

**FLORIDA COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDER – COMMITTEE STRUCTURE 2025-2026.**

1. Strategy and Planning

MISSION: Develop a framework for cross-agency statewide behavioral health strategy and planning.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY GUIDANCE: 394.9086, 4a 1,5,14 (Planning References)

RATIONALE: FS 394.9086 (the guiding statute for the Commission), directs the Commission in several sections to address planning for the best development of the mental health and substance use disorder treatment delivery system. While the Department of Children and Families, as the State’s Mental Health Authority, engages in annual planning, that process has not historically included the breadth and depth of stakeholders currently included as both Commissioners and Subject Matter Experts on the Commission. In developing a path forward for the State following the currently contemplated sunset of the Commission in 2026, this Committee will hear presentations and testimony related to best practices for cross-agency, publicly accessible, comprehensive, statewide planning and strategy development, and develop recommendations for the creation of an ongoing framework for the Florida Legislature and Executive Office of the Governor to be presented with regularly delivered recommendations for the best-practice development of mental health and substance use disorder treatment across all publicly-funded State delivery systems.

CHAIR: Secretary Harris

CO-CHAIR: Clara Reynolds

COMMISSIONERS:

Secretary Weida

Sheriff Prummell

Richard Duggan

Dr. Gray-Eurom

SME Leads:

DCF: William Hardin, Director of SAMH, Services, and Contracts

AHCA: Melissa Vergeson, Chief of Medicaid Quality

2. Funding

MISSION: Examine the various funding mechanisms for Behavioral Health across the State and recommend options for optimal funding mechanisms.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY GUIDANCE: 394.9086, 4a 1 (paragraph 2), 3, 13, 14

RATIONALE: FS 394.9086 (the guiding statute for the Commission), directs the Commission in several sections to address and recommend the best financing and contracting mechanisms for the best development of the mental health and substance use disorder treatment delivery system. This Committee will hear presentations and testimony related to current and best practices for behavioral health financing and contracting, including specific reviews of the disparate contracting and financing methodology used by AHCA, DCF, DOE, DJJ and other public funders, and develop recommendations for optimal funding and contracting methodology and practice for publicly funded behavioral health delivery systems.

CHAIR: Senator Darryl Rouson

CO-CHAIR: Shawn Salamida

COMMISSIONERS:

Secretary Harris

Secretary Weida

Ann Berner

Rich Weisberg

SME LEADS:

DCF: Chad Barrett, Assistant Secretary for Administration

AHCA: Matt Cooper, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Finance and Analytics

3. Dual Diagnosis Treatment

MISSION: Examine the care delivery system for individuals dually diagnosed with BH conditions and SA Conditions; DD Conditions; and who are Seniors

APPLICABLE STATUTORY GUIDANCE: 394.9086, 4a 2, 4, 5,7

RATIONALE: FS 394.9086 (the guiding statute for the Commission), directs the Commission in several sections, and especially 4a2, to “consider the unique needs of persons who are dually diagnosed”. This Committee will hear presentations and testimony related to the evaluation and treatment of individuals who have been diagnosed with dual disorders, including but not necessarily limited to individuals who, in addition to mental health diagnoses, carry diagnoses of substance use disorder, major medical diseases, developmental delays, autism spectrum classifications, and/or brain and behavioral disorders typically related to aging such as Alzheimer’s and dementia. The Committee will review current and best practices for the assessment and treatment of these individuals, with specific attention to the best practices for addressing emergency treatment situations and ongoing care and make recommendations for any necessary modifications of or additions to the current array of publicly funded behavioral health treatment options to best address the needs of this population.

CHAIR: Representative Christine Hunschofsky

CO-CHAIR: Judge Mark Mahon

COMMISSIONERS:

Lee Fox

Melissa Larkin Skinner

SME Leads:

DCF: Heather Allman, Manager of Policy and Programs

AHCA: Pam Hull, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Operations

4. Data Analysis

MISSION: Develop a central data repository and review process for publicly funded behavioral health services in Florida.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY GUIDANCE: 394.9086, 4a 1, 4, ,7

RATIONALE: FS 394.9086 (the guiding statute for the Commission), directs the Commission in several sections, and especially 4a4, to “Address the quality and effectiveness of current mental health and substance use disorder service delivery systems...”. This Committee, the longest-standing Commission committee, will continue its current mission to develop a central data repository and review process for publicly funded behavioral health services in Florida.

CHAIR: Dr. Kathleen Moore

CO-CHAIR: Larry Rein

SME Leads:

DCF: Cole Sousa, Chief Information Officer

AHCA: Alexander Ford, Chief of Medicaid Data Analytics