



# Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee

## Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Members

Jay Reeve, PhD  
Chair

Representative Christine  
Hunschofsky Co-Chair  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Senator Darryl Rouson  
President of the Senate  
Appointee

Se  
Clara Reynolds  
Governor Appointee

Ann Berner  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Doug Leonardo  
President of the Senate

Sheriff William Prummell  
Governor Appointee

Dr. Kathleen Moore  
President of the Senate  
Appointee

Dr. Kelly Gray-Eurom  
Governor Appointee

Larry Rein  
Governor Appointee

Chief Judge Mark Mahon  
Governor Appointee

Melissa Larkin-Skinner  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Ray Gadd  
President of the Senate  
Appointee

Shawn Salamida  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Secretary Shevaun Harris  
Florida Department of Children  
and Families

Secretary Jason Weida  
Florida Agency for Health Care  
Administration

Dr. Uma Suryadevara  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Chief Judge Ronald Ficarrota  
Governor Appointee

Wes Evans

## Minutes of the Meeting

May 30, 2023  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### 2:00 P.M. – Call to Order and Welcome Chair Clara Reynolds

#### Roll Call

Attendance Summary of Commissioners and Subject Matter Experts:  
Dr. Jay Reeves, Commission Chair  
Commissioner Clara Reynolds, Suicide Prevention Subcommittee Chair  
Commissioner Wes Evans  
Alexandra Martinez  
Kenneth Gibson  
Nancy Dauphinais  
Sheila Smith  
Anna Sever

Dr. Jay Reeve, the Chair of the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Commission) opened the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee's (subcommittee) inaugural meeting by providing an update on this year legislative session to detail the Commission was extended in statute for another three years. The purpose of the Commission is to evaluate the Mental Health and Substance Abuse framework in Florida and to report on these findings in three reports due to the legislature. The next report is due January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Chair Reeve also provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Commission, the five subcommittees, and the Sunshine law.

Each member representing the subcommittee plays an invaluable role to the Commission. For the purposes of business, it is important that the Commission, however, ensure there is a clear distinction between Subject Matter Experts and Commissioners to ensure compliance with the Sunshine law.

**1. Introductions**

Chair Clara Reynolds welcomed Commissioners and Subject Matter Experts to introduce themselves.

**2. Review of Sunshine Law**

John Jackson, DCF, provided an overview of the Sunshine Law.

Chair Jay Reeve provided additional clarification regarding voting members.

**3. 988 Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline**

Nikki Wotherspoon provided an understanding of 988.

Chair Clara Reynolds asked that the PowerPoint be shared with the subcommittee.

**4. Suicide Prevention Committee Statutory Duties**

Chair Jay Reeve shared the subcommittee's primary duties as written in statute.

Detailed below is the statutory direction, which is taken directly from the Commission's legislation.

1. Conducting an overview of the current infrastructure of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system.
2. Providing recommendations on how behavioral health managing entities may fulfill their purpose of promoting service continuity and work with community stakeholders throughout this state in furtherance of supporting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system and other crisis response services.
3. Evaluating and making recommendations to improve linkages between the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline infrastructure and crisis response services within this state.

The next step is for the subcommittee to review what is currently being done and to identify gaps where the subcommittee can focus their efforts.

Nikki Wotherspoon stated the important of level-setting the understanding of how 988 is beyond a rebranding of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, it is an overhaul framework expansion of the behavioral health crisis response system.

**5. Future Meeting Schedule/Next Steps**

Aaron will poll for the availability for a regularly scheduled two-hour meeting, once a month.

**Next Steps:**

1. Nikki Wotherspoon and Anna Sever will compile additional information about what is already been accomplished to discuss

with the subcommittee.

2. Need to assign each of the subject matter experts to assist in the following information gathering and recommendation creation:
  - 988 Information – gather information and dive into crisis stabilization.
  - Need individual to dive into how we make this digestible for the average individual in the State of Florida to be able to understand.

6. **Public Comments**

Amy McClellan – Stated there are two more paragraphs that identify funding that was not included.

Chair Jay Reeves responded that the funding pieces tend to be discussed by the Finance Subcommittee.

7. **Closing Remarks**

Meeting minutes submitted by Sue Cobb.