



# Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse

## Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Members

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February 23, 2023

, Secretary  
Agenc  
2727 Mahan Drive \* Mail Stop #1  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Secretary,

First, I would like to express my gratitude for your tireless service to the State of Florida. It is a privilege to collaborate with you in our efforts to prioritize efficient and effective behavioral health services. In this letter, I would like to request more information on how you manage your behavioral health funding.

As you may recall, on July 5, 2022 Sheriff Bill Prummell, Former Chair of the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, requested information from eleven specified departments and agencies on their behavioral health funding and operations that could help the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. The identified Departments and Agencies included: Department of Children and Families, Department of Corrections, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Elder Affairs, Department of Veteran Affairs, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Emergency Management Services, and Department of Military Affairs.

The Commission has reviewed each Department's response and compiled an aggregated matrix titled *Behavioral Health Commission: Finance Committee Analysis (Appendix 1)*.

The Commission is requesting additional information from the state agencies to further analyze Florida's publicly funded behavioral health system. Please provide a response to the following questions:

- **Needs assessment** – How does the agency assess needs and gaps in behavioral health services for the populations and communities served? How does the agency determine the adequacy of funding to meet identified needs?
- **Budget authorization** - What is the process by which the agency is authorized to expend appropriated funds? Please include the process and general timeline from funding appropriation to contract execution with service providers.
- **Method of payment** - What payment methodologies are utilized for behavioral health services that are funded by state and federal dollars?
- **Outcomes/Accountability** – What process(es) does the agency utilize to evaluate the impact of behavioral health services that are funded through state



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and federal funds? What outcomes are collected for behavioral health services?

Additionally, the Commission requests from the state agencies review and validation of data on the attached document titled *Behavioral Health Commission: Finance Committee Analysis*.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to reading your response.

Please email your written responses to Chair Jay Reeve, PhD, [jayr@apalacheecenter.org](mailto:jayr@apalacheecenter.org) by **August 1, 2023**. The Commission asks that you copy the Chair's Assistant's at the following email address: [jaimie35@apalacheecenter.org](mailto:jaimie35@apalacheecenter.org)

Jay Reeve, PhD

President and Chief Executive Officer, Apalachee Center, Inc.  
Chair, Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse