



# Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Children and Youth Sub-Committee

## Members

Jay Reeve, PhD  
Chair

Representative Christine  
Hunschofsky Co-Chair  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Senator Darryl Rouson  
President of the Senate Appointee

Clara Reynolds  
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Larry Rein  
Governor Appointee

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Speaker of the House Appointee

Lee Fox  
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

Richard Weisberg  
President of the Senate  
Appointee

## Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2024  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Commissioner Hunschofsky, Subcommittee Chair.

Roll call was taken by Aaron Platt.

### The following members or designees were in attendance

Representative Christine Hunschofsky, Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Jay Reeve, Commission Chair (Governor Appointee)

Larry Rein, (Governor Appointee)

Peggy Aune, Subject Matter Expert

Ann Dalton for Austin Noll, Subject Matter Expert

Maria Bledsoe, Subject Matter Expert

Patricia Medlock, Subject Matter Expert

Steven Ronik, Subject Matter Expert

Teresa Rulien, Subject Matter Expert

Leslie Lynch, Subject Matter Expert

Shila Salem, Subject Matter Expert

### Review and Approval of February 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

A motion was entered to approve the February 2, 2024, minutes. The motion was carried. Minutes were approved with no opposition.

### Commission Update and Review of 2024 Children and Youth Subcommittee Areas of Focus

Commission Chair Jay Reeve provided a brief Commission update. Subcommittee should have recommendations to bring before the full commission at the in-person meeting in August. Next interim report due January 2025, final report due January 2026.

### Mental Health Assistance Programs

Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement with the Division of Public Schools, Florida Department of Education and Andrew Weatherill, Senior Director of Student Services along with school district mental health coordinators Sally Alayon (Miami-Dade) and Lori Brooks (Lee County) presented information on building resiliency, student support pathways for resiliency, required instruction planning and reporting, youth mental health awareness training, youth suicide awareness and prevention, and the mental health assistance program.

Peggy Aune to send Aaron Platt information regarding the required five hours of wellness instruction, how the instruction is implemented and how the time is distributed between the eight topics that are covered. Additional follow-up will



## **Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Children and Youth Sub-Committee**

include a list of outcomes measures tracked by school districts for behavioral health services/programs. Aaron will send out to subcommittee.

Andrew Weatherill to provide follow-up information regarding school districts billing Medicaid for behavioral health services delivered to qualified students.

### **Pathways to Partnership: Behavioral Health Providers and School Districts**

Patricia Medlock, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Community Services, Department of Children and Families, Theresa Rulien, President/CEO Child Guidance Center and Leslie Lynch, Chief Program Officer, Chrysalis Health presented on the importance of behavioral health partnerships between community behavioral health organizations and school districts. Presenters discussed the requirements for partnering with a district, types of services offered, how services are funded, how districts identify students who may be in need, where services are provided, the referral process, the involvement of caregivers, how outcomes are measured and the challenges with implementing and maintaining these partnerships.

Andrew Weatherill to provide follow-up information on the utilization of graduate school interns as a part of the behavioral health workforce. Are school districts requiring interns to have the same credentials as hired mental health professionals?

Leslie Lynch, Theresa Rulien and Alan Davidson will meet to develop potential accountability and outcome recommendations for the Children and Youth subcommittee to consider.

Natalie Kelly, Peggy Aune, Ann Dalton and Tom Wallace will examine behavioral health funding mechanisms for schools. Is all available funding being accessed before utilizing general revenue appropriations for behavioral health?

Chair Reeve will reach out to the Northwest Florida Health Network to secure a presentation provide information on telehealth (operations, scope of practice and reimbursements). Ann Dalton volunteers to assist with the reimbursement aspects.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **Closing Remarks**

Subcommittee Chair Hunschofsky provided closing remarks.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:25 am.