



# Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

## Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### Members

Jay Reeve, PhD  
Chairperson

Representative Christine  
Hunschofsky, Co-Chair  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Senator Darryl Rouson  
President of the Senate Appointee

Clara Reynolds, LCSW, MBA  
Governor Appointee

Ann Berner  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Sheriff William Prummell  
Governor Appointee

Kathleen Moore, PhD  
President of the Senate Appointee

Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD  
Governor Appointee

Larry Rein  
Governor Appointee

Chief Judge Mark Mahon  
Governor Appointee

Melissa Larkin-Skinner  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Lee Fox  
President of the Senate Appointee

Shawn Salamida  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Secretary Shevaun L. Harris  
Department of Children and  
Families

Secretary Jason Weida  
Agency for Health Care  
Administration

Uma Suryadevara, MD  
Speaker of the House Appointee

Richard Duggan  
President of the Senate

Richard Weisberg, CRPS  
President of the Senate  
Appointee

### Welcome/Call to Order:

Dr. Jay Reeve, Chairperson, opened the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (Commission) meeting after a brief delay caused by technical difficulties. Dr. Reeve requested that Staff Liaison Aaron Platt take rollcall.

### The following members or designees were in attendance:

Jay Reeve, PhD, Chairperson (Governor Appointee: Apalachee Center)  
Representative Christine Hunschofsky (Speaker of the House Appointee)  
Senator Darryl Rouson (President of the Senate Appointee)  
Clara Reynolds, LCSW, MBA (Governor Appointee: Crisis Center of Tampa Bay)  
Ann Berner (Speaker of the House Appointee: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.)  
Sheriff William Prummell (Governor Appointee: Charlotte County Sheriff's Office)  
Kathleen Moore, PhD (President of the Senate Appointee: University of South Florida)  
Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD (Governor Appointee: UF College of Medicine)  
Larry Rein (Governor Appointee: ChildNet)  
Lee Fox (President of the Senate Appointee: David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health)  
Erica Floyd Thomas for Secretary Shevaun Harris (Department of Children and Families)  
Austin Noll for Secretary Jason Weida (Agency for Health Care Administration)  
Richard Duggan (President of the Senate Appointee: Collier County Public Schools)  
Richard Weisberg, CRPS (President of the Senate Appointee: Weisberg Wealth Management)

### Review and Approval of the March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

A motion was entered to approve the March 20, 2024, minutes. The motion was carried. The minutes were approved with no opposition.

### 1. Remarks From the Chair:

Chair Reeve reminded the Commission of the in-person meeting to be held in Orlando on August 20, 2024 at the Signia by Hilton Bonnet Creek Hotel. All subcommittees are expected to present recommendations for the consideration of the full commission. The subcommittees should have draft recommendations to Aaron Platt by the end of July but should be submitted no later than August 6, 2024. The Chair briefly reviewed the five subcommittees and their associated workgroups. The Florida Chamber Health Council's report on mental health and well-being and the possibility of increased dialog between the Chamber and the Commission was also discussed.

### 2. Subcommittee Report Outs:

Access to Care: Commissioner Reynolds reviewed a document detailing the efforts of the Access to Care workgroups which include Barriers to Utilization, Solutions to Barriers, and Acute Care Transports. The Barriers to Utilization workgroup completed a survey of family members, peers and providers that allowed the identification of two



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significant obstacles: stigma and lack of understanding related to the process of accessing services. The Solutions to Barriers workgroup compiled a report addressing these obstacles and identified strategic partners to help address the identified needs. The Acute Care Transport workgroup reviewed a survey conducted by the Charlotte County Sheriff's office which identified several barriers. Sheriff Prummell discussed preliminary results of the law enforcement survey.

*Austin Noll volunteered to provide support from AHCA for the Barriers to Utilization workgroup.*

- **Children and Youth:** Subcommittee Chair Commissioner Representative Hunschofsky introduced the three Children and Youth subcommittee workgroups. The Behavioral Health Outcomes workgroup is reviewing currently utilized outcome measures for children and youth. Preliminary results indicate a lack of consistency across the system. The Behavioral Health Funding Mechanisms for Schools workgroup gave two presentations from school districts sharing how their mental health allocations are being utilized. Preliminary results indicate there is not a "one size fits all" remedy. The Family Access and Entry workgroup is currently mapping out where the overlaps are in terms of entry points to access services, tools for screening at those touchpoints, and the need for navigators/care coordinators at the access points.
- **Data Analysis:** Subcommittee Chair Moore provided a brief update and background information, and recommendations for prospective subcommittee members. The subcommittee heard two presentations, one from the Northwest Regional Data Center and the other on the legal, ethical, and structural aspects of data sharing. The subcommittee has identified several recommendations all housed under three separate aims targeted towards those receiving public funds for behavioral health services: Aim one is to formalize a stakeholder coalition to determine optimal sources, uses, and outcomes of data. Aim two is to create a Florida behavioral health data repository or comparable effective data system. Aim three is to provide information on the availability and adequacy of behavioral health data sources in Florida for high-risk individuals served through Medicaid or the Department of Children and Families.
- **Finance and Workforce:** Subcommittee Chair Commissioner Senator Rouson provided a brief update from the two workgroups created under the Finance and Workforce subcommittee: the Workforce workgroup and the Opioid Settlement workgroup. The Workforce workgroup is reviewing and evaluating the current behavioral health workforce in Florida and making recommendations to optimize (recruit, retain and develop) the workforce. This workgroup is researching short-term and long-term interventions while considering the Live Healthy Act. The Opioid Settlement workgroup will be reviewing the state plan for ideas on utilizing the Opioid settlement funding and will make recommendations for optimizing the funds to promote prevention and recovery. This workgroup will not conflict with the Opioid Settlement Council created by the Legislature.

*Commissioner Senator Rouson suggests having someone reach out to USF or Tampa General Hospital to inquire about appointing a representative to join this workgroup.*



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- System of Care: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd Thomas provided the update as the delegate for Subcommittee Chair Harris. The system of Care subcommittee is tasked with examining the entire system of behavioral healthcare. To accomplish this, the subcommittee must understand the regional systems of care. The previous subcommittee meeting included a presentation from Tampa Bay Thrives and the Mental health Council of the Big Bend, both of which have established regional collaboratives within their respective communities. There are three workgroups established for the subcommittee. They include the Skills-based training workgroup which examines means for bolstering effective evidenced-based training or promising practices models), the Individuals with Unique Needs workgroup which examines services to the geriatric psych population and those with developmental disabilities and, the Deep End Services workgroup which will examine high intensity services such as Crisis stabilization, residential, inpatient and hospitalization.

#### **4. Discussion:**

Chair Reeve highlighted the very detailed work occurring in the subcommittees that are yielding dividends and allowing low-hanging fruit to be addressed.

#### **5. Public Comment:**

Jack Wood (Family Member Advocate) – Mr. Wood shared he and his family’s experience with Florida’s behavioral health system of care. He recommends that the Commission takes a deep dive into services geared towards individuals diagnosed with a severe mental illness.

#### **5. Closing Remarks:**

Chair Reeve encouraged members of the public to share their experience with the behavioral health system.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:28 am.