



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Finance and Workforce Sub-Committee

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Hunschofsky Co-Chair
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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 14, 2024
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by subcommittee Chair Senator Darryl Rouson.

Roll call was taken by Aaron Platt.

The following members or designees were in attendance

Darryl Rouson, Subcommittee Chair, President of the Senate Appointee
Shawn Salamida, Subcommittee Chair Delegate

Dr. Jay Reeve, Commission Chair (Governor Appointee)

Richard Weisberg, President of the Senate Appointee

Mercedes Bosque, Subject Matter Expert

Tom Wallace, Subject Matter Expert

Rhonda Jackson for Shay Chapman, Subject Matter Expert

Natalie Kelly, Subject Matter Expert

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes From February 8, 2024 Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was entered to approve the February 8, 2024, minutes. The motion was carried, in all favor. Minutes were approved with no opposition.

Commission Update

Commission Chair Jay Reeve provided a brief update. Recommends Finance and Workforce subcommittee adopt subject matter expert (SME) structure similar to the Access to Care subcommittee in which SME's meet outside of regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings. This structure will facilitate the development of recommendations to be presented at the August 2024 in-person full commission meeting.

2024 Update – Florida Opioid Settlement Florida's Investments

Jeanette Cherubini opioid Recovery Manager for the Florida Department of Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program provided a review of how the Department of Children and Families has invested Opioid settlement funds to increase access to behavioral health services.

Jeanette will provide additional detail to the subcommittee regarding the job functions of research positions funded through the Opioid funds.

Cultivating Pathways to a Quality and Resilient Behavioral Health Workforce

Nickie Zenn, Academic Programs Director from the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida presented on issues surrounding Florida's behavioral health workforce including but not limited to, attracting,



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retaining and developing the behavioral healthcare workforce. Nickie Zenn accepted an invite to serve as a Subject Matter Expert on the Finance and Workforce subcommittee.

Medicaid Strategies for Empowering the Healthcare Workforce to Improve Mental Health

Tom Wallace, Deputy Secretary of Florida Medicaid presented on Medicaid strategies for enhancing the healthcare workforce to improve mental health through training, service integration, telehealth, incentives & accountability, peer support, and collaborative care.

Community Behavioral Health Provider Update on Workforce

Melanie Brown-Woofter, President and CEO of the Florida Behavioral Health Association provided an update on the behavioral healthcare workforce from a community behavioral health provider perspective. Reviewed data collected from forty-five providers on the impact of the pandemic and workforce shortages, interventions, and possible solutions.

Open Discussion

Commissioner Salamida recommends SME's meet to develop three to five draft recommendations for the Finance and Workforce Subcommittee to consider.

Public Comment

No public comment

Closing Remarks

Subcommittee Chair Rouson provided closing remarks.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:45 am.