



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Business Operations Subcommittee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2022

Meeting Start Time: 9:00am

Meeting End Time: 10:10am

Attendees:

- Christine Hunschofsky
- Ann Berner
- Chancellor Jacob Oliva
- Melissa Jordan
- Erica Floyd Thomas
- Tyler Tuszynski
- Jimmers Micallef
- Melissa Vergeson
- Neiko Shea
- Melanie Brown-Woofter
- Clara Reynolds
- Kelly Gray Eurom
- Melissa Larkin-Skinner
- Wes Evans

Commission Members:

- Christine Hunschofsky – *Chair Commissioner*, Representative for the Florida State Legislature
- Pat Smith – *Contact Liaison*, Executive Director of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
- Ann Berner – *Commissioner*, CEO/President of Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
- Wes Evans – *Commissioner*, Statewide Coordinator of Integration and Recovery Services, Department of Children and Families
- Melissa Larkin-Skinner – *Commissioner*, CEO of Centerstone of Florida
- Clara Reynolds – *Commissioner*, President and CEO at Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
- Dr. Kelly Gray-Eurom, *Commissioner*, Emergency Care Physician at UF Health Jacksonville



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Business Operations Subcommittee

Advisory Staff:

- Melanie Brown Woofter – President and CEO at Florida Behavioral Health
- Dr. Christine Cauffield – CEO and Executive Vice President at Lutheran Services Florida
- Heather DiGiacomo – Deputy Secretary, Department of Juvenile Justice
- Erica Floyd Thomas – Assistant Secretary of SAMH, Department of Children and Families
- Melissa Jordan – Division Director of Community Health Promotion, Department of Health
- Jimmers Micallef – Chief SAMH Contracts, Department of Children and Families
- Jacob Oliva – Chancellor, Department of Education
- Neiko Shay – Vice President of Child Welfare Programs at Sunshine Health
- Tyler Tuszynski – Director of Strategic Planning & Prevention, Department of Children and Families
- Melissa Vergeson – Bureau Chief Quality, Agency for Health Care Administration

Discussion Notes

Overview of Subcommittee:

Overall Vision and Goal: Identify and review the services and implementation approaches across all lead agencies, research various requirements to determine what is useful, and make recommendations to streamline process.

Scope: Focus on the deliverables, including the subcommittee answering questions about establishing a permanent single entity to manage all MH and SA services statewide. This is to be examined across agencies and programs, including the necessary resources needed, and the estimated impact on access to and quality of services.

- Short version – Assessing how to streamline the business operations.

Potential Approaches:

- Approaching this with the mindset of creating a Department of Behavioral Health. Evaluating how to make the system more patient friendly, with easier access to care, and by eliminating duplicate services.
 - This process is currently very confusing, and a cohesive system is not in place.
- Look at how systems are structured in other states and how to make our programs more streamlined.
- Take a closer look at why things are currently structured the way they are now (e.g., are the structures the result of federal funding requirement and, if so, can they be changed?)
 - It was suggested by *Chair Hunschofsky* to keep a running list of those items
- Assess ease of access to ensure that patients stay enrolled in their insurance plans – all paperwork and signatures required, as well as requirements to maintain benefits.



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Business Operations Subcommittee

- Address physical challenges to access (e.g., available inpatient beds and higher intensity outpatient services. In many areas of the state, they are under-resourced)
- Figure out what is driving operations from a federal level, what is state requiring, what is duplicative.
 - Areas to improve continuity, including transportation to access services.
 - Practice alignment and conceptual alignment at all levels (e.g., aligning regulatory and administrative functions, policy and monitoring with core values, principles, and services.)
 - Potentially measuring success in 3 levels:
 - Conception
 - Practice
 - Contextual Alignment
- Develop a local (state) landscape of all involved in the current system, who they service, funding stream, and practice models before developing recommendations.
 - Example: ACHA's managed care model differs from DCF's child welfare model, which is different than DJJ and DOE's models, etc.
- Look at the current partnerships and how they intersect. There could potentially be good coordinating systems to rely on.

Comments Related to Potential Approaches:

- Acknowledging the staffing issues being experienced in the field from psychiatrists to licensed MH professionals. This greatly impacts the entire system and creative recommendations are needed.
- We are working with a fractured system (after separation due to HRS), there is a need to understand why that happened.
- Tyler Tuszynski mentions that the Department of Health is working on a State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). He will keep the committee up to date on their efforts.
- Melanie Woofter offers data from surveys of their providers about vacancies, most difficult positions to fill, etc.
- Dr. Gray offers survey data associated with license renewals

Overview Questions Asked:

- Will we be examining both child welfare (CBCs) and SAMH?
 - Answer: Yes

Timeline:

- **Interim report due to Full Commission on September 01, 2022**
 - Subcommittees will meet every other month with off months reserved for full committee meetings
 - Four subcommittees include:
 - Finance – Review of funding sources
 - Data – Review of reporting mechanisms and available data sets



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Business Operations Subcommittee

- Business Operations – Review of services and implementation approaches across major agencies
- Criminal Justice – Review of Baker Act and Marchman Act systems

Action Items (Next Steps):

- Overlap the idea of looking at the local (state) landscape with the idea of looking at systems in other states (who also must comply with federal requirements)
 - Jimmers Micallef to lead subgroup addressing these issues (Other volunteers include Ann McClellan, Melissa Vergeson, and Melissa Brown-Woofter)
 - To lay out what agencies are doing
 - Look at previous process mapping of the Baker Act for HB 945
- Erica Floyd-Thomas volunteered to put together a separate history
- Tyler Tuszynski and Kelly Gray Eurom to investigate other states (MA, MD, and PA)
 - Will start with an overview and save deeper dive for later
- Pat Smith to distribute the Reporting Template (goals and objectives) and Road Map (responsibilities of this subcommittee). Please feel free to modify the template once you receive it.
 - Pat to also check with Legal if meetings must be noticed under the sunshine law (if only one commissioner is participating).
 - Pat to share a list of subcommittee contacts
 - All contact for subgroups must include Pat for the approval of Chair Commissioner.

Public Comment:

- No public comment

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, March 16, 2022