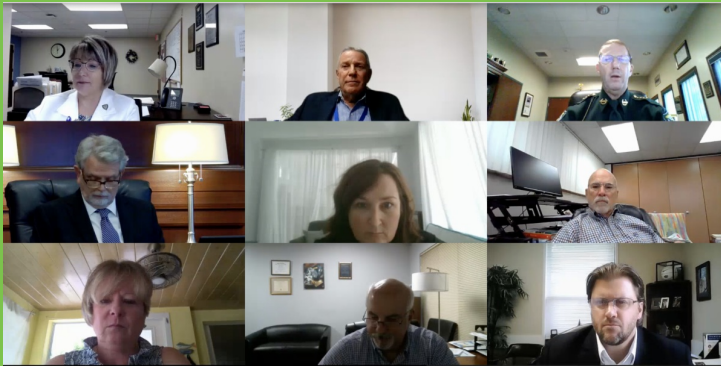


FAME's Monthly Roundup

October 2021

Mental Health Commission



The newly created SAMH Commission met for the first time on September 1 to examine the current methods of providing SAMH services and recommend enhancement to the system of care. Natalie Kelly, CEO, FAME, was asked to make the

first presentation on the role of the managing entities. Ann Berner was appointed to the Commission by Speaker Sprowls to represent the Managing Entities. The Commission membership also includes: Sheriff Bill Prummell (chair), State Sen. Darryl Rouson, State Rep. Christine Hunschofsky, Ray Gadd, Clara Reynolds, Secretary Shevaun Harris, Secretary Simone Marstiller Dr. Kathleen Moore, Chief Judge Mark Mahon, Shawn Salamida, Melissa Larkin-Skinner, Doug Leonardo, Wes Evans, Kelly Gray-Eurom, Dr. Uma Suryadevara, and Jay Reeve

Child Protection Summit 2021

Managing entities participated in this year's DCF Child Protection Summit. DCF hosted a roundtable discussion with the Managing Entities and CBCs to discuss behavioral health and child welfare. In a panel discussion during the opening ceremony, Secretary Harris shared best practices from around the state where she focused on a successful children's program by Broward Behavioral Health Coalition.

Sec Harris interviews BBHC CEO Silvia Quintana, during the opening ceremony of the child protection summit.





Finishing Children's Care Coordination Plans

The Managing Entities are at the final stage of their timeline in developing children's care coordination plans. Managing Entities meet monthly, sometimes weekly, to finalize HB 945 plans due on December 31, 2021. Managing Entities are completing community meetings with stakeholders and securing MOUs or "other signed documents" from boards and/or county stakeholders. Stakeholders who have been invited to participate include but not limited to: Baker Act facilities for minors, county and local government officials, law enforcement, school districts, CBC's, SEDNET representatives, DCF, APD, AHCA, manage care plans, early learning coalition, behavioral health providers, Managing Entity boards of directors, continuum of care steering committees, behavioral health workgroups, wrap-around service providers, and the children's care coordination team.

The Managing Entities are currently completing a list of "opportunities" for improvement that will be included in final plans.



State Representative David Silvers was the sponsor of HB 945 (2020) which required the Managing Entities to plan a coordinated system of care for children throughout the state.

Better Together Symposium 2021 by Central Florida Cares Health System



On September 29, Orange County Drug-Free Office and Central Florida Cares Health System presented the Better Together Symposium, a discussion among leaders on the impact mental health and substance use has on people in recovery and individuals in the community. The event brought together community leaders to discuss trauma-informed care, suicide prevention,

substance use disorder recovery, and peer support. The keynote speaker for the symposium was Florida State Sen. Darryl Rouson, who shared his recovery journey and

the opportunity for all to change how we talk about substance use and mental health disorders.



Deborah Beidel, UCF Restores, with Maria Bledsoe, CEO of Central Florida Cares



Secretary Shevaun Harris and Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd-Thomas meet with Managing Entity leaders

Secretary Harris and Assistant Secretary Floyd Thomas have been traveling around the state to meet with each managing entity and their network of providers.





Natalie Kelly presented before a crowded ballroom of assisted living advocates to discuss seniors and mental health. Special thanks to the Florida Assisted Living Association for the invitation.

Personalized Care for Trauma: Supporting Resilience and Recovery

Disaster Behavioral Health
including the Surfside
Building Collapse

Tuesday, Oct 5th on Zoom
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Register at: [Bit.ly/NAMIMiami](https://bit.ly/NAMIMiami)

*John W. Newcomer, M.D., CEO and President
Thriving Mind South Florida*

*Dr. Jim Shultz, Assoc. Professor
Dept. of Public Health Sciences
Miller School of Medicine
University of Miami*

*Miriam Singer, CEO and President
Jewish Community Services of South Florida*




Thriving Mind South Florida hosts zoom panel on mental health care in trauma patients

In the wake of the Surfside building collapse, Dr. John Newcomer, CEO of Thriving Mind South Florida joined Dr. Jim Shultz from the University of Miami and Miriam Singer from Jewish Community Services of South Florida to discuss treating individuals with severe trauma.

Lutheran Services Florida presents a Rural Substance Abuse and Mental Health Summit

Rural communities are faced with unique challenges relative to urban areas. Resources are limited, especially when it comes to programs for substance use recovery and mental health services for those we love. However, rural communities also possess qualities and hidden gems that other areas may not.

LSF focused on discovering those hidden gems and enhancing the strengths of our communities to improve services for those struggling with substance use, mental health problems, or suicidal thoughts. The summit also explored the role that local churches play in promoting and supporting behavioral health.



2nd Annual
**RURAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE
& MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT**

September 16, 2021
8am to 4pm

**MOUNT CARMEL
BAPTIST CHURCH**
2505 NE 8th Avenue,
Gainesville, FL 32641

For more information contact: Lesley Hersey,
Lesley.hersey@lsfnet.org

Managing Entities meet with



Agency Heads at the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council

Maria Bledsoe, CEO from Central Florida Cares Health System, joined DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris, Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd-Thomas, Deputy Assistant Secretary Meghan Collins, and the head of 8 other state agencies who play a role in reducing the risk of suicide in Florida. The Council received updates from agencies around the state on their progress towards a goal of Zero Suicide. The council also heard a presentation from the Tampa Bay Crisis Center on several evidence-based programs with successful results, such as their veteran suicide hotline operated exclusively by fellow veterans. Maria developed a one-page document highlighting the work Managing Entities are doing around the state, which can be viewed by clicking the link below.

(From left to right) DCF Deputy Assistant Secretary Meghan Collins, DCF Assistant Secretary Erica Floyd-Thomas, Central Florida Cares CEO Maria Bledsoe, LSF's Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist Brian Mingle, Director for the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention Anna Gai

Suicide Prevention

In the Spotlight



Each month, FAME will spotlight those who have made a positive impact on behavioral health in Florida. We will showcase leaders from state government, Managing Entities, providers, and stakeholders.

State Sen. Ileana Garcia

Nominated by Dr. John Newcomer, CEO of Thriving Mind South Florida

This month, FAME recognizes State Senator Ileana Garcia, Miami, for her new leadership role as Chair of the Children, Families and Elder Affairs committee. As Chair, Sen. Garcia will be tasked with hearing legislation that shape our mental health system.



State Rep. Thad Altman

Nominated by Maria Bledsoe, CEO, Central Florida Cares Health System

Representative Thad Altman is Chair of the Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee and represents District 52 in Brevard County. He is an advocate for child welfare and behavioral health.



ANN BERNER

CEO, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

Since 2012, Ann Berner has been the CEO for Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network. Ann is charged with overseeing \$56 million annually in publicly funded substance abuse and mental health services in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St Lucie Counties. Ann is a long-time resident of the Treasure Coast and a graduate of the University of Central Florida. With 20 years' experience with DCF, Ann served as a Circuit Administrator and as Florida's Statewide Director for Economic Self-Sufficiency. She recognizes the importance of promoting community collaboration and working creatively with local stakeholders and the behavioral health provider network. Ann is passionate about establishing "unconditional care" as the standard and is committed to advancing the recovery and resiliency of individuals with behavioral health challenges. Ann was recently appointed to the SAMH Commission to represent the Managing Entities.



Alan Davidson, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

Nominated by Linda McKinnon, CEO of Central Florida Behavioral Health Network



Alan has worked many hours internally at CFBHN and externally with FAME working on writing the Children's System of Care Plan, aka House Bill 945. Writing this plan aligns with some of Alan's core values of taking care of those in need and meeting the needs of the community stakeholders. Working with many stakeholders has been an opportunity for growth. Alan has said many times that without the help of his team at CFBHN and FAME this monumental task could not have been accomplished.

Managing Entities in the News

[Orange County Hosts Multiple Events During National Recovery Month](#)

On September 29, [Orange County Drug-Free Office](#) and [Central Florida Cares Health System](#) will present the [Better Together Symposium](#), a collaborative discussion among leaders on the impact mental health and substance use has on people in recovery and individuals in the community. The event will bring together community leaders to discuss trauma-informed care, suicide prevention, substance use disorder recovery, and peer support. "This symposium is vital because our words matter," said Thomas Hall, director, [Coalition for a Drug-Free Community at Orange County Government](#). "Reducing stigma is a key to recovery and resilience, and by bringing together community leaders to tackle the topic of mental health and substance use disorders, we can share our insights and learn innovative ways to help those who need it most." The keynote speaker for the symposium is [Florida State Senator Darryl Rouson](#), who will share his recovery journey and the opportunity for all to change how we talk about substance use and mental health disorders.

9/28/21 *Orange County Newsroom*

[South Florida 100](#) This week, the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC) coordinated a visit by DCF Secretary Shevaun Harris, joined by state Rep. Christine Hunschofsky. We toured three BBHC-funded, holistic substance

[Florida Association of Managing Entities: Behavioral Health Services Important to Prevent Suicides](#)

With emergency room visits involving suspected suicide attempts jumping by 51 percent for girls ages 12 to 17 compared to 2019 according to the CDC, the Florida Association of Managing Entities (FAME) noted that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and encouraged Floridians facing mental health or substance use disorder challenges to get help by calling 2-1-1.

8/26/21 *Florida Daily*, 8/27/21 *Palm Beach Post*, 8/31/21 *Florida Times Union*, 9/2/21 *Naples Daily News*, 9/2/21 *Ft Meyers News Press*, 9/11/21 *Gainesville Sun*

[Let's Talk Interactive Brings Custom Telehealth Solutions to School Districts](#)

[Let's Talk Interactive \(LTI\)](#), a leader in customizable telehealth solutions and provider of HIPAA-compliant [telehealth software](#) and hardware solutions, played a key role in a program developed by First Lady Casey DeSantis in conjunction with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and NWF Health Network to expand telehealth and remote services, bridging the gap between children in need and providers ready to help in honor of National Back to School Month.

8/12/21 *PR Newswire*

[COVID-19 made Florida's opioid problem worse. What will lawmakers do?](#) "The surge we thought was going to come, it's here now. They are inundated now," said Linda McKinnon, president and

abuse/mental health programs, that use “peer recovery support services and specialists” including South Florida Wellness Network, Village South and Memorial Healthcare System’s Maternal Addiction Treatment Program, “Mothers in Recovery.” We heard moving, heartfelt testimonials from clients about working with the peer specialists, who, themselves, have successfully completed a recovery program. Strengthened by their lived experience with behavioral health challenges, they help others discover their path to recovery.

9/25/21 *Sun Sentinel*

Video shows Georgia officers tasing nonverbal man with autism 6 times while responding to call

Christine Cauffield of LSF Health said mental health clinicians who respond with law enforcement are the best option to help identify if someone may have a mental health issue and calm the situation. “The clinician offers hope, offers a reassuring voice and various clinical interventions to help that person feel safe,” Cauffield said.

9/8/21 *News4Jax*

Jacksonville man spreading awareness after battle with suicide

“There’s a myth that if you ask someone if they’re thinking about taking their own life that suddenly that will propel them to do so, and that is truly a myth... people report that they feel relief. They feel grateful that individuals realized and noticed that they were in pain,” said Dr. Christine Cauffield, CEO of LSF Health Systems.

9/12/21 *First Coast News*

How to recognize and understand when someone is grieving

Dr. Christine Cauffield from LSF Health System discusses the signs that someone is grieving and to understand the best way to help them.

8/31/21 *News4Jax*

CEO of Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. “People are sicker. The drug addiction is worse.”

10/5/21 *Tampa Bay Times*

Women’s mental health took a beating in the pandemic. It’s time to make it a priority

Dr. John Newcomer, CEO of Thriving Mind South Florida, was featured in the Miami Herald’s recent editorial on women’s mental health during the pandemic. Dr. Newcomer shared the impact socioeconomic issues had on women and the need for more mental health assistance.

10/5/21 *Tampa Bay Times*

World Suicide Prevention Day: Doctor reflects on suicide numbers during pandemic

According to Dr. Cauffield, both younger and older populations have seen a spike in suicide numbers.

“It’s been a very profound effect. We have seen more domestic violence incidents. We’ve seen more usage of alcohol and other drugs,” Dr. Cauffield said.

She said she’s seen a spike in clinical depression. The increase in diagnoses goes hand-in-hand with completed suicide.

9/10/21 *Action News Jax*

‘Nobody has been spared’: Duval County sees over 2,000 opioid-related overdoses in 2021

“This pandemic has created, over the last 15 months, chronic stress, collective trauma and chronic grief and as a result, we have a national mental health crisis in this country,” Christine Cauffield, CEO of LSF Health Systems, told The Times-Union. “It’s also fueling the escalating ... overdose deaths primarily caused by substances laced with fentanyl.”

9/3/21 *Jacksonville.com*

Florida Managing Entity CEO Ann M. Berner’s Statement on Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Meeting

“I’m honored to represent Florida’s seven Managing Entities on the statewide Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. Today’s inaugural meeting brought together many of the people who have a hand in addressing important issues related to mental illness

2022 Bills to Watch

Senate Bill 312, Telehealth by Sen. Diaz

The bill revises the definition of the term telehealth to allow for audio-only services and prohibits schedule II substances from being prescribed via telehealth.

Similar bill: HB 17 Telehealth by Rep. Fabricio

HB 129, Insurance Coverage for At-home COVID-19 Test Kits by Rep. Zika

Requires health insurers & health maintenance organizations to provide 100 percent coverage for at-home COVID-19 test kits.

Identical bill: SB 328 Insurance Coverage for At-home COVID-19 Test Kits by Sen .A. Rodriguez

HB 193, Using Alternative Therapies to Treat Mental Health and other Medical Conditions by Rep. Grieco

Requires DOH, in collaboration with the Board of Medicine, to conduct a study regarding the use of alternative therapies such as MDMA, psilocybin, and ketamine in the treatment of mental health and other medical conditions; requires DOH to submit written report to Governor and Legislature.

Similar bill: SB 348 Using Alternative Therapies to Treat Mental Health and Other Medical Conditions by Sen. Book

SB 218, Defendants with a Traumatic Brain Injury by Sen Farmer

Redefines the term "intellectual disability" as it relates to defendants who have been found to be incompetent to proceed by adding the terms "significantly deficient in adaptive functioning" and "traumatic brain injury"; requiring the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to assist certain defendants found incompetent to proceed with the application to the long-term care managed care program.

SB 282, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders by Sen. Rouson

This bill specifies the importance of peer specialists



HB 95, Controlled Substance Offenses by Rep. Plakon

Revises elements that constitute capital offense of murder in the first degree to include drug overdoses. It also prohibits delivering, selling, or manufacturing a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a substance use or mental health facility. Doing so would be committing a first-degree felony.

Identical bill: SB 190 Controlled Substances by Sen. Brodeur

HB 195, Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction by Rep. David Smith

Requires FDLE to expunge nonjudicial arrest records of certain minors who successfully complete diversion programs for misdemeanor offenses and nonviolent felonies. This program authorizes minors who successfully complete diversion programs for any offense, rather than only for first-time misdemeanor offenses.

Identical bill: SB 342 Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction by Sen. Perry

SB 252, Health Care Cost Savings by Sen. Brodeur Revising the definition of the term "shoppable health care service" to mean a lower-cost, high-quality non-emergency health care service for which a shared savings incentive is available for insureds under a shared savings incentive program. Services provided among other things, including services provided through telehealth.

SB 296, Health Care Expenses by Sen.

in a coordinated system of care in recovery from a substance use disorder or mental illness. The bill requires DCF to develop a training program for peer specialists and gives preference to trainers who are certified peer specialists.

SB 330, Medicaid Modernization by Sen. Brodeur Authorizes Medicaid to reimburse providers for certain remote evaluation and patient monitoring services.

Garcia Requires a licensed facility to establish, update, and make public a list of the facility's charges for services that meet certain federal requirements. This bill also prohibits consumer reporting agencies from publishing a consumer report containing a medical debt credit impairment under certain circumstances.

Eyes on Capitol Hill

In Washington DC, we are monitoring a few major pieces of behavioral health legislation. These bills have only been introduced and we will monitor their movements through Capitol Hill.

- [Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Act of 2021](#)
- [Drug-Free Communities Pandemic Relief Act](#)
- [Methamphetamine Response Act of 2021](#)
- [State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act of 2021](#)
- [Synthetic Opioid Danger Awareness Act](#)
- [Opioid Prescription Verification Act of 2021](#)



Florida Association of

Managing Entities

