Left Behind

Questions and Answers:

Waitlist & Scheduling:

There is currently a waitlist due to limited funding for free evaluations. Sarasota is scheduling for August, while Orlando and Pensacola are scheduling for July. Families can still access services while waiting. Evaluations include psychological evaluations



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and IQ testing, which can be shared with school psychologists to help determine appropriate supports.

Cost of Evaluation:

Out-of-pocket evaluations are available starting at \$3,500 for families who prefer not to wait.

Wait Time for Paid Evaluations:

Paid evaluations, primarily available in Sarasota, can be scheduled sooner, with availability as early as May.

FASD as a Disability:

FASD is recognized as a developmental disability. However, individuals do not qualify for APD services unless evaluations indicate an intellectual disability (IQ below 70). Functional limitations are not always fully considered, highlighting the need for continued legislative efforts and expanded adult accommodations.

Pre-Natal Alcohol Exposure vs. FASD & Prevention:

Pre-natal alcohol exposure does not automatically result in an FASD diagnosis. Currently, there are no confirmed biomarkers for early identification, though research is ongoing. Early intervention focuses on monitoring and providing resources as needed, particularly if challenges arise during school years. Efforts are underway to improve early screening practices, including at birth and during pediatric checkups, to support earlier identification and intervention.

Plans of Safe Care Involvement:

The program is working toward greater involvement in Plans of Safe Care for substance-exposed newborns. Historically focused on evaluations and limited family support, the program has expanded outreach efforts with the addition of a regional outreach coordinator. Developmental therapists are now partnering with local providers (e.g., Help Me Grow in Pensacola). Ongoing efforts aim to identify appropriate points for involvement and provide supportive “soft handoffs” to complement existing services for families.

V. **PRESENTATION – OVERVIEW OF FADAA SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

Diana Snyder, Director of the Opioid Response Training Project for the Florida Behavioral Health Association/FADAA.

Major Programs:

- Training Events on Behavioral Health Topics



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- Web-based Resource Center
 - Florida's Learning Management System for Behavioral Health
 - Medication Assisted Treatment Program
 - Peer Prescriber Mentoring Program
 - Correction Professionals Training Program
 - Florida's Annual Behavioral Health Conference
 - Peer Review and Technical Assistance for Evidence-based Practices
-

VI. UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

- Peer Support Services Workgroup Survey Results
 - Identified Priority Focus Areas for 2026
 - Identified Top Barriers Impacting Peer Support Services
 - Identified Helpful Resources Needed by Peers
 - Identified Sub Teams
 - Peer Support Services Workgroup Goals For 2026
 - Increase Awareness and Understanding of Peer Services
 - Expand and Strengthen the Peer Workforce
 - Build Infrastructure
 - Shared Interagency Contact Workgroup
 - Build the foundation for collaboration
 - Share and Engage
 - Maintain and Update
 - Housing and Transportation Workgroup
 - Announcements
 - Partnership with Florida Department of Corrections
 - June Lunch and Learn
 - Next Northwest Region BHIC Meeting – July 8, 2026
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VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tracie Moorer voiced her appreciation in the NWFHN staff participating in the Department of Corrections Re-Entry Simulator in March.

VII. ADJOURN

April Busby adjourned the meeting at 11:34 AM CST.

Appendix A

Alessi	Travis	DCF Adult Protective Services
Anderson	Diveka	Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse & Mental Health
Andujar	Laurinda	SAMH
Austin	Christopher	Florida Department of Children and Families
Ayers	Adrienne	DISC Village
Bailey	Monecia	CDAC Behavioral Health
Barlow	Bonnie	Bridgeway Center, Inc.
Barntt	Andrea	Olive Tree Family Counseling
Bartels Wheeless	Sharon	Walton County School District
Bennink	Joy	Department of Juvenile Justice
Bertera	Christina	NWFHN
Boyett	Brittany	Department of Children and Families
Brock	Bill	Community Member
Brunson	Stephanie	Apalachee Center
Burnett	Lindy	TMH Behavioral Health Center
Cajo	Tamra	The Florida Center for Early Childhood
Cash	Stephanie	Department of Health - Healthy Families/Healthy Start programs
Connell	Hannah	Department of Children and Families
Coombs	Angelyn	Centene /SSHP
Croom	Marcia	Gulf Coast Sexual Assault Program
Dawson	Kyle	The Salvation Army Pensacola Corps



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Deneen	Jessica	2nd Circuit Court Admin
Dove	Susan	Florida Department of Corrections
Evans	Dee	Gadsden School District
Faircloth	Kelly	North Florida Child Development
Fernbach	Amber	Department of Children and Families
Franklin	Samone	Department of Children and Families
French	Lucas	Department of Children and Families
Fulford	Alison	Department of Juvenile Justice
Gainer	Tenisha	Bay/Gulf WIC Program
Gazioch	Ute	Florida Behavioral Health Association
Gerhard	Laurie	Community Member
Goldstein	Vikki	Department of Children and Families/Adult Protective Services
Greene	Penny	Life Management Center of NW FL
Hale	Jared	Charlie Health
Hall	Kirk	Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
Hardin	William	Department of Children and Families
Harris	Brittany	Pensacola Police Department
Harrison	Tonya	Department of Children and Families
Heidemann	Patrick	Disability Rights Florida
Heringer	April	Eglin Family Advocacy
Hild	Drew	PanCare of Florida
Hill	Brad	Department of Children and Families
Hockman	Chris	Oxford House Inc
Hudson	Ashley	Wakulla County Sheriff's Office
Hyde	Patti	Lakeview Center
James	Harlee	Department of Children and Families
Jones	Tequilla	Department of Children and Families
Kemper	Jesse	Department of Children and Families
Kerwin	Lindsay	Department of Children and Families
King	Susan	Florida Springs Wellness Recovery
Lamar-Acuff	Laura	Epilepsy Alliance Florida
Ledbetter	Emme	Department of Children and Families
Licciardiello	Michael	Agency for Health Care Administration
Lozon	Jacquie	Department of Children and Families
MacSuga	Timothy	UHS



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Magner	Mary	Department of Childre and Families - Hope Florida
Marsh	Barbara	Florida Department of Corrections
Marshall	Shaleeah	Department of Children and Families
Massingale	Shannon	NWF Health Network
McAllister	Autumn	Lakeview Center
Melin	Tracy	Big Bend AHEC
Miles	Melody	Department of Children and Families - Adult Protective Services
Miller	Mark	Department of Children and Families
Moorer	Tracie	NWF Health Network
Peaden	Cindy	Santa Rosa County School District
Perez	Cristina	Florida Department of Children and Families
Perry	Dustin	Lakeview Center
Peterson	Shawna	Department of Children and Families
Potter	Tim	Department of Children and Families - ESS
Randolph	LaKeisha	Department of Children and Families
Riccio	Carly	The Healing Impact
Robbins	Jennifer	North Florida Child Development
Sardelis	Stephen	Better Living Solutions
Sellers	Ashley	Jackson County Sheriff's Office
Shelton	Danielle	Better Living Solutions
Sidoti	Melissa	Department of Children and Families CCDA C1
Simonds	Deborah	Department of Children and Families - BHC
Smith	Melissa	Bay District Schools
Smith	Kit	Freedom Life Compass Inc
Smith	Sean	Florida Department of Health in Bay County
Smythe	Julie	Sunshine Health
Snyder	Diana	Florida Behavioral Health Association
Spoon	Melanie	Life Management Center
Standish	Matt	Bay County Vet Center
Stanley	Ali	State of Florida/Agency for Persons w Disabilities'
Sultany	Jawid	Department of Children and Families
Taylor	Justin	Washington County Sheriff's Office
Tew	Holly	Walton County School District
Thomas	Senie	Department of Children and Families
Thomas	Valoria	Department of Children and Families



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Thrasher	Alexis	Department of Children and Families
Traverso	Michelle	DJJ-Office of Health Services
Travieso	Jennifer	DISC Village, Inc.
Trihn	Asta	Department of Children and Families
Vanlaningham	Amanda	Department of Children and Families
Warren	Melissa	Florida Springs Wellness Recovery
Washington	Sharron	NWF Health Network
Weaver	James	Life Management Center LMC
Werden	Jennifer	The Florida Center for Early Childhood
Whaley	Sophia	NWF Health Network
Wheatley	Khaliqa	Walton County Sheriff's Office
Whitlock	Corinne	Access Behavioral Health
Williams	Kathryn	Department of Children and Families
Williams	Melissa	Escambia County School District
Williams	Olivier	Kindbridge Behavioral Health
Zonia	Carolyn	Walton County Prevention Coalition