

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD APPOINTMENT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

Department
Submitted By: Community Services
Advisory Board: Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve:

A) the appointment of one (1) member to the BHSUCOD to complete an unexpired term due to a resignation, for the term commencing August 25, 2026 through October 31, 2027; and

<u>Seat No.:</u>	<u>Appointment:</u>	<u>Nominated By:</u>
14	Stephanie Thompson	Commissioner Maria G. Marino Commissioner Maria Sachs

B) the reappointment of one (1) At-Large member to the Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders Advisory Committee (BHSUCOD), for the term commencing November 1, 2026 through October 31, 2029:

<u>Seat No.:</u>	<u>Re-Appointment:</u>	<u>Nominated By:</u>
12	Dr. Suzanne Spencer	Commissioner Maria G. Marino Commissioner Maria Sachs

C) the appointment of three (3) Ex Officio members to the BHSUCOD, for the term beginning August 25, 2026, and do not have an expiration date:

<u>Seat No.:</u>	<u>Appointment:</u>
6	Joshua Mena Fire Rescue
7	Jill Sorensen Ex Officio representative for Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
8	Heather DeStefano Ex Officio representative for Palm Health Foundation

Summary: On November 1, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) established the BHSUCOD Advisory Committee by approving Resolution R2022-1340. The inaugural Board consisted of eight (8) Ex Officio and nine (9) At-Large members.

(Summary Continued on Page 2)

- Attachments:
- 1. Boards/Committees Applications and Resumes (5)
 - 2. Current BHSUCOD Membership List
 - 3. Resolution No. R2022-1340

Recommended By: James E. Gu 7/22/26
Department Director Date

Legal Sufficiency: [Signature] 7/22/26
Assistant County Attorney Date

Summary (Continued from Page 1)

The total membership for the BHSUCOD is 18 members, consisting of nine (9) At-Large members, including three (3) of whom must be persons with lived experience, and nine (9) Ex Officio members with knowledge, competence, and experience related to behavioral health and substance use disorders. Ex Officio members represent organizations, agencies, institutions, and municipalities whose mission is to resolve behavioral health and substance use disorders. Ex Officio members are not term limited. At-Large members serve for a three (3) year term and may be re-appointed for up to three (3) consecutive terms.

On June 25, 2026, a memorandum was sent to the BCC requesting approval for the following nominees to be reappointed to the BHSUCOD: Dr. Suzanne Spencer, CEO with Living Skills in the Schools, Inc. (LSS) for Seat No. 12; and a new appointment for Ms. Stephanie Thompson, Executive Vice-President with Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. (DAF) who will complete an unexpired term due to a resignation for Seat No. 14.

In addition, three (3) new appointments, as new Ex Officio members for Mr. Joshua Mena, Firefighter with Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR), for Seat No. 6; Ms. Jill Sorensen, Chief Strategy Officer with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.(SEFBHN) for Seat No. 7; and Ms. Heather DeStefano, Social Worker with Palm Health Foundation (PHF), for Seat No. 8.

LSS was recently awarded funding through the Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF) for the Family Box for Resilience Program. DAF has also received OSF funding for the Project Engage: Building Recovery Ready Communities Program. SEFBHN has received OSF funding for Neutral Care Coordination, as well as for the Wraparound Training and Fidelity Initiative Program through the Financially Assisted Agencies Program. These agencies have a contract with the County for services; however, BHSUCOD does not provide regulation, oversight, management, or policy-setting recommendations regarding the contracts or transactions with LSS, DAF, and SEFBHN. Disclosure of this contractual relationship at a duly noticed public meeting is provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-443 of the County's Code of Ethics.

The BHSUCOD provides no regulation, oversight, management, or policy-setting recommendations regarding contracts or transactions with LSS, DAF, and SEFBHN. There are currently 14 seats filled. Countywide (RS)

Background and Justification: The BCC formally adopted the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Plan 2024 (Plan 2024) on October 22, 2024. On November 1, 2022, the BCC formally established the BHSUCOD Advisory Committee to enhance the County's capacity and effectiveness in formulating comprehensive, integrated, and effective behavioral health, substance use and co-occurring disorders prevention, treatment, support, and recovery policies, as well as to offer recommendations regarding the County's provision of services to County residents. The BHSUCOD also satisfies the requirement for a Task Force to respond to the opioid epidemic pursuant to section 17.42(4)(b), Florida Statutes (2022) (State Opioid Settlement Clearing Trust Fund). The Community Services Department (CSD) provides support to the BHSUCOD. Furthermore, the BHSUCOD aims to improve coordination and interactions between organizations, agencies, and institutions whose mission is to address and resolve substance use and behavioral disorders in the County.

II. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. Other Department Review:

Department Director



PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION
301 N Olive Avenue, WPB, FL 33401
www.discover.pbcgov.org

BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION

The information provided on this form will be used in considering your nomination.
(Answer "NONE" or "N/A" where appropriate.)

- APPLICANT TO COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:
- SECTION II
 - CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
 - CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING
 - RESUME or BIOGRAPHY

SECTION I	(OFFICE USE ONLY)	☒ Advisory	☐ Not Advisory
BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME:	Behavioral Health Substance Use Co-Occuring Advisory Committee		
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:	☒ AT-LARGE	DISTRICT #	
	REAPPOINTMENT	☒	NEW APPOINTMENT
TERM:	8/25/26	START DATE	10/31/2027
LENGTH OF TERM:	1	YEARS	END DATE
SEAT #:	14		
SEAT REQUIREMENT:	At Large / PBC Resident	Encourage to have experience relative to BHSUD and/or person with live experience	

COMPLETING AN UNEXPIRED TERM?	☒ YES	☐ NO
IF YES: DUE TO:	☒ RESIGNATION	☐ OTHER
COMPLETING TERM FOR:	John Makris	
ORIGINAL TERM EXPIRES:	10/31/2027	

*When a person is being considered for reappointment, the number of previous disclosed voting conflicts during the previous term shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners:

SECTION II (to be completed by applicant) *MUST BE A PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT

NAME: (First/Middle Initial/Last)	Stephanie Thompson		
ADDRESS:	9120 Picot Court		
CITY:	Boynton Beach	STATE:	FL
PHONE #:	561-699-3529	ZIP:	33472
EMAIL:	stephanie_thompson@dafpbci.org		

BUSINESS/EMPLOYER NAME:	Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc.		
OCCUPATION:	Health Care Administration/Executive Vice President/ COO		
ADDRESS:	400 S Swinton Ave		
CITY:	Delray Beach	STATE:	FL
		ZIP:	33472
MAILING PREFERENCE:	☐ RESIDENCE	☒ BUSINESS	

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY:	☐ YES	☒ NO
(conviction of a felony is not an automatic disqualifier from appointment)		
IF YES - STATE THE COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, DISPOSITION OF CASE AND DATE:		

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ NONE _____ NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

Pursuant to Article XIII, Sec. 2-443 of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, advisory board members are prohibited from entering into any contract or other transaction for goods or services with Palm Beach County. Exceptions to this prohibition include awards made under sealed competitive bids, certain emergency and sole source purchases, and transactions that do not exceed \$500 per year in aggregate. These exemptions are described in the Code. This prohibition does not apply when the advisory board member's board provides no regulation, oversight, management, or policy-setting recommendations regarding the subject contract or transaction and the contract or transaction is disclosed at a public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. To determine compliance with this provision, it is necessary that you, as a board member applicant, identify all contractual relationships between Palm Beach County government and you as an individual, directly or indirectly, or your employer or business. This information should be provided in the space below. If there are no contracts or transactions to report, please verify that none exist. Staff will review this information and determine if you are eligible to serve or if you may be eligible for an exception or waiver pursuant to the code.

Contract/Transaction No.	Department/Division	Description of Service	Term
Example: (R#XX-XX/PO XX) R2026-0513	Parks & Rec CSD / BHSUD-OSF	General Maintenance Recovery Initiatives	10/01/00 - 09/30/2100 5/1/26-6/30/28

SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? x YES _____ NO

If YES, please list: Public Safety Coordinating Council

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: x COMPLETED DATE: 6/16/26

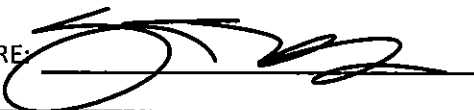
All board members are required to read and complete training on Article XIII of the Palm Beach Code, the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. Ethics training is ongoing, and pursuant to PPM CW-P-79 is required before appointment, and upon reappointment. All board members must also be familiar with the State of Florida Code of Ethics, (Chapter 112, part III of the Florida Statutes), and the Florida Sunshine Law.

Training on the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics can be found on the web at:
<http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/training.htm>.

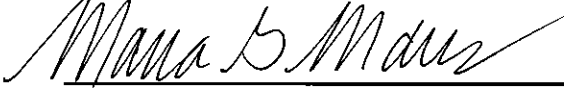
Any questions and/or concerns regarding Article XIII of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, please visit the Commission on Ethics website www.palmbeachcountyethics.com or contact us via email at ethics@palmbeachcountyethics.com or (561) 233-0724.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: By signing below I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by Article XIII, The Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, and I have received the required Code of Ethics Training. By signing below, I acknowledge that I will be subject to the State of Florida and Palm Beach County Code of Ethics and the Florida Sunshine Law (Chapter 286, Florida Statutes).

(NOTE: Signature must be an actual signature or an electronic signature. A "typed" signature (name) will not be accepted)

SIGNATURE:  PRINTED NAME: Stephanie Thompson DATE: 06/17/26

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) DISTRICT # _____

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE:  DATE: 7/6/26

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ YES _____ NO

BCC MEETING: _____ DATE _____

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ NONE _____ NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

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Contract/Transaction No.	Department/Division	Description of Service	Term
Example: (R#XX-XX/PO XX)	Parks & Rec	General Maintenance	10/01/00 - 09/30/2100
R2026-0513	CSD / BHSUD-OSF	Recovery Initiatives	5/1/26-6/30/28

SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? x YES _____ NO

If YES, please list: Public Safety Coordinating Council

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: x COMPLETED DATE: 6/16/26

All board members are required to read and complete training on Article XIII of the Palm Beach Code, the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics. Ethics training is on-going, and pursuant to PPM CW-P-79 is required before appointment, and upon reappointment. All board members must also be familiar with the State of Florida Code of Ethics, (Chapter 112, part III of the Florida Statutes), and the Florida Sunshine Law.

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SIGNATURE:  PRINTED NAME: Stephanie Thompson DATE: 06/17/26

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY)

DISTRICT # 5

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE:  DATE: 6/29/26

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ YES _____ NO

BCC MEETING: _____ DATE

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

Stephanie Thompson

Boynton Beach, FL 33472

Stephanie_thompson@dafpbci.org 561 352 4188

Highly accomplished healthcare executive with over 25 years of progressive leadership in behavioral health and substance use treatment services. Proven track record of managing complex operations across clinical, administrative, and compliance domains. Skilled in strategic planning, regulatory compliance, team building, budget development, human resources, and accreditation processes. Adept at leading interdisciplinary teams, optimizing organizational performance, and ensuring service excellence within highly regulated environments. Committed to ethical practices, operational efficiency, and improving client outcomes through collaborative leadership.

Work Experience

Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. September 1999 to Present

Executive Vice President/ COO

March 2008 to Present

Provide strategic and operational leadership for a comprehensive substance use treatment organization, overseeing all core service areas including clinical services, human resources, budgeting, environmental services, food services, risk management, and regulatory compliance. Direct the day-to-day operations of the agency while aligning services with best practices and evolving behavioral health practices.

- Successfully led the organization to full CARF accreditation,
- Manage all regulatory audits, site visits, and licensure processes, maintaining continuous compliance with federal, state, accreditation, and local requirements.
- Oversee cross-functional teams and departmental leadership to drive efficiency, service quality, and positive treatment outcomes.
- Collaborate with executive leadership on long-term strategic planning, organizational development, and fiscal oversight.

Consultant

September 2003 to March 2008

Compliance Director

September 1999 to August 2003

Education

M.H.A. in Healthcare Administration

Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis - Indianapolis, IN

J.D. in Law

University of Dayton School of Law - Dayton, OH

Key Competencies

- Healthcare Administration & Strategic Operations, Legal Research & Policy Development
 - Budgeting & Financial Oversight, Community Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement
 - Regulatory Compliance & Risk Management, External Audit & Licensure (including CARF Accreditation)
 - Human Resources & Talent Development
 - Clinical & Medical Services Coordination
 - Environmental & Facility Services Management
-



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 - CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING
 - RESUME or BIOGRAPHY

SECTION I (OFFICE USE ONLY) ☒ Advisory ☐ Not Advisory

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder Advisory Committee

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: ☒ AT-LARGE ☐ DISTRICT# _____

TERM: ☒ REAPPOINTMENT ☐ NEW APPOINTMENT

LENGTH OF TERM: 11/01/26 START DATE 10/31/29 END DATE

SEAT #: 3 YEARS

SEAT REQUIREMENT: At Large/ PBC Resident Encourage to have knowledge,competenc and experience relative to BHSUD and/or lived experience.

COMPLETING AN UNEXPIRED TERM? YES ☒ NO ☐

IF YES: DUE TO: RESIGNATION ☐ OTHER ☐

COMPLETING TERM FOR: _____

ORIGINAL TERM EXPIRES: _____

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SECTION II (to be completed by applicant) ***MUSTBE A PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT**

NAME: (First/Middle Initial/Last) Suzanne E. Spencer

ADDRESS: 19349 Cherry Hills Terrace

CITY: Boca Raton STATE: FL ZIP: 33498

PHONE#: 561-809-5436

EMAIL: suzanne@livingskillsintheschools.org

BUSINESS/EMPLOYER NAME: Living Skills in the Schools, Inc.

OCCUPATION: CEO

ADDRESS: 1700 Lake Ida Road

CITY: Delray Beach STATE: FL ZIP: 33445

MAILING PREFERENCE: ☒ RESIDENCE ☐ BUSINESS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY: YES ☐ NO ☒

(conviction of a felony is not an automatic disqualifier from appointment)

IF YES - STATE THE COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, DISPOSITION OF CASE AND DATE:

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ **NONE** _____ **NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)**

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SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? _____ **X** **YES** _____ **NO**
If YES, please list: Academic C15 Student Achievement Subcommittee

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: _____ **X** **COMPLETED** **DATE:** 6/25/26

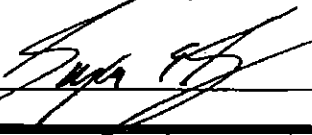
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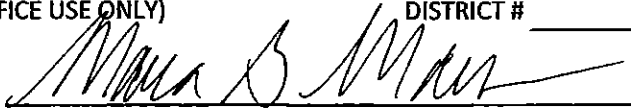
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SIGNATURE:  **PRINTED**
NAME: SUZANNE SPENCER **DATE:** 04/24/26

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) **DISTRICT #** _____

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE:  **DATE:** 7/6/26

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ **YES** _____ **NO**
BCC MEETING: _____ **DATE** _____

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SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ NONE _____ NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

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SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? _____ X _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, please list: _____ Academic C15 Student Achievement Subcommittee _____

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: _____ X _____ COMPLETED DATE: _____ 6/25/26 _____

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(NOTE: Signature must be an actual signature or an electronic signature. A "typed" signature (name) will not be accepted)

SIGNATURE: _____ PRINTED NAME: _____ SUZANNE SPENCER _____ DATE: _____ 04/24/26 _____

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) DISTRICT # _____ 5 _____

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____ 6/26/26 _____

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ YES _____ NO

BCC MEETING: _____ DATE _____

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Dr. Suzanne Spencer, CEO
suzanne@livingskillsintheschools.org
561 501 6322



Executive Bio

Dr. Suzanne Spencer has served as Chief Executive Officer of Living Skills in the Schools since 2013, leading an organizational turnaround with exponential growth since she started 13 years ago.

Suzanne Spencer, Ed.D. brings a wealth of expertise and experience in nonprofit leadership to her career in community organizing. She has been recognized for innovations in mental health and addiction.

She is the creator and producer of the Talk with Your Mouth Full Podcast and the visionary of The Family Box for Substance Abuse Prevention Series, as well as prior local community initiatives such as Project Trailblazer, What Happens After Narcan, and SUDTALKS, thus advancing the national dialogue on our public health crisis and opioid epidemic during her leadership tenure in prior roles.

Her most recent product innovation addresses vicarious trauma in school systems because of school personnel's chronic exposure to students with adverse childhood experiences.

Dr. Spencer is an inspirational speaker who has addressed audiences such as Florida Atlantic University's Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work and Women Empowering Women Forums, among others. She currently holds an undergraduate degree in Organizational Management, a graduate degree in Leadership, and a Doctorate in K-12 Education Leadership.

Substance Abuse Prevention

1700 Lake Ida Rd
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 501 6322
livingskillsintheschools.org



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BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION
301 N Olive Avenue, WPB, FL 33401
www.discover.pbcgov.org

BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION

The information provided on this form will be used in considering your nomination.
(Answer "NONE" or "N/A" where appropriate.)

APPLICANT TO COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- SECTION II
- CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
- CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING
- RESUME or BIOGRAPHY

SECTION I (OFFICE USE ONLY) ☒ Advisory ☐ Not Advisory

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders Advisory Committee

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: ☒ AT-LARGE ☐ DISTRICT#

TERM: 8/25/26 REAPPOINTMENT ☒ NEW APPOINTMENT

LENGTH OF TERM: N/A START DATE N/A END DATE

SEAT#: 6 YEARS

SEAT REQUIREMENT: Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Palm Beach County Resident

COMPLETING AN UNEXPIRED TERM? YES ☒ NO

IF YES: DUE TO: RESIGNATION OTHER

COMPLETING TERM FOR:

ORIGINAL TERM EXPIRES:

★When a person is being considered for reappointment, the number of previous disclosed voting conflicts during the previous term shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners:

SECTION II (to be completed by applicant) *MUST BE A PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT

NAME: (First/Middle Initial/Last) JOSHUA MENA

ADDRESS: 8223 CADRE NOIR ROAD

CITY: LAKE WORTH STATE: FL ZIP: 33467

PHONE #: 305-763-5957

EMAIL: JMENA@PBC.GOV

BUSINESS/EMPLOYER NAME: PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE

OCCUPATION: FIREFIGHTER

ADDRESS: 405 PIKE ROAD

CITY: WEST PALM BEACH STATE: FL ZIP: 33411

MAILING PREFERENCE: RESIDENCE ☒ BUSINESS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY: YES ☒ NO

(conviction of a felony is not an automatic disqualifier from appointment)

IF YES - STATE THE COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, DISPOSITION OF CASE AND DATE:

N/A

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ NONE _____ X _____ NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

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Contract/Transaction No.	Department/Division	Description of Service	Term
Example: (R#XX-XX/PO XX)	Parks & Rec	General Maintenance	10/01/00 - 09/30/2100
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? _____ YES _____ X _____ NO

If YES, please list: _____

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: _____ YES _____ COMPLETED _____ DATE: _____ 4/6/2026 _____

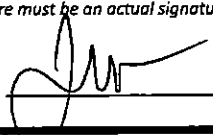
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APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: By signing below I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by Article XIII, The Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, and I have received the required Code of Ethics Training. By signing below, I acknowledge that I will be subject to the State of Florida and Palm Beach County Code of Ethics and the Florida Sunshine Law (Chapter 286, Florida Statutes).

(NOTE: Signature must be an actual signature or an electronic signature. A "typed" signature (name) will not be accepted)

SIGNATURE:  _____ PRINTED NAME: _____ JOSHUA MENA _____ DATE: _____ 4/6/2026 _____

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) DISTRICT # _____

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ YES _____ NO
BCC MEETING: _____ DATE _____

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

JOSHUA MENA
Lake Worth, FL 33467
(305) 763-5957 - jmena@pbc.gov

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced with emergency response and management. Utilizes leadership and organizational skills to oversee and improve team performance. Strong understanding of emergency protocols and patient care standards.

SKILLS

- Emergency medical treatment
- Staff performance evaluation
- Firefighting operations
- Problem-solving
- Incident safety and reporting
- EMS/Fire response team direction
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Equipment/Apparatus operations

WORK HISTORY

11/2020 to Current

- Lieutenant**
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue – Palm Beach, FL
- Conducted periodic firefighter written performance evaluations and completed written recommendations on probationary firefighters.
 - Cultivated a culture of continuous improvement through ongoing professional development opportunities for firefighters under my supervision.
 - Evaluated personnel performance regularly, providing constructive feedback and identifying individual strengths to match skill sets with appropriate assignments.
 - Oversaw proper implementation of best practices, policies and procedures in alignment with regulations and operational needs.
 - Optimized EMS/fire services management with introduction of new systems, policies, procedures and tools.
 - Part of the Mobile Integrated Health Team for the last four years.

08/2014 to 11/2020

- Firefighter Paramedic**
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue – Palm Beach, FL
- Collaborated with fellow firefighters to execute efficient firefighting strategies, mitigating property damage and loss of life.
 - Demonstrated strong leadership skills while serving as a mentor to new firefighters, fostering a culture of teamwork and professionalism within the department.
 - Maintained optimal readiness for emergency situations by regularly participating in drills and training exercises.
 - Educated the local community on fire safety practices through presentations at schools, businesses, and other public venues.
 - Engaged in continuous professional development through advanced firefighting and rescue training courses.
 - Provided immediate medical attention to victims at emergency scenes, ensuring swift stabilization before hospital transport.

06/2008 to 08/2014

- Flight Paramedic**
Life Flight – Miami, FL
- Enhanced patient care during transport by utilizing specialized equipment and monitoring systems to ensure optimal conditions for recovery.
 - Transported critically ill and injured patients to nearest medical center, using advanced life support equipment as needed.
 - Monitored patients' vital signs to assess condition and identify necessary medical interventions.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification (ACLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Community Paramedic Course
- Fire Officer I/II FL State Certified
- FL State Pump Operator



PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION
301 N Olive Avenue, WPB, FL 33401
www.discover.pbcgov.org

BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION

The information provided on this form will be used in considering your nomination.
(Answer "NONE" or "N/A" where appropriate.)

- APPLICANT TO COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:**
- SECTION II
 - CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
 - CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING
 - RESUME or BIOGRAPHY

SECTION I (OFFICE USE ONLY) ☒ Advisory ☐ Not Advisory

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders Advisory Board

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT: ☒ AT-LARGE ☐ DISTRICT # ☐ REAPPOINTMENT ☒ NEW APPOINTMENT

TERM: 8/25/26 START DATE N/A END DATE

LENGTH OF TERM: N/A YEARS

SEAT #: 7

SEAT REQUIREMENT: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network PBC Resident

COMPLETING AN UNEXPIRED TERM? ☐ YES ☒ NO

IF YES: DUE TO: ☐ RESIGNATION ☐ OTHER

COMPLETING TERM FOR: _____

ORIGINAL TERM EXPIRES: _____

**When a person is being considered for reappointment, the number of previous disclosed voting conflicts during the previous term shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners:* _____

SECTION II (to be completed by applicant) ***MUST BE A PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT**

NAME: (First/Middle Initial/Last) Jill S. Sorensen

ADDRESS: 15176 Oak Chase Court

CITY: Wellington STATE: FL ZIP: 33414

PHONE #: 561-484-5154

EMAIL: jill_sorensen@sefbhn.org

BUSINESS/EMPLOYER NAME: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

OCCUPATION: Chief Strategy Officer

ADDRESS: 8895 North Military Trail, Ste E-102

CITY: Palm Beach Gardens STATE: FL ZIP: 33410

MAILING PREFERENCE: ☒ RESIDENCE ☐ BUSINESS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY: ☐ YES ☒ NO

(conviction of a felony is not an automatic disqualifier from appointment)

IF YES - STATE THE COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, DISPOSITION OF CASE AND DATE:

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: _____ NONE _____ x _____ NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

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Contract/Transaction No.	Department/Division	Description of Service	Term
Example: (R#XX-XX/PO XX)	Parks & Rec	General Maintenance	10/01/00 - 09/30/2100
R2025-1460	CSD	Neutral Care Coordination	9/1/25-6/30/28
R2025-1565	CSD	Wraparound Trainings	10/1/25-9/30/28

SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? _____ x _____ YES _____ NO

If YES, please list: _____ CJC-Behavioral Health Taskforce, BeWell PBC Stewardship, Birth to 22 Mental Health, Trauma Informed Care and Resiliency Action Team, Birth to 22 Funders Workgroup, SEFBHN System of Care Subcommittees

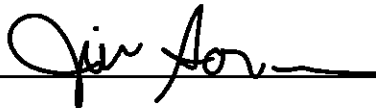
CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: _____ Yes _____ COMPLETED DATE: _____ 6/23/26

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(NOTE: Signature must be an actual signature or an electronic signature. A "typed" signature (name) will not be accepted)

SIGNATURE:  PRINTED NAME: _____ Jill Sorensen _____ DATE: _____ 4/21/2026 _____

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) DISTRICT # _____

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: _____ YES _____ NO
BCC MEETING: _____ DATE _____

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

Jill Sorensen

15176 Oak Chase Court

Wellington, FL 33414

561.412.9389 cell

Jill_Sorensen@hotmail.com

Objectives

Advance and strengthen a high-quality, sustainable behavioral health system of care where individuals' voices and culture are valued and evidence-based practices are standard.

Experience

Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

2025 to present

Chief Strategy Officer (reorganization and promotion)

Provide strategic direction to develop and continuously improve a regional behavioral health system of care across five counties by building partnerships, identifying and addressing system needs, and setting standards for best practices and outcomes.

Chief Family Systems Officer

Led a team advancing the children's system of care and scaled community-based programs and levels of care for minors, including Children's Care Coordination, Community Action Treatment (CAT) Teams, High-Fidelity Wraparound, Mobile Response Teams, and Zero Suicide.

2013 to 2025

Director of Children's System of Care

- Spearheaded a region-wide and comprehensive, coordinated system of care plan from legislation requirements in House Bill 945.
- Coordinated system-level efforts to expand the Children's System of Care across five counties (Indian River, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie).
- Built and sustained partnerships with school systems, child welfare, juvenile justice, health care, behavioral health providers, Children's Services Councils, local foundations, and other stakeholders.
- Led contract development, oversight, and management for youth and family services, including memoranda of understanding with key partners.
- Secured a four-year, discretionary \$6.6M SAMHSA Children's System of Care grant for Martin and St. Lucie counties.
- Planned and executed expansion of a family-driven, youth-guided, community-based, culturally humble and linguistically competent, trauma-informed system of care.
- Implemented and sustained the High-Fidelity Wraparound Initiative across Southeast Florida.
- Expanded High-Fidelity Wraparound statewide, including developing online toolkits to support provider and system implementation and sustainability.

- Delivered training across behavioral health topics, including System of Care, High-Fidelity Wraparound, and Trauma-Informed Care.
- Developed programs spanning Community Action Treatment Teams, Family Intensive Treatment Teams, Behavioral Health Networks, and child welfare/behavioral health integration projects.
- Developed and updated system-of-care policies and procedures.
- Reviewed RFPs for SEFBHN and system partners as a subject matter expert.
- Implemented Zero Suicide, including an evidence-based Suicide Care Pathway and suicide prevention training for providers and community stakeholders.
- Developed Mobile Response Teams (MRTs) for children's and child welfare systems; partnered across crisis-support initiatives and provided oversight for all MRTs.
- Developed budgets and oversaw funding utilization for youth- and family-related programs.
- Led and coached staff through performance-based supervision.
- Oversaw Children's Care Coordination at the system and provider levels across the region.

Wraparound Fidelity Manager

- Designed and launched the High-Fidelity Wraparound Initiative.
- Partnered with stakeholders to implement and scale best practices.
- Established Learning Communities to strengthen fidelity and implementation.
- Coached and trained Wraparound providers.

Quality Assurance Manager

- Led the network-wide Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Workgroup.
- Drove provider network improvements through targeted quality assurance initiatives.

Agency for Health Care Administration – Division of Medicaid, West Palm Beach, FL
2003 to 2013

Behavioral Health Utilization Manager

- Standardized statewide clinical and administrative review tools for the precertification process.
- Conducted on- and off-site precertification reviews and provided technical assistance to Medicaid-enrolled providers (CBH—Mental Health & Substance Abuse; MH-TCM; and Mental Health Specialty providers, including Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments).
- Provided technical assistance on Medicaid CBH and TCM policy for providers, state agencies, and community partners.
- Represented AHCA/Medicaid in Interdisciplinary Review Teams and multidisciplinary treatment staffings (MDTs) to determine appropriate residential levels of care in collaboration with DCF/SAMH, Community-Based Care, DJJ, SEDNET (School District), APD, and provider agencies.
- Led on-site certification and annual reviews with professional teams (including Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and Community-Based Care (CBC) agencies) for monitoring of Behavioral Health Overlay Services (BHOS) providers—Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare.

Jill Sorensen

- Reviewed, certified, and authorized Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care (STFC) and Therapeutic Group Care Specialized (TGCS) providers.
- Supported Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP) monitoring and coordinated multi-agency monitoring reports.
- Prepared and presented administrative and clinical monitoring reports, including findings from lead certification and annual reviews.
- Conducted on-site retrospective reviews at CBH/TCM provider agencies in partnership with Magellan Medicaid Administration staff.
- Coordinated and reviewed Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) resulting from retrospective reviews and annual monitoring of BHOS and SIPP providers.
- Reviewed, tracked, and followed up on incident reports from residential treatment centers.
- Managed PIPs to support continuous quality improvement across Area 9 Medicaid behavioral health providers.
- Tracked monitoring activities, PIPs, and provider financial recoupments.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Substance Abuse and Mental Health and Family Safety, West Palm Beach, FL

1999 to 2003

Children's Mental Health Specialist

- Managed the Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care funding line for Palm Beach County.
- Represented DCF in Interdisciplinary Review Teams, multidisciplinary treatment staffings (MDTs), and Child Specific Staffings to determine appropriate residential levels of care in collaboration with the managing entity, Community-Based Care, DJJ, SEDNET (School District), APD, and provider agencies.
- Reviewed Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments to ensure quality and clinical appropriateness.
- Worked closely with the Agency for Health Care Administration, Division of Medicaid, to support child-specific needs.

Family Services Counselor / MAPP Trainer

- Trained prospective foster/adoptive parents using the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP).
- Assessed applicants and advised families on licensing and adoption requirements mandated by Florida law.
- Completed comprehensive home studies through home visits and application review.
- Supported recruitment and re-licensing; prepared home studies for foster and adoptive families.

St. Mary's Hospital Institute for Mental Health (IMH), West Palm Beach, FL

1995 to 1999

Intake Coordinator/Behavioral Health Office Manager (Inpatient, Partial Hospitalization, and Intensive Outpatient)

- Managed day-to-day psychiatric admissions, discharges, administration, and business operations of the Institute for Mental Health (IMH) inpatient and outpatient services.
- Assessed and counseled patients for admission and coordinated the end-to-end admissions process.
- Provided routine depression screening for the general population.
- Conducted mental health intake interviews at IMH and in the Emergency Room.
- Maintained relationships with managed care organizations, physicians, and referral sources.
- Negotiated, prepared, and monitored single-case agreements with managed care organizations.

Psychiatric & Psychological Associates, Atlantis, FL

1987-1996

President/Administrator/Behavioral and Educational Specialist/Executive Intern (Outpatient)

- Managed office operations, managed care contracts, employee relations, and fiscal oversight.
- Ensured compliant billing across managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, workers' compensation, and other third-party payers.
- Assessed children and adults for psychiatric and psychoeducational needs.
- Scored and analyzed standardized and projective psychological testing.
Examples: MMPI, HTP, WISC, WAIS, Rorschach, and DAP.
- Provided behavior management therapy, reading development support, and counseling for children and families.
- Maintained relationships with managed care organizations, physicians, and referral sources.
- Negotiated, prepared, and monitored single-case agreements with managed care organizations.

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

1995

- Designed and taught college-level Introductory Psychology; evaluated student performance.
- Assessed learning through exams, discussions, and demonstrations.

Education and Certifications

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

1992 to 1995, College of Science, Master of Arts (abt), major in Psychology

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

1987 to 1991 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, Major in Sociology, minor in Psychology;

Pre-Medicine curriculum

QPR Pathfinder Training Youth Edition – 2023 QPR Institute, Inc.

Professional Certification in Trauma & Resilience: Level One – 2020 Florida State University

Certified Wraparound Trainer, 2015 to 2018 — Multiple Vroon VDB and Ronik-Radlauer trainings toward certification.

Certified Wraparound Coach, 2015 to 2017 — Multiple Vroon VDB and Ronik-Radlauer trainings and workshops toward certification.

QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) and QPRT (Question, Persuade, Refer, and Treat) Suicide Risk Assessment and Management, 2015.

University of South Florida / Florida Mental Health Institute / Online Certified Children's Functional Assessment Rater (CFARS) 2002.

Certified Model Approach to Partnerships In Parenting (MAPP) Trainer 1999.

Certified Child Protection Professional / Professional Development Center / Florida International University 1999.

Communication

Examples of Presentations

- **Aware and Care recording (school and community safety campaign); 2021 Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office — Audience: Palm Beach County, FL**
- **Care Coordination for Children with Behavioral Health Needs; 2021 Webinar for Florida Certification Board — Audience: State of Florida (250+ attendees)**
- **The Zero Suicide Initiative; 2020 Veteran's Administration Mental Health Summit — West Palm Beach, FL**
- **Care Coordination: Bridging the Gap in Service Provision for High-Risk Populations; 2019 Adolescent Collaborative — West Palm Beach, FL**
- **Wraparound in Florida: A Transformational and Sustainable Approach; 2019 National Wraparound Implementation Academy — Baltimore, MD**
- **Building Better Connections: A System of Care Approach; 2019 Community Action Treatment Team Statewide Meeting – Sarasota, FL**
- **What Does it Mean to be Trauma-Informed? 2019 Guardians for a New Future Conference - Fort Pierce, FL**
- **A Systems Approach to Strengthening Connections in Communities; 2018 Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network (LORHN) and Health Council Southeast Florida (HCSEF) Symposium - Okeechobee, FL**
- **Developing Wraparound Learning Communities to Support Successful Implementation; 2016 National Wraparound Conference - Melbourne, FL**
- **Sensation Seeking and Life Satisfaction with Seniors - Operation Grey Matter 1993 Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) - New Orleans, LA**

Workgroups and Steering Committees

- Prior Statewide Wraparound Workgroup
- Prior Statewide Advisory Committee – Children’s System of Care
- Prior School Health Advisory Committee(s) and Mental Health Sub-Committee
- School and Community Safety Initiative
- Birth to 22 – Funders and Mental Health
- BeWellPBC Stewardship Council
- Youth Reentry
- Creator and Prior Facilitator Supervisors’ System Creator
- Creator and Prior Facilitator of Wraparound Learning Communities
- System of Care Governance Boards
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Child Welfare Integration Steering Committees
- Coordinated Continuum of Care Planning Committee

Technology

- Proficient in the Microsoft Office suite, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Planner, SharePoint, OneDrive, OneNote, and Teams.
- Proficient with virtual meeting platforms, including Zoom, Google Meet, and Webex.
- Proficient with the Carisk Health portal, including the Electronic Invoice Application and Care Coordination Module.
- Proficient with Canva.
- Prior user of FSFN and FMMIS.

References

Available upon request



PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION
301 N Olive Avenue, WPB, FL 33401
www.discover.pbcgov.org

BOARDS/COMMITTEES APPLICATION

The information provided on this form will be used in considering your nomination.
(Answer "NONE" or "N/A" where appropriate.)

APPLICANT TO COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- SECTION II
- CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS
- CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING
- RESUME or BIOGRAPHY

SECTION I

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

☒ Advisory ☐ Not Advisory

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Advisory Board

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:

☒

AT-LARGE

DISTRICT #

REAPPOINTMENT

☒

NEW APPOINTMENT

TERM:

8/25/26

START DATE

N/A

END DATE

LENGTH OF TERM:

N/A

YEARS

SEAT #:

8

SEAT REQUIREMENT:

Palm Health Foundation

PBC Resident

COMPLETING AN UNEXPIRED TERM?

YES

☒

NO

IF YES: DUE TO:

RESIGNATION

OTHER

COMPLETING TERM FOR:

ORIGINAL TERM EXPIRES:

**When a person is being considered for reappointment, the number of previous disclosed voting conflicts during the previous term shall be considered by the Board of County Commissioners:*

SECTION II

(to be completed by applicant)

***MUST BE A PALM BEACH COUNTY RESIDENT**

NAME: (First/Middle Initial/Last)

Heather Leigh DeStefano

ADDRESS: 4293 Lilac Street

CITY: Palm Beach Gardens

STATE: FL

ZIP: 33410

PHONE #: 561-371-7379

EMAIL: hdestefano@phfpbc.org

BUSINESS/EMPLOYER NAME:

Palm Health Foundation

OCCUPATION:

Social Work

ADDRESS: 700 South Dixie Highway, Suite 103

CITY: West Palm Beach

STATE: FL

ZIP: 33401

MAILING PREFERENCE:

RESIDENCE

☒

BUSINESS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY:

(conviction of a felony is not an automatic disqualifier from appointment)

YES

☒

NO

IF YES - STATE THE COURT, NATURE OF OFFENSE, DISPOSITION OF CASE AND DATE:

N/A

SECTION II - continued (to be completed by applicant)

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS: X NONE NOT APPLICABLE/(Governmental Entity)

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Contract/Transaction No.	Department/Division	Description of Service	Term
Example: (R#)XX-XX/PO XX	Parks & Rec	General Maintenance	10/01/00 - 09/30/2100
None			

SERVING ON OTHER ADVISORY BOARDS / COMMITTEES:

Are you currently serving on any other Advisory Boards or Committees within Palm Beach County? X YES NO

If YES, please list: Criminal Justice Commission Full Committee

CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING: Yes COMPLETED DATE: 6/25/26

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(NOTE: Signature must be an actual signature or an electronic signature. A "typed" signature (name) will not be accepted)

SIGNATURE: [Signature] PRINTED NAME: Heather DeStefano, DSW, LCSW DATE: 3/31/2026

SECTION III - COMMISSIONER (OFFICE USE ONLY) DISTRICT #

COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE: DATE:

SECTION IV - (OFFICE USE ONLY)

APPOINTMENT MADE: YES NO

BCC MEETING: DATE

Pursuant to Florida's Public Records Law, this document may be reviewed and photocopied by members of the public.

Heather L. DeStefano

561.371.7379
HDeStefano@phfpbc.org

Education

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL
Doctor of Social Work in Advanced Clinical Practice; degree conferred August 2019
Capstone Title: Qualitative Study of Case Mangers’ Experiences and Perspectives Regarding the Use of Housing First with Older Adults
Dissertation Committee: Manny Gonzalez, Ph.D. (Chair, Social Work); Heather Thompson, Ph.D. (Social Work); and Eugenia Millender, Ph.D. (Nursing)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Master of Social Work with Clinical Concentration; degree conferred May 2009

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
Bachelor of Social Work Degree with departmental honors; minor in Women’s Studies
Magna Cum Laude; degree conferred May 2007

Licensure/Certifications

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Qualified Supervisor, State of Florida, License Number: SW 11201
Certificate in Effective Online Teaching Practices, ACUE and American Council on Education, December 2022

Professional Experience

Palm Health Foundation—West Palm Beach, FL October 2023—Current

- Lead strategy, design, and stewardship of the foundation’s grantmaking portfolio, aligning funding with strategic priorities and community-identified priorities
- Guide relational grantmaking processes that center dialogue, shared learning, and long-term partnership rather than transactional funding cycles
- Oversee administration of grant and scholarship funds, ensuring thoughtful due diligence, clear agreements, and responsible resource stewardship
- Collaborate with trustees, committees, and internal leadership to translate community insight into funding decisions and emerging initiatives
- Cultivate and strengthen cross-sector partnerships that advance workforce development, behavioral health, and community well-being
- Represent the foundation in regional coalitions and partner convenings, building trusted relationships across nonprofit, healthcare, education, and public sectors
- Provide strategic guidance and capacity support to community partners to strengthen sustainability and organizational effectiveness

Community Partners of South Florida—Riviera Beach, FL December 2019—September 2023
Director of Clinical Services May 2021—September 2023

- Provided administrative and clinical oversight of intake and outpatient therapy department comprised of 5 supervisors, approximately 30 therapists, interns, support staff, and social work interns
- Prepared and reviewed outcome data, grant reporting, expenditures, and program spending in relation to budget
- Identified and developed partnerships with community stakeholders to advance department and agency objectives

- Intake Director** December 2019—May 2021
- Provided administrative and clinical oversight of intake department
 - Oversaw the clinical appropriateness of recommended behavioral health services for clients referred to the agency
 - Identify and develop partnerships with community stakeholders and members to advance program and agency objectives
- Mental Health of America of the Palm Beaches—West Palm Beach, FL** January 2021—October 2021
Contracted Curriculum Developer
- Designed and developed a 40-hour Certified Recovery Peer Specialist training in alignment with Florida Certification Board requirements
- The Lord's Place, Inc.—West Palm Beach, FL** May 2015 – December 2019
Clinical Director of Homeless Outreach and Engagement August 2018 – December 2019
- Provided administrative and clinical oversight to community engagement programs, services, and staff
 - Developed curriculum, provided training, and facilitated individual and group supervision to peer specialists to increase effective service provision and reflective practice
 - Oversaw street outreach, PATH, and SOAR programs to ensure optimal outcomes for clients to gain access to disability income, access mental health services, and obtain housing
 - Served as chair for the Continuum of Care's Homeless Outreach subcommittee to increase community responsiveness and coordination of services among homeless service providers
 - Identified and developed partnerships with community stakeholders and members to advance program and agency objectives
 - Oversaw and provided supervision to registered clinical social work interns and university social work interns
- Director of Clinical Services** May 2015 — July 2018
- Coordinated an integrated health interdisciplinary team that provided healthcare to more than 100 highly vulnerable patients with physical, mental, and substance abuse needs
 - Provided agency-wide clinical supervision to programs
 - Identified and utilized appropriate evidence-based practices with clinically complex clients
 - Oversaw Housing First programs
 - Developed and implemented clinical training for program staff
 - Established collaborative relationships with local and state agencies to improve services
 - Provided supervision to registered clinical social work interns and MSW/BSW students
- Community Partners—Riviera Beach, FL** November 2010 – May 2015
Assistant Director/Senior Therapist, Village for Change February 2014 – May 2015
- Directed evidence-informed clinical services for adults with co-occurring conditions; oversaw assessment, treatment, and program quality
 - Supervised staff and interns while maintaining alignment with funding and regulatory standards
 - Partnered with community stakeholders to improve coordination and client outcomes
- Primary Therapist, Partners for Change** January 2013 – February 2014
- Provided group, individual, and family therapy for clients with a dual diagnosis in an inpatient substance abuse treatment center with the focus on supporting participants in the development of skills needed to successfully transition and maintain independent living in the community
- CARE Team Therapist** July 2011 – January 2013
- Provided on-going psychotherapy and assessment for clients with chronic psychological and social stressors, trauma, and co-occurring disorders
- Outpatient Therapist** November 2010—July 2011
- Provided individual, family, and dyadic therapy in home, office, school, and community settings
-

Community Behavioral Health—Philadelphia, PA
Clinical Care Manager

June 2009 – June 2010

- Conducted and documented utilization reviews with service providers to determine appropriate levels of behavioral healthcare and plan anticipated length-of-stay per Medicaid standards

Teaching Experience

Florida Atlantic University—Boca Raton, FL

August 2019—Current

Adjunct Instructor

- Teach undergraduate, MSW, and doctoral-level courses in social work practice, policy, and advanced clinical education
- Courses include: Generalist Practice in Agency and Community Settings (BSW/MSW), Human Behavior in the Social Environment (MSW), Social Welfare History and Policy (MSW), and Advanced Clinical Practicum (DSW)
- Deliver in-person and synchronous formats
- Mentor students in developing community-based social change projects that connect course objectives to real-world systems and local challenges

Palm Beach State College—Lake Worth, FL

August 2019—Current

Adjunct Instructor

- Teach associate- and bachelor-level Human Services courses in in-person and asynchronous formats
- Courses include: Human Services 101, Ethics in Human Services, Crisis Intervention, Research in Human Services, Capstone, and Internship
- Designed and developed asynchronous Crisis Intervention course for the Bachelor of Science program

Selected Publications and Presentations

DeStefano, H. L. & Gottfried, S. M. (2025, June 12). *Voice of the health professional* [Poster presentation]. National Association of Social Workers - Florida Chapter Conference, Orlando, FL.

Millender, E., Valentine, K., Eggenberger, T., Lucier, C., Sandala, H., & Bruneau, D. (2020). *Implementing interprofessional collaboration to improve patient outcomes: A caring and social approach to integrated nurse-led community-based care*. International Journal for Human Caring, 24(1), 39–49. <https://doi.org/10.20467/1091-5710.24.1.39>

Gibson, D., & DeStefano, H. L. (2016). *Integrating healthcare and harm reduction within a Housing First program* [Conference presentation]. Housing First Partners Conference, Los Angeles, CA.

Specialized Trainings and Certificates

Ai Across Curriculum, Palm Beach State College and University of Florida, completed April 2024

Organizational Leadership in Social Work, University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice and Wharton School, partial completion

Integrative Harm Reduction Psychotherapy, sponsored by Center for Optimal Living, New York, NY, completed November 2017

SPDAT—Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool Trainer, sponsored by OrgCode, completed August 2016

CDOI—Client Directed Outcome Informed Train the Trainer Conference, sponsored by Dr. Barry Duncan, completed January 2012

Awards and Honors

Alumni of the Year, 15th Annual Phyllis Sandler Heart of Social Work, Florida Atlantic University

2022 Hats Off Nonprofit Awards, Nominee—Nonprofit Professional of the Year

Endowed Scholarship Recipient, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice

Toby Brown Award, sponsored by National Association of Social Workers—North Carolina, awarded as the top undergraduate social work student of the year in North Carolina
Social Work Departmental Honors, Research in area of grandchildren of Holocaust survivors
NC-ACTS! Ameri-Corps, Scholarship Recipient

Professional Service

Program Committee, Mental Health America of the Palm Beaches, 2025 – Current
Professional Advisory Board Member, Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work, 2019 – Current
Scholarship Review Committee Member, Palm Health Foundation, 2022 – Current

Palm Beach County, Florida Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occuring Disorder (BHSUCOD) Membership Contact Information and Attendance Roster							
Ex-Officio	Seat #	Description	Organization	Term Expires	Term 1	Optional Term 2	Optional Term 3
Angela Burns	1	Designated Seat for League of Cities	Palm Beach County League of Cities	N/A			
Al Johnson	2	Designated Seat for State Attorney Office	15th State Attorney's Office	N/A			
Jon VanArnam	3	Designated Seat for Health Care District	Health Care District				
Natalie Kenton	4	Designated Seat for Florida Department of Health	Florida Department of Health	N/A			
Sandra Sisson	5	Designated Seat for Sheriff's Office	Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office	N/A			
Joshua Mena	6	Designated Seat for Fire Rescue	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue	N/A			
Jill Sorenson	7	Designated Seat for Southeast Behavioral Health Network	Southeast Behavioral Health Network	N/A			
Heather DeStefano	8	Designated Seat for Palm Health Foundation	Palm Health Foundation	N/A			
Lissa Franklin - Vice Chair	9	Designated Seat for Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates- Lived Experience	Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates	N/A			
At Large	Seat #	Description	Organization	Term Expires	Term 1	Optional Term 2	Optional Term 3
Vacant	10	Person with Lived Experience with Behavioral		10/31/2027			
Ariana Ciancio	11	At-Large	Delray Beach Police Department	10/31/2027			
Suzanne Spencer	12	At-Large	Living Skills in Schools	10/31/2026			
William Freeman	13	Person with Lived Experience with Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder	People of Purpose	9/16/2027			
Vacant	14	At-Large		10/31/2027			
Brent Schillinger, MD	15	At-Large	Palm Beach Medical Society	11/1/2025	10/31/2028		
Catherine Doe	16	At-Large	Compass	11/1/2025	10/31/2028		
Rae Whitely - Chair	17	At-Large	Faith in Florida	9/16/2027			
Austin Wright	18	Person with Lived Experience with Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder	Rebel Recovery	11/1/2025	10/31/2028		

RESOLUTION NO. R-2022-1340

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, CREATING THE PALM BEACH COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE AND CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS; PROVIDING FOR A PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENTS, TERMS; PROVIDING FOR OFFICERS; PROVIDING FOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING FOR SUNSHINE LAW, CODE OF ETHICS; PROVIDING FOR MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR SUBCOMMITTEES; PROVIDING FOR GENERAL PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE, SUNSET.

WHEREAS, behavioral health and substance use disorder are major health problems facing the citizens of Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted an Opioid Epidemic Response Plan (the Response Plan) in April of 2017 that identified strategic areas of focus as well as related action steps including appointing a County Drug Czar, designating a lead entity, and establishing an opioid response steering committee to advise and help guide the County's efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Response Plan was intended to satisfy the State's Opioid Settlement Clearing Trust Fund requirement for an opioid response abatement plan pursuant to section 17.42 (4)(c), Florida Statutes (2022); and

WHEREAS, the BCC has identified the substance use epidemic including but not limited to opioids, crack cocaine and crystal methamphetamine as well as behavioral and substance use disorder as high strategic priorities; and

WHEREAS, a Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Steering Committee was established in 2019 consistent with the Opioid Response Plan, which was intended, in part, to satisfy the State's Opioid Settlement Clearing Trust Fund requirement for a Task Force to respond to the opioid epidemic pursuant to section 17.42 (4)(b), Florida Statutes (2022); and

WHEREAS, the BCC has expressed approval of a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care focused on quality of care and long-term recovery outcome improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1: Purpose. There is hereby established the Palm Beach County Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder (BHSUCOD) to enhance the County's capacity and effectiveness in formulating comprehensive, integrated, and effective behavioral health, substance use and co-

occurring disorders prevention, treatment, support, and recovery policies, as well as to offer recommendations regarding the County's provision of services to the citizens of Palm Beach County. The BHSUCOD will be supported by the Palm Beach County Community Services Department. The BHSUCOD will increase the coordination and interactions between organizations, agencies and institutions whose mission is to resolve Substance Use and Behavioral Disorders in Palm Beach County.

Section 2: Membership, Appointments, Terms.

- A. **Members:** The BHSUCOD shall be comprised of nine (9) at-large Members and eight (8) Ex officio Members. Members and Ex Officio Members will have equal voting rights on all matters to come before the BHSUCOD. The total membership of the Advisory Committee shall, at a minimum, represent the organizations, agencies, institutions, and municipalities whose mission is to resolve Substance Use and Behavioral Disorders. Members shall be selected for their knowledge, competence, and experience relative to behavioral health and substance use disorder. In addition, three (3) of the nine (9) Members shall have lived experience with behavioral health and/or substance use disorder. All Members and Ex Officio Members must reside in Palm Beach County at the time of appointment and while serving on the Board. Membership shall be representative of the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Palm Beach County.
- B. **Inaugural Membership.** The nine (9) individuals who serve as Members of the Opioid Response Plan Steering Committee at the time this Resolution is approved by the BCC, and the three (3) individuals who serve as Ex Officio Members of that Steering Committee, shall comprise the inaugural membership of the BHSUCOD, provided each individual resides in Palm Beach County. Ex Officio Members required by Paragraph C below, who do not serve as Ex Officio Members of the Steering Committee at the time this Resolution is approved, will be added to the inaugural membership of the BHSUCOD immediately on recommendation of the organization they represent.
- C. **Ex Officio Members:** the Ex Officio Members of the BHSUCOD shall be:
 - 1. One (1) member of the Palm Beach County League of Cities who represents a municipality involved in opioid litigation;
 - 2. One (1) member representing the State Attorney, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit;
 - 3. One (1) member representing the Health Care District of Palm Beach County;
 - 4. One (1) member representing the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County;
 - 5. One (1) member representing the Palm Beach County Sheriff;
 - 6. One (1) member representing Palm Beach County Fire Rescue;
 - 7. One (1) member representing Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network; and
 - 8. One (1) member representing Palm Health Foundation.

Ex Officio Members shall be recommended for membership by the organization they represent, and membership shall occur simultaneously with that recommendation.

D. Appointments and Terms: At the inaugural meeting of the BHSUCOD, there will be a random selection designating three (3) Members to serve a one (1)-year initial term, three (3) Members to serve a two (2)-year initial term, and three (3) Members to serve a three (3)-year initial term. Following a Member's inaugural membership, Members shall be appointed at large by the BCC, and serve staggered terms of three (3) years, with a limit of three (3) consecutive three (3)-year terms. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term, and shall not count toward the member's term limits. Ex Officio Members are not term limited. All Members shall serve at the pleasure of the BCC.

E. Attendance: Members shall be automatically removed for lack of attendance. Lack of attendance is defined as failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings or failure to attend more than one-half of the meetings scheduled during a calendar year. Participation for less than three-fourths of a meeting shall be the same as a failure to attend a meeting. Members removed pursuant to this paragraph shall not continue to serve on the Advisory Committee and such removal shall create a vacancy. Attendance requirement does not apply to Ex Officio Members.

Section 3: Officers. A chair and vice-chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the BHSUCOD and shall serve for a term of one year, but not to exceed two consecutive terms in any one office. The duties of the chair shall be to:

- A. Call Advisory Committee meetings and organize the agenda for the meetings;
- B. Preside at Advisory Committee meetings;
- C. Establish subcommittees, appoint subcommittee chairs, and charge subcommittees with specific tasks;
- D. Serve as primary liaison with staff; and
- E. Perform other functions as the Advisory Committee may suggest.

The vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair in the chair's absence, and such other duties as the chair may assign.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of the chair, then the position shall be assumed by the vice-chair for the remainder of the term. Any remaining officer vacancies shall be filled through a majority vote of the Advisory Committee.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities. The BHUSCOD shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- A. Collect information related to substance abuse disorders in the County and provide that information to the BCC, along with recommendations on responding to the opioid epidemic, as provided in section 17.42, Florida Statutes (2022).
- B. Submit to the BCC by October 1 of each year the BHSUCOD Annual Report or Response Plan Update, which shall evaluate mechanisms for behavioral health and substance use disorder services and recommend any changes that may improve the quality, long-term recovery outcomes, and coordination of these services.
- C. If requested by the BCC, provide recommendations on positions the BCC may take on local, state and federal legislation.

Section 5: Sunshine Law, Codes of Ethics

The BHSUCOD is subject to Florida's Sunshine Law. Reasonable public notice of all meetings, including subcommittee meetings, shall be provided, as required by the Sunshine Law, and all meetings shall be open to the public and minutes shall be taken. Records are subject to public disclosure.

Members of the BHSUCOD shall comply with the State's Code of Ethics found in Chapter 112, Part III of the Florida Statutes, as well as Palm Beach County's Code of Ethics codified in Sections 2-254 through 2-260 of the Palm Beach County Code.

SECTION 6: Meetings

The BHSUCOD shall meet monthly, or as needed, as determined by a majority of the membership.. A quorum, as established by ordinance, must be present for the conduct of all meetings. Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

SECTION 7. : Subcommittees

The BHSUCOD shall be as self-sufficient as possible in that there is no budget for its function. To this end, to carry out its duties, the creation of subcommittees is encouraged.

Section 8. General Provisions All members shall comply with the Uniform Policies and Procedures governing advisory bodies as set forth in Resolution No. 2013-0193, and any amendments thereto. Members will be provided a copy of the resolution and are expected to become familiar with the various requirements, including the provision for automatic removal for lack of attendance, conduct of meetings, and compliance with state and local laws pertaining to financial disclosure and other requirements.

The BHSUCOD is not established to duplicate efforts that County programs and departments were established to address.

No member shall represent the BHSUCOD before any governmental body or public or private entity or group unless approved to do so by a majority vote of the BHSUCOD.

SECTION 9: Effective Date, Sunset Provision

This Resolution shall become effective upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners, Palm Beach County, Florida. The BHSUCOD will sunset five years from the effective date unless the Board extends its service through official action.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner McKinlay, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sachs, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

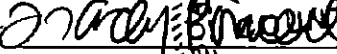
Robert S. Weinroth, Mayor	-	<u>Aye</u>
Gregg K. Weiss, Vice Mayor	-	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Maria G. Marino	-	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner David Kerner	-	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Maria Sachs	-	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	-	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Mack Bernard	-	<u>Aye</u>

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 1st day of November, 2022.

ATTEST:

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

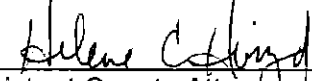
Joseph Abruzzo

By: 

Clerk of Court & Comptroller

Deputy Clerk

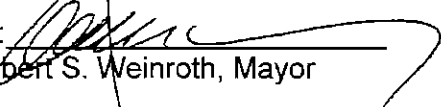
APPROVED AS TO FORM &
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By: 

Assistant County Attorney

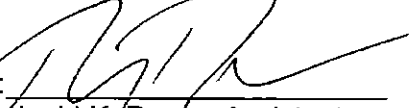
PALM BEACH COUNTY, Florida

By its Board of County Commissioners

By: 

Robert S. Weinroth, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

By: 

Reginald K. Duren, Assistant
County Administrator

From P. 25 of the BCC Minutes, November 1, 2022, AMENDED MOTION

MOTION to adopt the resolution with the addition of a ninth Ex Officio member from the Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates (SEFRA). Motion by Commissioner McKinlay, seconded by Commissioner Sachs.

Discussion

UPON CALL FOR A VOTE, the motion carried 6-0.

Aye: Mayor Weinroth, Vice Mayor Weiss, Commissioner Bernard,
Commissioner Marino, Commissioner McKinlay, and Commissioner Sachs

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Kerner