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Agenda Item #: 3E-2

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: November 17, 2026 [X] Consent [ ] Regular
[ ] Ordinance [ ] Public Hearing

Department
Submitted By: **Community Services**
Submitted For: **Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders**

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: a First Amendment (Amendment) to Agreement with Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (SEFBHN) (R2025-1460), for the period of September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, to increase the Agreement amount by $1,675,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed $7,523,395, to update certain Articles in the Agreement and to expand the provision of recovery support deep-end treatment services and access to recovery support deep-end treatment service options beyond the SEFBHN Provider Network.

Summary: SEFBHN administers a neutral care coordination service through the Coordinated Network for Navigating Care and Treatment (CONNeCT) program to enhance long-term recovery outcomes and the quality of care for Palm Beach County (County) residents with substance use, behavioral health and/or co-occurring disorders. The CONNeCT program functions as a centralized point of contact by providing neutral assessments to determine individuals' needs and appropriate levels of care, referrals to services with follow-along care coordination, prior authorization of payment for certain services, and ongoing monitoring of care across both clinical and non-clinical environments. This Amendment is necessary to expand the provision of recovery support deep-end treatment services and access to recovery support deep-end treatment service options beyond the SEFBHN Provider Network. Countywide (RS)

Background and Justification: In 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) designated the Community Services Department (CSD) as the lead entity for planning, administration, coordination, and contracting of Behavioral Health Substance Use Disorders (BHSUD) services in the County.

To further enhance the County's capacity and effectiveness in developing a comprehensive, integrated, and effective system of prevention, treatment, support, and recovery plan for individuals with Behavioral Health, Substance Use, and Co-occurring Disorders (BHSUCOD), the BCC established the BHSUCOD Advisory Committee on November 1, 2022.

On November 15, 2022, the BCC approved the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Master Plan 2022 (Plan 2022) (Agenda Item No: 5F-1). Both the BHSUCOD Advisory Committee and the Plan 2022 were developed to fulfill the requirements of the State of Florida's Opioid Settlement Trust Fund, pursuant to Section 17.42 (4)(c), Florida Statutes (2022).

In 2023, the CSD, in collaboration with the BHSUCOD Advisory Committee, community members, and key stakeholders, underwent a process to update the Plan 2022. The BHSUD Plan 2024 includes strategic recommendations related to BHSUD and OSF. One key strategic recommendation within the Master Plan was to create a neutral care coordination entity aimed at enhancing the quality of services and recovery supports for individuals who engage with the behavioral health system of care.

Attachments:
1. First Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement with SEFBHN
2. BHSUD Plan 2024

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Recommended By: Signed by: James Green F04DB50B8CEE498... 10/21/2026
Department Director **Date**

Approved By: Liz DeLa Rosa Wirth 10/27/2026
Deputy County Administrator **Date**

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II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	744,118	558,088			
External Revenue	(744,118)	(558,088)			
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT					
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)					

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes X No ___
Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes ___ No X
Does this item include the use of state funds? Yes X No ___

Budget Account No.:
Fund 1490 Dept 146 Unit 7624 Object 8201 Program Code____ Program Period _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:
Funding Source is Opioid Settlement Funds (County). $372,794 Fiscal Impact in 2026.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: DocuSigned by: Thomas Eaton B9475D9E749E4E9
Thomas Eaton, Director of Finance & Support Services

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

10/23/26
OFMB
ESW 10.23.26

10/23/26
Contract Development and Control
ZG 10.23.26

B. Legal Sufficiency:

10/24/2026
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

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FIRST AMENDMENT

FIRST AMENDMENT TO SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT TO SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT dated October 21, 2025, is made on this 17 day of November, 2026, by and between Palm Beach County, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida, by and through its Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the COUNTY, and **Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.,** hereinafter referred to as the AGENCY, a not-for-profit corporation authorized to do business in the State of Florida, whose Federal Tax I.D. is **27-1871869**.

In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the COUNTY and the AGENCY agree as follows:

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2025, the above-named parties entered into a Subrecipient Agreement (R2025-1460) for the provision of Coordinated Network for Navigating Care & Treatment (CONNeCT) services in Palm Beach County (County) (the Agreement). The Agreement was for an amount not to exceed $5,848,395 to provide certain services under the Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorders service category; and

WHEREAS, the need exists to amend the Agreement to update the Articles and **EXHIBIT - A SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES** and **EXHIBIT B - UNITS OF SERVICE RATE AND DEFINITION** listed below.

NOW THEREFORE, the COUNTY and the AGENCY mutually agree that the Agreement entered into on October 21, 2025, is hereby amended as follows:

I. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference and made a part of the parties' Agreement.

II. The first paragraph in **ARTICLE 2 OPIOD SETTLEMENT FUND FUNDED SERVICES** is amended to read as follows:

The AGENCY agrees to provide Coordinated Network for Navigating Care & Treatment (CONNeCT) services to residents with substance use disorders of the COUNTY as set forth in **EXHIBIT A-1 - SCOPE OF WORK, EXHIBIT B – 1 - UNIT OF SERVICE RATE AND DEFINITION**, and **EXHIBIT G - ROMA LOGIC MODEL.** The AGENCY also agrees to provide deliverables, including reports, as specified in **EXHIBIT H - AGENCY'S PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS**, and shall comply with the terms and reporting requirements in **EXHIBIT J - FLORIDA ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**. No changes in the scope of work or services are to be conducted without the written approval of Palm Beach County Community Services Department (the DEPARTMENT). The AGENCY receiving funds must be an agency within Palm Beach County and the AGENCY'S services, with these contracted funds, are limited to meeting the needs of Palm Beach County

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residents.

III. The first paragraph of **ARTICLE 4 SCHEDULE** is amended to read as follows:

The AGENCY shall commence services on September 1, 2025, and complete services on June 30, 2028.

IV. The first three paragraphs in **ARTICLE 5 PAYMENTS TO THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FUNDED AGENCY** are amended to read as follows:

The COUNTY shall pay to the AGENCY for services rendered under this Agreement not exceed a total amount of **SEVEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS ($7,523,395.00)** for the term of this Agreement.

The AGENCY will bill the COUNTY on a quarterly basis, or as otherwise provided, at the amounts set forth in **EXHIBIT B-1** for services rendered toward the completion of the Scope of Work. Where incremental billings for partially completed items are permitted, the total billings shall not exceed the estimated percentage of completion as of the billing date.

The program and unit cost definitions for this Agreement year are set forth in **EXHIBIT B-1**. In accordance with **EXHIBIT J**, where itemized reimbursement for authorized travel expenses is permitted in this Agreement, AGENCY shall submit bills for any travel expenses in accordance with section 112.061 F.S. All requests for payments of this Agreement shall include an original cover memo on AGENCY letterhead signed by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, or their designee.

V. The fifth paragraph in **ARTICLE 5 PAYMENTS TO THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS FUNDED AGENCY** is amended to read as follows:

Payment of invoices shall be contingent on timely receipt of all required reports. Invoices received from the AGENCY pursuant to this Agreement will be submitted through the Services and Activities Management Information System (SAMIS) website, reviewed and approved by the COUNTY'S representative, to verify that services have been rendered in conformity with the Agreement. Approved invoices will then be sent to the Finance Department for payment. Invoices will normally be paid within forty-five (45) days following the COUNTY representative's approval. Any payment due by COUNTY under the terms of this Agreement shall be withheld until all reports due from the AGENCY and necessary adjustments have been approved by the COUNTY. In the event that the AGENCY has drawn down all possible funds prior to the end of the contract period and does not comply with all reporting requirements, the COUNTY will take this into consideration during the next funding year.

VI. The second paragraph of **ARTICLE 15 NONDISCRIMINATION** is amended to read as follows:

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As a condition of entering into this Agreement, the AGENCY represents and warrants that it will comply with the COUNTY'S Commercial Nondiscrimination Policy as described in Resolution R2025-0748, as amended. As part of such compliance, the AGENCY shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or genetic information in the solicitation, selection, hiring or commercial treatment of subcontractors, vendors, suppliers, or commercial customers, nor shall the AGENCY retaliate against any person for reporting instances of such discrimination. The AGENCY shall provide equal opportunity for subcontractors, vendors and suppliers to participate in all of its public sector and private sector subcontracting and supply opportunities, provided that nothing contained in this clause shall prohibit or limit otherwise lawful efforts to remedy the effects of discrimination.

VII. **ARTICLE 19 ACCESS AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS** is amended to read as follows:

The AGENCY shall maintain adequate records to justify all charges, expenses, and costs incurred in estimating and performing the work for at least five (5) years after completion or termination of this Agreement. The COUNTY shall have access to such books, records, and documents at the AGENCY'S place of business during normal business hours, as required in this Article for the purpose of inspection or audit.

AGENCY shall establish policies and procedures and provide a statement confirming that the accounting system or systems established by the AGENCY has appropriate internal controls, checking the accuracy and reliability of accounting data, and promoting operating efficiency.

AGENCY will provide a final close-out report and **EXHIBIT C - FINANCIAL RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**, accounting for all funds expended hereunder, no later than 30 days from the Agreement end date.

Palm Beach County has established the Office of the Inspector General in Palm Beach County Code 2-421 through 2-440, as may be amended, that is authorized and empowered to review past, present and proposed COUNTY contracts, transactions, accounts and records. The Inspector General has the power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, require the production of records, and audit, investigate, monitor, and inspect the activities of the AGENCY, its officers, agents, employees, and lobbyists in order to ensure compliance with Agreement requirements and detect corruption and fraud.

Failure to cooperate with the Inspector General or interference or impeding any investigation shall be in violation of Palm Beach County Code 2-421 through 2-440, and punished pursuant to section 125.69, Florida Statutes, in the same manner as a second degree misdemeanor.

The AGENCY shall have all audits completed by an Independent Certified Public Accountant (IPA), who shall either be a Certified Public Accountant or a Public Accountant licensed under Chapter 473, Florida Statutes. The IPA shall state that the audit complied with the applicable accounting principles.

A. The annual financial audit report shall include all management letters and the

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AGENCY'S response to all findings, including corrective actions to be taken.

B. The annual financial audit report shall include a schedule of financial assistance specifically identifying all contracts, agreements and grant revenue by sponsoring agency and contract/agreement grant number if required by the Single Audit Act.

C. Two bound originals (electronic or hard copy) of the audit is due within 30 days after receipt of the financial audit report by the Independent Certified Public Accountant or a Public Accountant licensed under Chapter 473, Florida Statutes, or nine (9) months after the close of the fiscal year. The complete financial audit report, including all items specified herein, shall be sent directly to:

Community Services Department Attn: FAA Program Monitor
Palm Beach County 810 Datura Street
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Electronic submission via email is acceptable. Please submit audit reports to the Fiscal Manager and Financial Analyst at teaton@pbcgov.org.

VIII. **Section B** of **ARTICLE 34 SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES** is amended to read as follows:

When contract value is greater than $1 million: As provided in section 287.135, Florida Statutes, by entering into this Agreement or performing any work in furtherance hereof, the AGENCY certifies that it, its affiliates, suppliers, and subagencies who will perform hereunder, have not been placed on the Scrutinized Companies With Activities in Sudan List or Scrutinized Companies With Activities in The Iran Terrorism Sectors List created pursuant to section 215.473, Florida Statutes or is engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria. Pursuant to section 287.135(3)(a), Florida Statutes, as may be amended, if AGENCY is found to have been placed on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, or been engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria, or has been placed on a list created pursuant to section 215.473, Florida Statutes, relating to scrutinized active business operations in Iran, this Agreement may be terminated at the option of the COUNTY.

IX. The last paragraph of **ARTICLE 35 PUBLIC RECORDS** is amended to read as follows:

IF THE AGENCY HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE AGENCY'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT RECORDS REQUEST, PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, 301 N. OLIVE AVENUE, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401, BY E-MAIL AT RECORDSREQUEST@PBCGOV.ORG OR BY TELEPHONE AT 561- 355-6680.

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X. **ARTICLE 51 DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN** is amended to read as follows:

Pursuant to section 286.101, Florida Statutes, as may be amended, by entering into this Agreement or performing any work in furtherance thereof, the AGENCY certifies that it has disclosed any current or prior interest of, any contract with, or any grant or gift received from a foreign country of concern where such interest, contract, or grant or gift has a value of $50,000 or more and such interest existed at any time or such contract or grant or gift was received or in force at any time during the previous five (5) years.

XI. New **ARTICLE 53 DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE** is added to the Agreement to read as follows:

AGENCY acknowledges that the COUNTY is a public entity subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable federal accessibility regulations. AGENCY represents and warrants that all websites, web-based applications, digital services, electronic documents, multimedia, and other electronic content created, developed, provided, submitted, maintained, or delivered under this Agreement that may be electronically displayed, accessed, distributed, or made available to the public by the COUNTY shall conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA, or any successor standard adopted by the U.S. Department of Justice.

All electronic documents submitted to the COUNTY, including but not limited to PDFs, reports, forms, presentations, and public-facing materials, shall be provided in an accessible format compliant with the applicable accessibility standard at the time of delivery. AGENCY shall ensure that any updates, revisions, or modifications to such digital content remain compliant throughout the term of this Agreement. Upon request, AGENCY shall provide documentation reasonably demonstrating accessibility compliance. If any deliverable is determined by the COUNTY to be noncompliant, AGENCY shall promptly remediate the noncompliance at no additional cost to the COUNTY and within a timeframe specified by the COUNTY. AGENCY shall ensure that any third-party digital content or platforms used in performance of this Agreement either comply with the requirements herein or that an accessible alternative acceptable to the COUNTY is provided.

The Parties further acknowledge that the compliance date associated with the applicable regulations has been extended from April 24, 2026, to April 26, 2027. Accordingly, unless otherwise required by applicable law, neither Party shall be obligated to comply with such regulations prior to April 26, 2027. In the event the compliance date is further extended, modified, suspended, or otherwise altered by any governmental or regulatory authority, the Parties agree that their respective obligations under this Agreement shall automatically conform to such revised compliance date or requirement, without the necessity of further amendment to this Agreement.

Failure to comply with this subsection shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement.

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XII. New **ARTICLE 54 – PROHIBITION AGAINST USING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION MATERIAL – F.S. 287.139** is added to the Agreement to read as follows:

AGENCY hereby certifies to the County that AGENCY does not and will not use County funds in requiring its employees, contractors, volunteers, vendors, or agents to ascribe to, study, or be instructed using materials relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion as defined in section 125.595, Florida Statutes, as amended.

XIII. New The numbering of **ARTICLE 53 COUNTERPARTS** is updated to reflect **ARTICLE 55 COUNTERPARTS**.

XIV. The numbering of **ARTICLE 54 ENTIRETY OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT** is updated to reflect **ARTICLE 56 ENTIRETY OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT.**

XV. A new **EXHIBIT A-1 – SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, shall replace **EXHIBIT A – SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES**, in its entirety.

XVI. A new **EXHIBIT B-1 – UNITS OF SERVICE RATE AND DEFINITION**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, shall replace **EXHIBIT B – UNITS OF SERVICE AND DEFINITION**, in its entirety.

XVII. All other provisions of the Agreement not modified in this First Amendment remain in full force and effect.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida has made and executed this First Amendment on behalf of the COUNTY and AGENCY has hereunto set his/her hand the day and year above written.

ATTEST:
Yvette Drucker
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller

BY_____
Clerk

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA,
A Political Subdivision of the State of Florida
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY_____
Mayor, Palm Beach County

AGENCY:

Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc.

BY: DocuSigned by:
A0D74861170E450
Authorized Signature

Ann Berner
AGENCY'S Signatory Name Typed

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Initial
RS
Assistant County Attorney

APPROVED AS TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Signed by:
James Green
F84BD58B0CEE433...
James Green, Director
Community Services Department

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EXHIBIT A-1

2026 – 2028 SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
SCOPE OF WORK AND SERVICES

Agency Name: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN)
Project Name: Coordinated Network for Navigating Care & Treatment (CONNeCT)
Location: Palm Beach County
Project Service: Neutral Care Coordination Services

Scope of Work

A. Program Description:

The "Coordinated Network for Navigating Care and Treatment (CONNeCT)" program aims to operationalize neutral care coordination, improve long-term outcomes and quality of care by operating a comprehensive neutral care coordination program. This program will play a pivotal role by improving the identification of substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders, maximizing coordination of care and connecting individuals to needed services and resources across health and social domains. CONNeCT will ensure that individuals are linked to the appropriate levels of care through assessments that are conducted by licensed clinicians by a neutral entity, seamless care coordination and pre-authorization of certain care in a manner that is cost-effective.

CONNeCT is critical to achieve the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioner's (BCC) and the Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders Advisory Committee's aim of operationalizing a true person-centered, resiliency and recovery-oriented ecosystem of care that engages individuals through care coordination and fosters individualized care that will instill hope and create readily available and easy access to person-centered, resiliency-oriented care. Through properly vetted subcontracted nonprofits approved by the Community Services Department (COUNTY), Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (AGENCY), will ensure Palm Beach County operates a system that integrates and provides access to critical services, including connecting individuals to resources that will ensure basic needs are met by including assessments of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) needs and linking individuals to clinical and non-clinical supports and services to reduce individuals' risk and support long term recovery.

The CONNeCT program will utilize an enhanced Neutral Care Coordination Module that will be designed and developed to support on-going participant engagement that will enable services to be coordinated across the continuum of care for substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders integrated with other social, non-clinical and recovery support services.

The primary goals of Neutral Care Coordination (NCC) are to:

- Ensure uniform and neutral assessments of substance use, mental health and co-occurring disorders to ensure appropriate levels of care are determined prior to referring

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to care;

- Maintain and utilize a comprehensive continuum of addiction and/or mental health treatment services integrated with other social, non-clinical and recovery support services;
- Ensure care is coordinated across providers to decrease fragmentation of services and duplication of services;
- Provide the structure, process, and linkages necessary to streamline continuity, communication, and tracking of participants across providers and service settings;
- Ensure care coordination for chronic conditions, such as substance use and mental illnesses are in place and last throughout the illnesses.

Core Values of Neutral Care Coordination include, but are not limited to the following:

- Participant choice and identified individualized needs shall be the primary driver of service engagement;
- Clinical decisions shall be based on neutrally assessed need with the goal of obtaining best available care when needed;
- Care coordination shall assist the individual with a successful transition between assessments, initial service based on assessment results, and provide seamless movement along the Continuum of Care;
- Coordination services shall include warm hand-offs, facilitation of communication among all care providers involved with the participant;
- Aim to identify community providers that are accessible to the participant and most closely meet the individual's choice and needs; and
- Serves to eliminate barriers to achieve participant engagement and linkage to the appropriate level of care as quickly as possible.

B. Priority/Focus Population: Individuals with substance use, mental health conditions, and/or co-occurring disorders.

Individuals may be referred to the program at multiple intercept points, including but not limited to:

i. 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast or 988;
ii. Involvement in the criminal justice system, particularly individuals who are being released from Palm Beach County jails and individuals participating in specialty courts (i.e., Adult Drug Court, Family Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Mental Health Court);
iii. Involvement in the child welfare system when substance use, mental health, or co-occurring disorders are impacting the individual and/or family;
iv. Individuals with mental health needs, substance use, and/or co-occurring disorders who have challenges navigating the systems of care.

Marginalized communities will receive priority consideration within the following areas: Tri-city Glades, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth Beach, and Delray Beach. Substance use and mental health disorders are significant public health issues that impact people across all demographics. Marginalized groups, and individuals living in poverty,

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Uninsured and underinsured individuals, and people with disabilities, face disproportionately high rates of substance use and mental health disorders and have disproportionally lower rates of access to treatment or healthcare services, higher rates of incarceration and recidivism, and often face unique barriers in accepting care.

i. **Eligibility Criteria**: Clients (Individuals) must be residents of Palm Beach County.

ii. **Documentation of Eligibility:** All individuals shall be screened for eligibility, with documentation maintained in AGENCY's records for each individual.

C. **Individuals Served:** A minimum of 1,008 unduplicated individuals annually or 84 monthly. *

*# of minimum unduplicated clients will be subject to an increase when fully functioning at capacity.

D. Service Delivery

AGENCY shall develop, oversee, and maintain the CONNeCT project, establishing subcontracts, leveraging its existing provider network and resources, and forming new partnerships as needed to accomplish the project's goals. This includes but is not limited to the following work:

1. Essential Function I: Centralized Point-of-Entry to Behavioral Health/Substance Use Disorder (BH/SUD) Services

A. Goal: Leverage existing partnership and contract with 211 to connect individuals with care coordination services:
   i. AGENCY shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Business Associate Agreement (BAA), as needed, with 211/988 to:
      a. Provide training and technical assistance on risk and needs assessments, person-centered planning, referrals, and warm handoffs.
      b. Ensure that there is a script for 211/988 that will be required to be used when individuals call for help related to substance use, mental health, and/or co-occurring disorders.
      c. Ensure evaluation and care coordination services are readily accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week, and appropriate referrals are made for additional care coordination.
      d. Ensure referrals to care coordination are sent within a certain number of hours from the initial call.

In cases where a crisis is identified:

ii. AGENCY shall ensure that referrals for crisis intervention, including referrals to dispatch a Mobile Response Team (MRT) or emergency services by calling 911, are utilized when necessary. In the event there is an emergency that would warrant a call to 911 and one is not made, documentation in writing shall be provided to AGENCY.

iii. AGENCY shall ensure a care coordinator is assigned by no later than the next business

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day and that there is a follow-up with all individuals assisted by Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) and/or MRT units. .

iv. AGENCY shall ensure care coordination follow-up occurs within 72 hours following MIH and MRT crisis intervention.

B. Goal: Implement and oversee a care coordination system that is tailored to address the complex and overlapping needs of individuals with SUD and co-occurring mental health conditions. This includes integrating peer support, trauma-informed care, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and other non-clinical supports and services.

v. AGENCY shall establish an infrastructure with licensed personnel, certified peer recovery support specialists, utilization managers, and other key personnel based on the program capacity and needs.

vi. AGENCY shall expand care coordination and collaboration with community-based providers to increase access to services for all levels of care.

vii. AGENCY shall expand the behavioral health network to increase capacity and service diversity, particularly in underserved areas for high-risk populations such as those who are unhoused, justice-involved, or frequently in crisis.

viii. AGENCY shall ensure that there is an alternative process for further clinical services navigation if referral sources are not utilizing 211/988 and utilize the information to adjust protocols.

ix. AGENCY shall ensure that entities accepting referrals based on a level of care determination from the Neutral Care Coordination assessment are required to adhere to the level of care determination that was made.

x. AGENCY shall ensure that linkages and warm hand-offs to clinical and non-clinical service providers are person-centered and reflect individual choice.

xi. AGENCY shall ensure each individual is included in their plan at all times; this may include, but not be limited to, on the call or in-person conferencing with a provider to whom the individual is being transferred. Sufficient historical information about the individual must be shared with consent to prevent re-traumatization by having to repeat the same history to multiple providers. Documentation of the same shall be noted in the individual's record/file.

xii. AGENCY shall ensure that no provider who is conducting a neutral level of care assessment may self-refer, receive any funds for a referral to a provider, or request/require any additional funds for the service that such provider is already contracted with the AGENCY to provide.

xiii. AGENCY shall ensure that child welfare and criminal justice systems, as well as community providers, have access to CONNeCT as a point of entry for neutral assessments, care coordination, and linkages to clinical and non-clinical supports and services.

xiv. AGENCY shall develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Policy Manual within quarter 1 of contract execution that shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

a. An internal process and protocol for immediate availability for assessments, care

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coordination, and scheduling follow-ups for missed appointments;
b. Protocol that allows for appeals, reassessments, or second opinions;
c. Continuous Quality Management/ Improvement;
d. Care coordination protocols for long-term engagement, warm handoffs, and discharge.

2. Essential Function II. Clinical and Non-Clinical Services Navigation

Goal: Coordinate with service partners to ensure warm handoffs, transition support, and discharge planning for individuals in all levels of care.

i. AGENCY shall ensure that providers referred to through this project emphasize strategies that intentionally encourage and promote shared decision-making with each individual, thereby building autonomy and accountability. An agreement to this effect shall be provided to the COUNTY for each subcontracted entity.
ii. AGENCY shall ensure that each participant's level of access to healthcare coverage and private health care provider networks is assessed during the initial process of referral and coordination of clinical services.
iii. AGENCY shall ensure that prior to connection and referral to clinical care that each individual is assessed to determine willingness to engage in clinical services and navigation of the same. Documentation of readiness to engage shall be maintained in each participant record.
iv. AGENCY shall ensure a neutral non-profit entity conducts level of care assessments using ASAM criteria for substance use disorder and LOCUS for behavioral health. Clinicians shall use clinical judgment to determine how to assess a level of care for individuals with co-occurring disorders.
v. AGENCY shall ensure that any subcontracted entity is properly licensed and accredited for conducting the tasks for which they are subcontracting. This includes having personnel with sufficient experience and training for administering assessments based on assessment developer protocols, and that the person conducting assessments has appropriate qualifications, licensure and requisite professional educational endorsements (e.g., Addiction Medicine professional).
vi. AGENCY shall ensure that individuals referred for a level of care assessment are seen within a short time period following a referral. This ensures that the AGENCY does not lose the small window of opportunity for engaging an individual needing help. Documentation of (1) time referred, (2) assessment with results, and (3) referrals shall be maintained in each individual's record.
vii. AGENCY shall ensure participant choice through shared decision-making approaches, including multilingual capacity, are provided. Providers and assessors must be available for non-English speaking residents and have sufficient fluency to assess or provide services.
viii. AGENCY shall monitor care coordination and ensure that all clinical and non-clinical services are integrated with other support services, including Social Drivers of Health (SDoH) (housing, employment, transportation, and food) and that systems, such as the COUNTY's OSCARSS, are being leveraged.

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ix. Care coordination shall begin at the time of recommendation for services. Care coordination services shall include:
   a. Linkage and warm hand-off to service provider.
   b. Ensure service providers are assisting participants in navigating levels of care and integrating other social, non-clinical, and recovery support services.
   c. Use of the Care Coordination Module to communicate across providers and monitor progress.

3. Essential Function III SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Referrals
   i. AGENCY shall ensure that a level of care assessment, utilizing the ASAM criteria, is completed for all individuals referred to CONNeCT with SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders.
      a. If the level of care assessment results in the need for deep-end treatment (i.e. detox; inpatient; residential, including residential levels 1, 2, and 4, room and board levels 2 and 3), AGENCY shall refer to an appropriate level of care taking into consideration the individual's choice and cost.
   ii. AGENCY shall ensure the treatment provider chosen is licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF).
   iii. AGENCY shall ensure chosen treatment provider practices align with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Principles/Standards of Care.
   iv. AGENCY shall screen and enroll eligible individuals into a health insurance plan prior to utilizing funding.
   v. AGENCY shall use the individual's insurance or other payor sources prior to utilizing any funding. If the individual is unwilling to accept the AGENCY network options that have been presented, the AGENCY may provide funding for out-of-network options that best fit the individual's needs as determined by the American Society of Addictive Medicine (ASAM) criteria.
   vi. For individuals who are using private insurance, AGENCY shall request consent to receive outcome data from the client.
   vii. AGENCY shall treat these funds, which are earmarked solely for this purpose, as funding of last resort. The maximum amount available for out-of-network deep-end treatment shall not exceed three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars ($325,000) annually.
   viii. AGENCY shall contract for up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars ($350,000) with a treatment provider to serve pre and postpartum (to 12 months) women, women experiencing homeless or housing instability as defined by 24 U.S.C. § 578.3 with opioid use disorders and impacted by substance use disorders.

4. Essential Function IV. Chronic SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders Care Management for Clinical and Non-Clinical

   Goal: Maintain care management that addresses both clinical and social support needs. This includes ensuring seamless service navigation and continuity of care.

   i. AGENCY shall ensure that all referrals for chronic SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders care management are documented in the individual's record/file and have on-going care coordination that includes periodic check-ins, at least monthly case management reviews to

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follow-up on referrals and needs of individuals with complex and/or chronic conditions.

ii. AGENCY shall ensure care coordinator documents and works with each individual to identify SDoH needs. AGENCY shall ensure SDoH needs are included in care planning, service coordination, and referrals to services. SDoH needs should be reassessed at least quarterly with applicable documentation in each individual's record/file.

iii. AGENCY shall ensure multiple and varied methods are utilized to re-engage individuals who have stopped accessing services or failed to respond to follow-up calls. Documentation of types of efforts, timing of efforts, and strategies to connect with individuals shall be documented in the individual's record/file.

iv. AGENCY shall utilize evidence-based and validated tools to measure individual progress. All data and information collected or disseminated shall be recorded in the individual's record/file.

v. AGENCY shall ensure each individual has an Individualized Care Plan (ICP), which is to be developed collaboratively with the individual, reviewed based on AGENCY's Policies and SOPs to address evolving needs, and each individual's ICP is to be maintained in the individual's record/file.

vi. AGENCY shall ensure that individuals are proactively being connected to services that meet clinical, medical, and basic needs holistically and comprehensively, including but not limited to, peer recovery supports, community resources, and SDoH-related supports, which shall include but not be limited to, recovery housing, supportive housing, resources for food, and employment. Documentation of referrals and linkages shall be recorded in each individual's record/file.

vii. AGENCY shall conduct frequent and recurrent check-ins (at least monthly for non-complex cases and bi-weekly for complex cases) to ensure participant needs are met, engagement is sustained, and any barriers to care are addressed.

viii. AGENCY shall facilitate monthly multidisciplinary team meetings for individuals with complex substance use and co-occurring disorders.

ix. AGENCY shall ensure access to certified peer recovery support specialists through partnerships with local Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) and Recovery Community Centers (RCCs). As appropriate, peer services are to be included in ICPs. These referrals shall be documented in each individual's record/file.

x. AGENCY shall ensure that any discharge from care coordination services is based only on on individual stability, that SDoH needs have been addressed as comprehensively as possible, and that the individual is safe and has access and knows how to access needed resources. Discharge from care coordination shall be documented in each individual's record/file.

5. Essential Function V: Payment Authorizations

Goal: Manage CONNeCT project to ensure seamless continuity of care and accountable utilization of funding.

i. AGENCY shall provide Utilization Management processes to ensure services match individual needs, avoid overuse of more intensive levels of care, and emphasize individuals' recovery in the community.

ii. AGENCY shall ensure that pre-authorization for clinical services at the determined level

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of care is completed before transitioning an individual to such service, as evidenced by documentation in individual's record/file.

iii. AGENCY shall develop Standard Operating Procedures and Policies regarding Pre-Authorizations that shall include, but not be limited to:
   a. Time allotted from the time referral is made to pre-authorization for payment;
   b. Billing processes under the individual's insurance, including Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurers and ensuring that Opioid Settlement Funding (OSF) is the payer of last resort;
   c. Development of allowable services as it aligns with OSF funding.

iv. All authorizations must adhere to "Prior Authorization and Payments" Policy and Procedures developed by AGENCY.

6. Essential Function VI. Evaluation

Goal: Ensure transparency and accountability by using performance metrics, fiscal oversight and stakeholder engagement to guide project delivery and decision-making.

i. AGENCY shall provide oversight, quality assurance, and technical assistance to ensure service integration and fidelity.
ii. AGENCY shall ensure that baseline assessment data are collected utilizing evidence-based tools, and any level of care assessments are documented in each individual's record/file.
iii. AGENCY shall ensure that assessments are regularly administered at a frequency established by the developers of the instruments.
iv. AGENCY shall conduct regularly scheduled Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) meetings per policy.
v. AGENCY shall provide ongoing technical assistance and capacity-building support to partners and subcontractors, including training on evidence-based practices, data systems, and care coordination protocols. Documentation of trainings and attendance shall be available upon request, with reasonable notification.
vi. AGENCY shall conduct annual monitoring of subcontractors to ensure compliance, quality assurance, and program performance.
vii. AGENCY shall be responsible for developing and implementing any performance improvement plans to subcontractors.
viii. AGENCY shall provide ongoing support and guidance on service delivery models (e.g., in-person, telehealth, and technology check-in systems), access to data systems for integration and reporting, and strategies to address capacity limitations for all subrecipients of funding.
ix. AGENCY shall utilize Care Coordination Module and/or other effective data systems for communication and progress monitoring, documentation, alerts, telehealth, and outcomes measurement.
x. Through the initial term of the Agreement, AGENCY will evaluate the program's progress toward achieving the target goals stated in Section E. After assessing their performance, AGENCY will work with the COUNTY to identify which outcome they will improve, what strategy or intervention will be used to improve that outcome, and to what extent.

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7. Essential Function VII. Housing Vouchers and Direct Recovery Supports
   i. AGENCY shall provide oversight to the distribution and approval process of housing vouchers to individuals in need of placement in a safe, certified recovery residence.
   ii. AGENCY shall ensure that individuals are offered recovery supports which shall incorporate a full range of social, legal, and other resources that facilitate recovery and wellness, and work with individuals to reduce or eliminate environmental and/or personal barriers to recovery.
   iii. AGENCY shall have discretion to provide "direct client services" (recovery supports services) funding for individuals to meet critical needs. Funding shall be tied to the individuals' s Individualized Recovery Plan. These services may include, but not limited to, court fines and fees, driver's license reinstatement, housing, clothing and/or other personal items needed to secure and/or maintain employment.
   iv. AGENCY shall authorize "direct client services" (recovery supports services) funding for individuals as outlined in its Policy.

8. Essential Function VIII. Database

   AGENCY shall leverage the existing AGENCY Care Coordination module, existing data systems, and the Palm Beach County Community Services Department's (CSD) Online System for Community Access to Resources and Social Services (OSCARSS)
   i. AGENCY shall use existing functionality in OSCARSS to streamline and track data on the referral process and service provision.
   ii. AGENCY shall use the Care Coordination Module's existing capabilities to enable documentation, event notification system (ENS) alerts, video telehealth, automated text messages for follow-up surveys, and more, which will also be utilized to enhance service delivery, care coordination capabilities, and track outcome measurements.
   iii. AGENCY shall explore the interoperability functions of Care Coordination Module and/or CARISK database with other social service databases in efforts to improve care coordination for residents in Palm Beach County.

E. Deliverables & Required Outcomes

Goal: These reports will document milestones, opportunities, and accomplishments to track implementation progress and inform system-level planning.

a. Deliverables:

Item	Completion
Project Initiation and Set Up Plan	Quarter 1
Recruit & hire new staff: Utilization Manager, Project Director, Fiscal Assistant	
Executed MOA/BAAs with partner organizations, including 211/988	
Establish a process for all access points into Neutral Care Coordination	
Develop training of NCC to 211/988, Care Coordinators staff, provider network on	

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NCC	
Develop SOPs for Neutral Care Coordination	
Finalize workflow	
Develop Network of Providers who will be part of NCC	
Develop MOU or Agreement for agencies involved in NCC.	
Begin Development of OSCARSS interface	
Documentation: Staffing roster, leases, Employee, policy manual, system access confirmation.	
Develop Standards of Care (Acute, Chronic, Short-Term) Manual	
Documentation of Continuous Quality Improvement Meetings	Quarterly: No later than 15 days after the end of each quarter (January 15, April 15, July 15, October 15)
Project Updates and Reports: Utilization, key data points, and narrative description of program operations.	
System Presentations	
Standard Operating Procedure Updates	
Refresher training and cross-training with providers, include sign-in sheets	
Quarterly invoices with line-item cost breakdown. - Documentation of expenditures and compliance with audit requests. - Updated budget vs. actuals. - Documentation at : Invoices, payroll summaries, general ledger, certification of costs.	
Performance data and Required Outcomes (see below)	
Monitoring report for subcontractors. Annual evaluation of CONNeCT, including monitoring of data quality, utilization management, participant engagement, and other agreed-upon elements of program operations.	Annual: Minimum once per year on or prior to June 30

b. Performance Data- System Level

Outcome	Number of unduplicated clients served monthly

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Indicator	84 unduplicated clients will be served monthly

Outcome	Number of completed assessments monthly
Indicator	84 completed assessments monthly

Outcome	Number of referrals monthly
Indicator	Number of referrals to a higher level of care monthly
Indicator	Number of referrals to support services monthly

Outcome	% of Clients will be successfully linked to the services as evidenced in the participant file.
Indicator	70% of Clients will be successfully linked to the services as evidenced in the participant file.

Outcome	Number of missed opportunities monthly
Indicator	5% of missed opportunities of individuals who have not been able to be Contacted monthly

Outcome	Number of discharges monthly
Indicator	Number of non-compliance (drop-outs/ no show) discharges monthly
Indicator	Number of returned clients into NCC monthly
Indicator	Number of successful discharges monthly

c. Required Outcomes –Agency Level

Essential Function I: Centralized Point-of-Entry to BH/SUD Services

Outcome	Participants will be successfully linked to an assessor within a set time frame from the initial 211/988 call.
Indicator	80% of participants will be successfully linked to an assessor within a set timeframe from the initial 211/988 call.

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Outcome	Participants referred post-crisis will receive a follow-up within 72 hours of crisis referral.
Indicator	80% participants referred post-crisis will receive a follow-up within 72 hours of crisis referral.

Essential Function II. Clinical and Non-Clinical Services Navigation

Outcome	Participants will receive a level of care assessment within a time period from referral.
Indicator	80% of participants will receive a level of care assessment within a time period from referral.

Essential Function III SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Referrals

Outcome	Participants will remain engaged in services.
Indicator (Year 1)	60% of Participants will remain engaged in services for the program duration.
(Year 2 & 3)	70% of Participants will remain engaged in services for the program duration.

Outcome	Participants will be provided a warm hand-off to a Recovery Community Center.
Indicator (Year 1)	60% of Participants will be provided a warm hand-off to a Recovery Community Center at treatment completion.
(Year 2 & 3)	70% of Participants will be provided a warm hand-off to a Recovery Community Center at treatment completion.

Essential Function IV. Chronic SUD and Co-Occurring Disorders Care Management for Clinical and Non-Clinical

Outcome	Participants will remain engaged in services for at least 6 months or up to the timeframe indicated on ICP (if less than 6 months) from referral.
Indicator	80% of Participants will remain engaged in services for at least 6 months or up to the timeframe indicated on ICP (if less than 6 months) from referral.

*Deliverables and Outcomes will be reviewed and may change at the Department level during the contract year.

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EXHIBIT B- 1

2026-2028 SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS
UNITS OF SERVICE RATE AND DEFINITION

Agency Name: Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (SEFBHN)

Description	Costs	Contract Year 1	Contract Year 2	Contract Year 3	Total Contract Amount
Operating Costs: Payment of direct program expenses for Neutral Care Coordination support (as described in **Exhibit A**, Scope of Work).	Actual	$1,220,839	$1,603,102	$1,603,102	$4,427,043
Service: Administrative Expenses* Payment of Admin Expenses associated with contract management.	Actual	$61,042	$ 80,155	$ 80,155	$221,352
Service: Deep-End Treatment Stabilization: Payment of recovery-focused support services to promote stability (as described in **Exhibit A**, Scope of Work).	Actual	$325,000	$325,000	$325,000	$975,000
Service: Direct Client Services	Actual	$400,000	$ 700,000	$800,000	$1,900,000
Total Amount		**$2,006,881****	**$2,708,257****	**$2,808,257**	**$7,523,395**

**Administrative Expense are capped at 5% of Total Operating Expenses only, excluding Direct Client and Deep-End Treatment Services.*

***Unspent funds from Period 1 may be rolled over to Period 2, and unspent Period 2 funds may be rolled over to Period 3 with department approval. In the event of a carryover, the remaining contract funds will be adjusted accordingly to incorporate the carried-over amount.*

A quarterly report must be submitted along with the invoice and signed cover letter that includes but is not limited to the following: Updates on any new certified residences in the Network; Number of outreach, technical assistance activities and number of attendees; Number of housing support recipients and payments to Network providers.

All expenditures shall be in accordance with all Federal, State, and local laws and the State of Florida

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Opioid Settlement Agreement.

For all service categories listed above, expenses will be reimbursed at the actual cost of services listed in the reimbursement submission.

The backup documentation – general ledger, copies of paid receipts, copies of checks, invoices, or any other applicable documents acceptable to the Palm Beach County Department of Community Services may be requested as part of the invoice submission, and/or via desk and/or on-site monitoring on a periodic basis.

2026 FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT

FILED
Feb 18, 2026
Secretary of State

DOCUMENT# N10000001302

6544422728CC

Entity Name: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK, INC.

Current Principal Place of Business:

8895 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL
SUITE #E-102
PALM BEACH GARDENS , FL 33410

Current Mailing Address:

8895 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL
SUITE #E-102
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410 US

FEI Number: 27-1871869

Certificate of Status Desired: No

Name and Address of Current Registered Agent:

BERNER, ANN
8895 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL
SUITE #E-102
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410 US

The above named entity submits this statement for the purpose of changing its registered office or registered agent, or both, in the State of Florida.

SIGNATURE: ANN BERNER 02/18/2026

Electronic Signature of Registered Agent — Date

Officer/Director Detail :

Title	SECRETARY
Name	SALLABI, BEA
Address	5370 DONALD ROSS ROAD
City-State-Zip:	PALM BEACH GARDENS FL 33418

Title	CEO
Name	BERNER, ANN
Address	8895 NORTH MILITARY TRAIL SUITE #E-102
City-State-Zip:	PALM BEACH GARDENS FL 33410

Title	TREASURER
Name	REIN, LARRY
Address	45TH STREET
City-State-Zip:	WEST PALM BEACH FL 33407

Title	VC
Name	FOWLER, JOHN
Address	1016 N. CLEMONS STREET SUITE #203
City-State-Zip:	JUPITER FL 33477

Title	CHAIR
Name	SHEFFER, CHERI L
Address	10570 S. FEDERAL HWY SUITE #300
City-State-Zip:	PORT ST LUCIE FL 34952

I hereby certify that the information indicated on this report or supplemental report is true and accurate and that my electronic signature shall have the same legal effect as if made under oath; that I am an officer or director of the corporation or the receiver or trustee empowered to execute this report as required by Chapter 617, Florida Statutes; and that my name appears above, or on an attachment with all other like empowered.

SIGNATURE: ANN M BERNER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 02/18/2026

Electronic Signature of Signing Officer/Director Detail — Date

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 6/18/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC 1000 Corporate Dr Ste 400 Ft Lauderdale FL 33334-3628	**CONTACT NAME:** **PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):** **FAX (A/C, No):** **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** FLCertificates@MarshMMA.com
INSURED SOUTHFLORI57 Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network 8895 N Military Trl Bldg E Ste 102 Palm Beach Gardens FL 33410-6220	**INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE** — **NAIC #** **INSURER A :** Chaucer Insurance Company DAC — 55555 **INSURER B :** **INSURER C :** **INSURER D :** **INSURER E :** **INSURER F :**

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** 1746092655 **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
A	X **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY** CLAIMS-MADE X OCCUR X Ded-$0 GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: X POLICY PRO-JECT LOC OTHER:	Y	Y	FITGL500372026	6/1/2026	6/1/2027	EACH OCCURRENCE DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) MED EXP (Any one person) PERSONAL & ADV INJURY GENERAL AGGREGATE PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG $	$ 1,000,000 $ 1,000,000 $ 10,000 $ 1,000,000 $ 3,000,000 $ 3,000,000 $
A	**AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY** ANY AUTO OWNED AUTOS ONLY X HIRED AUTOS ONLY SCHEDULED AUTOS X NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY			FITAU500372026	6/1/2026	6/1/2027	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) BODILY INJURY (Per person) BODILY INJURY (Per accident) PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) $	$ 1,000,000 $ $ $ $
	UMBRELLA LIAB OCCUR **EXCESS LIAB** CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION $						EACH OCCURRENCE AGGREGATE $	$ $ $
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY Y / N ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? **(Mandatory in NH)** If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	N / A					PER STATUTE OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	 $ $ $
A	Professional Liability			FITDO500372026	6/1/2026	6/1/2027	Each Claim Aggregate	1,000,000 3,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida, its Officers, Employees, and Agents are Additional Insured under the General Liability policy when required by written contract subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the policy.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
C/O Dept. of Community Services
Attn: Contract Manager
810 Datura Street
West Palm Beach FL 33401

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

April K Ry

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CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/18/2026

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy (ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER	CONTACT NAME: FrankCrum Certificate Department	
FrankCrum Insurance Agency, Inc. 100 South Missouri Avenue Clearwater, FL 33756	PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): (727) 799-1229	FAX (A/C, No):
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: certs@frankcrum.com	
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE	NAIC#
	INSURER A: Frank Winston Crum Insurance Company	11600
INSURED	INSURER B:	
FrankCrum L/C/F Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. 100 South Missouri Avenue Clearwater, FL 33756	INSURER C:	
	INSURER D:	
	INSURER E:	
	INSURER F:	

COVERAGES CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 1443742 REVISION NUMBER: 1

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSRD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
	☐ COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY ☐ CLAIMS-MADE ☐ OCCUR ☐ _____ ☐ _____ GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: ☐ POLICY ☐ PROJECT ☐ LOC ☐ OTHER:						EACH OCCURRENCE DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) MED EXP (Any one person) PERSONAL & ADV INJURY GENERAL AGGREGATE PRODUCTS-COMP/OP AGG _____	$ $ $ $ $ $ $
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY ☐ ANY AUTO ☐ OWNED AUTOS ONLY ☐ SCHEDULED AUTOS ☐ HIRED AUTOS ONLY ☐ NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY ☐ ☐						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) BODILY INJURY (Per person) BODILY INJURY (Per accident) PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) _____	$ $ $ $ $
	☐ UMBRELLA LIAB ☐ OCCUR ☐ EXCESS LIAB ☐ CLAIMS-MADE ☐ DED ☐ RETENTION $						EACH OCURRENCE AGGREGATE _____	$ $ $
A	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? Y/N ☐ (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	N/A		WC202600000	01/01/2026	01/01/2027	X PER STATUTE ☐ OTH-ER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT E.L. DISEASE-EA EMPLOYEE E.L. DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT	 $1,000,0 $1,000,0 $1,000,0

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

Effective 12/23/2024, coverage is for 100% of the employees of FrankCrum leased to Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. (Client) for whom the client is reporting hours to FrankCrum. Coverage is not extended to statutory employees.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER	CANCELLATION
Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Inc. 8895 N MILITARY TRAIL STE E102 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Plan 2024

Palm Beach County
Advisory Committee on
Behavioral Health, Substance Use
and Co-Occurring Disorders

It is time we ... stopped focusing on brief episodes of biopsychosocial stabilization. It is time for national, state, and local initiatives to create recovery-oriented systems of care that can promote this model of sustained recovery management.

William L. White, MA
Recovery Management and Recovery Oriented Systems of Care: Scientific Rationale and Promising Approaches

ADVANCING A RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY ECOSYSTEM OF CARE

ONE INITIATIVE,
ONE INDICATOR AT A TIME

PALM BEACH COUNTY • FLORIDA

Palm Beach County
COMMUNITY SERVICES
Helping People Build Better Communities

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I. Executive Summary

Palm Beach County, more specifically Delray Beach, had the reputation of being the Recovery Capitol of the Nation known for its vibrant recovery community and a safe, nurturing environment highly supportive of recovering individuals in the mid-2000's. Yet, at the time, there was also an identifiable underbelly that existed which propelled a proliferation of "pill mills" and opioid prescribing resulting in a rapid rise in opioid overdoses.

By 2017, Palm Beach County had the unfortunate distinction of being the epi-center of overdose deaths in the State of Florida, reaching a peak of 817 drug related deaths of which 626 were opioid deaths. News headlines and coverage also placed the County at the epi-center nationally of fraud and abuse in the treatment and recovery residence sector that preyed on vulnerable individuals in need of substance use disorder care and their families.

Opioid use was certainly not the first drug to have caused misuse and drug related deaths. In the 1980's and the 1990's, crack cocaine addiction was prolific. Communities of color and lower income communities were disproportionately affected. The difference with opioid misuse was all communities were affected and many addictions started from prescribed legal use.

The closing of the 44 bed Jerome Golden Center and the in-patient unit at JFK hospital created a deficit in available options for individuals with significant mental illness, many of whom experienced homelessness and/or incarceration.

Important strides have been made since. Today, the State of Florida and the Nation look to Palm Beach County for its leadership in person-centered, recovery-oriented, and crisis care; leadership which began in 2017 when the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved an Opioid Response Plan (ORP). The BCC also appointed a "Drug Czar", an ORP priority recommendation to lead the response efforts. The State Attorney's Office also aggressively took the fight to the treatment and recovery residence sector to overcome its abuses.

Critical to these efforts was setting a clear system of care path. A path that is more person-centered and recovery-oriented focused on improved long-term recovery outcomes and increased resiliency rather than solely focused on the historic approach of acute- and crisis-centric care.

The system of care's foundational elements are rooted in the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's definition of recovery from mental disorders and/or substance use disorders which is defined as, "A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential." They are also developed from the four major dimensions that support a life in recovery identified by SAMHSA as: health, home, community and purpose as well as the agency's recognition setbacks are a natural part of life. Thus, according to SAMHSA, resilience becomes a key component of recovery.

The BCC adopted substance use disorder, and behavioral health more broadly, as a strategic priority in 2019 with a major goal to establish a person-center, recovery-oriented system of care which has been renewed annually since. In November 2022, it approved the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders (BHSUCOD) and declared the BCC's expressed approval of a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care. The BCC also approved the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Plan 2022 and its recommendations which were informed by community input and developed by a Steering Committee and its sub-committees operationalized in 2019.

The BHSUCOD is charged with enhancing the County's capacity and effectiveness in formulating behavioral health and substance use disorder policies as well as to offer recommendations regarding the County's provision of services to its citizens. It is also responsible for making recommendations on responding to the opioid epidemic, as provided in section 17.42 of the Florida Statutes (2022).

The Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Plan 2024 details the number of initiatives and their outcomes that have been executed to achieve a true person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care; an ecosystem of resilience and recovery that creates recovery-ready communities. Communities and care that will foster, not only hope, but create ready and easy access to person-centered, recovery-oriented care. It and subsequent Plan Updates are intended to maintain flexibility to address whatever needs that are forthcoming.

The development of the 2024 Plan was built upon the 2022 Plan foundation and continued the well-established process of receiving regular input from community members through bi-monthly facilitated sub-committee meetings as well as community forums. A draft of the 2024 Plan was publicly released in advance of BHSUCOD review and discussion at its March 14, 2024 Special Meeting. Public comment on the Plan was received at this meeting.

Subsequently, a public comment period was established from March 14, 2024 through March 29, 2024. Thirty six individuals and/or entities provided comments with nearly 150 suggestions, recommendations, resources and edits being received. All responses were received, acknowledged and documented.

The program evaluator and FAU researcher conducted a content and thematic analysis. Comments were incorporated into a comment process sheet. It and all public comments received were publicly released in advance of initial review by the Executive Committee at its April 4, 2024 meeting.

Each response was granted equal weight. The analysis found comments fell into the following themes: support for the plan update; broken system, continued siloes; align work with HIV (including syringe services), BH/SUD in the homeless; affordable, attainable housing for substance use disorder and mental health; centralized care coordination and crisis stabilization; and, emphasis on mental health, youth services, prevention and education.

The 2024 Plan also details recommendations by the BHSUCOD's pursuant to its responsibilities related to section 17.42 of the Florida Statutes (2022). In doing so, the BHSUCOD remained mindful that the opioid settlement funds resulting from the Settlement Agreement entered into with the State of Florida were realized due to the malfeasance committed by certain entities within the pharmaceutical industry which resulted in untold loss, death and devastation wreaked upon individuals, families and communities.

The BHSUCOD strongly supports the use of 90% of the settlement funds on addressing the social determinants of health and 10% on acute crisis care. This is in recognition that prior focuses on acute crisis care have not provided long-term results without other supportive services and addressing basic needs. Members stressed that the funds received through the opioid settlement were gathered on the backs of individuals and families who have suffered and continue to suffer. The memories of those lost cannot be forgotten as the County endeavors to move forward from crisis-focused to person-oriented solutions.

The BHSUCOD affirms its position that one overdose death is one overdose death too many and one death by suicide is also one too many. It wishes to see continued reductions, which may never arrive at zero, but believe tracking overdose death rates should not be the singular outcome measure of the County's efforts success. Beyond this measure, the Advisory Committee supports the County's ongoing efforts to measure its initiatives through a recovery capital framework and its ability to capture resilience, health, well-being, social determinants of health and risk factors.

It is in this context that the BHSUCOD places the 2024 Plan recommendations' emphasis which are supported by the evidence developed by the County's own research; national research; and the direction set by the federal Domestic Policy Council, Office of National Drug Control Policy and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Direction. The Plan also emphasizes the need to focus, not only on individuals in crisis, but the nearly 37,000 total calls placed to 211 of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast for mental health and addiction assistance in calendar years 2022 and 2023 as well as individuals faced with mental illness and substance use disorder that do not require crisis care.

Members of the BHSUCOD expressed gratitude that the Board of County Commissioners have faith in people with lived experiences to develop a plan and recommendations. They have experienced fragmented systems with many siloes. Their hope is that utilization of research and evidence-based recommendations will mitigate "treat and street" approaches that have failed outcomes and result in dehumanization of individuals with behavioral health and substance use disorders.

The BHSUCOD trusts the Plan 2024 sets a sound course that will build a robust resilience and recovery ecosystem in Palm Beach County. An ecosystem, with its emphasis on social determinants of health, can prevent illness as well as intervene early in its cycle to avoid entrance into crisis care.

The BHSUCOD believes the Plan 2024 is not intended to be viewed through a lens of finality, but rather a reflection on what has been accomplished and a road map for future work. Although substance use disorders were the impetus of starting this work in 2017, the Plan recognizes the need to address all behavioral health needs along a continuum including prevention and education, early intervention, treatment and recovery.

Lastly, the BHSUCOD has confidence that the Plan 2024's recommendations address the infrastructure and person-centered, recovery-oriented care necessary to create a near one hundred percent opportunity for individual's to successfully address their behavioral health and substance use disorder needs.

II. REVIEWING PROGRESS: ONE INITIATIVE, ONE INDICATOR AT A TIME

Significant strides have been made since the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) adopted its plan, *Opioid Crisis - Palm Beach County's Response (ORP)*, in 2017 and subsequently identified behavioral health and substance use disorders as a strategic priority in 2019. The ORP pointed to the need to create a coordinated response through the designation of a primary entity responsible for the integration of all efforts relative to the epidemic. (See Appendix I for a Comprehensive Opioid Epidemic Timeline)

The ORP also pointed to the need for leadership and guidance from an experienced veteran accustomed to working on solving substance use disorders --- in short, appointing a 'Drug Czar' for the County which the BCC accomplished in April 2018. Since, the appointee has led the Office of Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders (OBHSUD) established in the Community Services Department.

The OBHSUD supervises the planning, administration, and county contracting of behavioral health and substance use disorder services in Palm Beach County. It develops policies and manages various initiatives, programs, and funding strategies -- serving as liaison to communicate the County's efforts to the public; local, state, county and federal agencies; and the service provider community.

The OBHSUD is also responsible for facilitating the Palm Beach County Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders and its subcommittees as well as for the development of the Annual Plan Update submitted to the BCC. In this capacity, it has adopted a community wide approach which has been taken with many other valued partners and community members.

Traditionally, mental health services were rarely integrated with substance use disorder. According to reports published in the Journal of American Medical Association roughly 50% of individuals with severe mental disorders are affected by a substance use condition. (Robinson, L., 2018) The University of Chicago also found, in a patient-experience survey conducted across behavioral health provider groups and behavioral health consumer organizations, that 87% of patients of all ages who received mental health or substance use care from a provider felt they needed additional help from a substance use or mental health specialist. (Bowman Foundation, 2023).

Considering this context, the BCC expanded its focus to not only address the opioid epidemic but to include both behavioral health and substance use disorder when it identified such as a strategic priority in 2019, and maintained this priority to date. Also, in 2019 a Behavioral and Substance Use Disorder Cross-departmental team (CDT) of multiple department employees was established to address this priority. The team includes representatives from Youth Services, Employee Assistance Program, Parks and Recreation, Victim Services, Fire Rescue, Medical Examiner's Office, Library, Cooperative Extension, Palm Tran and Community Services.

The CDT fosters leveraging of resources, talent and innovation across all departments. Integration of efforts assures increased access and stewardship of County resources. Chief amongst the BCC's aims is the establishment of a readily accessible, integrated and coordinated person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care (ROSC) for the purpose of improving long-term recovery outcomes and enhancing health and wellness.

The CDT recognizes that addressing behavioral and substance use disorders is a continuum of efforts starting with prevention and early intervention and continuing to treatment and long-term recovery through building of resilience. The CDT last presented to the BCC at a January 30, 2024 Workshop meeting during the County's Office of Management and Budget's (OFMB) budget and strategic planning cross-departmental team presentations. The team highlighted its broad range of services year including Youth Services' free evidence-based and trauma-informed mental health services, Fire Rescue's Mobile Integrated Health teams, and, community education and public awareness events across all of the departments.

OFMB also presented the results of the County's 2023 community resident survey. The survey of 7,291 residents found that 52% said the county's response to substance use and behavioral disorders was fair or poor. Another 21% did not know enough to rate this question. Asked to rank County priorities, 62% said mental health, substance use and behavioral health support ranked a 4 or 5 on a scale of 5 in importance. (Palm Beach County, Resident Survey, 2023).

The ORP also pointed to the need to establish a steering committee to guide the County's efforts The CSD operationalized an Opioid Response Steering Committee in 2019. In 2021, the steering committee was officially renamed the ***Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorder Steering Committee (BHSUCOD)*** in order to better align with the BCC's strategic priority. Steering Committee members volunteered endless hours and brought expertise and passion to approve *The Substance and Mental Disorders Plan Update, March 2022* (2022 Plan) at its March 2022 meeting.

A: Palm Beach County Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders Established

The 2022 Plan recommended the BCC enact an ordinance designating a lead entity granting it leadership, budget, planning and monitoring authority as an overarching high priority. In response, the BCC approved Resolution No. R2022-1340 on November 1, 2022. The Resolution established the Palm Beach County Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders (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. (Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners Agenda, November 1, 2022)

The Resolution also declared the BCC's expressed approval of a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care focused on quality of care and long-term recovery outcome improvements. The BCC approved the 2022 Plan on November 15, 2022. It and this plan, *The Substance and Mental Disorders Plan Update, April 2024* (2024 Plan), developed by the BHSUCOD are intended to serve as a roadmap for Palm Beach County to bring to fruition an integrated and coordinated, person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care for anyone with a substance use, behavioral health and/or co-occurring disorder.

The BHSUCOD is comprised of nine at-large members and nine ex-officio members who are individuals with both lived and learned (professional experience) who represent a diverse cross-section of the community. This includes individuals who are parents who have lost their children to accidental overdose, impacted family members, people in recovery, formerly incarcerated individuals, clergy, peer support specialists, doctors, clinicians, first responders, providers, attorneys, law enforcement personnel as well as elected and government representatives. The Resolution outlined that the inaugural membership was to be comprised of the nine individuals who served as members on the BHSCOD Steering Committee at the time the Resolution was approved by the BCC and the three individuals who served as Ex Officio members of that Steering Committee.

BHSUCOD Membership

Public	Ex Officio (Designee)
Sharon Burns-Carter	Florida Department of Health PBC (Natalie Kenton)
Ariana Ciancio	PBC Fire Rescue (Chief Charles Coyle)
Lissa Franklin	PBC Health Care District (Jon Van Arnam)
William Freeman	PBC League of Cities (Hon. Angela Burns)
John Makris	PBC Sheriff's Office (Sandra Sisson)
Barbara Shafer	Palm Health Foundation (Patrick McNamara)
Brent Schillinger, MD	Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (Daniel Oria)
Rae Whitely (V. Ch.)	Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates (Maureen Kielian, Ch.)
Austin Wright	State Attorney's Office (Al Johnson)

The 2022 Plan adopted a Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs statement to inform the County's work which is again affirmed by the BHSUCOD as follows:

1. **Mission:** To ensure access to individualized person-centered, recovery-oriented care and supports through integrated and coordinated services using a "no-wrong door" approach for all Palm Beach County residents in need.

2. **Vision:** To have a fully integrated and coordinated person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that employs neutral care coordination and recovery as well as peer supports that focus on:

- Individual needs and assessment of each person holistically.
- Evaluation of personal resiliency and risk factors utilizing recovery capital indexing.
- Strength-based, accessible and available services to any person seeking improved outcomes for mental illness, substance use and/or co-occurring disorders.

3. **Values and Beliefs:** A person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care is non-judgmental, caring, trauma-informed and embraces the understanding that each individual's journey to recovery and wellness is unique. Additionally, a "no wrong-door" approach within a recovery oriented system of care:
    - Places high value on collaboration and coordination among governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide appropriate levels of individualized care.
    - Utilizes neutral care-coordination to screen and assess individuals and connect them to appropriate levels and types of care, remove barriers and provide follow-up and coordination of services as appropriate.
    - Uses validated tools that assess needs, levels of care and recovery wellness.
    - Values and respects individuals and meets them where they are, recognizing that substance use disorders and behavioral health disorders are brain-based, frequently intertwined and compromise decision-making abilities.
    - Prioritizes individualized care based on need and considers client voice.
    - Determines placement, supports and services based on assessments instead of based on a particular program's availability and/or for administrative convenience.
    - Presents treatment and service options with appropriate and transparent disclosures related to risks that might be involved with either taking or not taking advantage of any given options, as well as provides information about the risk of not accepting any options for treatment or services.
    - Supports and service options are trauma-informed, strength-based, individualized and supportive of long-term recovery.
    - Recognizes that successful long-term recovery rests in a person-centric system that is inclusive, equitable, and community-based.
    - Utilizes evidence-based practices to the maximum extent possible with a focus on recovery capital, improved recovery outcomes, adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care.

B. Mental Health within a Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem

As noted earlier, the BCC expanded its focus to address behavioral health to include mental health and substance use disorders more broadly in addition to its initial focus on the opioid epidemic. The development of the Plan has followed an evolution from this more narrow focus to one that is broader. While progress has been made, the Advisory Committee recognizes

that the historic challenge of integration both nationally and locally remains significant and still more work needs to be done.

Mental health challenges can be difficult to define, diagnose, and address, partly because it isn't always clear when an issue is serious enough to warrant intervention. Mental health encompasses our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing, and is an essential component of overall health according to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services. In its 2023 – 2026 strategic plan, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) declared the United States faces unprecedented mental health and substance use crises among people of all ages and backgrounds with two out of five adults having symptoms of anxiety or depression (SAMHSA, Strategic Plan, 2023).

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of depression and anxiety were increasing. The grief, trauma, and physical and social isolation related to the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated these issues for many. Among adults aged 18 or older in 2021, nearly 58 million people had any mental illness and 14 million people had a serious mental illness in the past year.

SAMHSA reports that despite these tragic numbers, many people are moving toward and achieving recovery. The most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) tells a more encouraging story: nearly 39 million who perceived they ever had a problem with their mental health considered themselves in recovery or recovered.

The 2023–2026 SAMHSA Strategic Plan presents a new person-centered mission. SAMHSA received extensive and thoughtful feedback from stakeholders calling for action to improve well-being by heightening the importance of behavioral health integration and focusing on trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, and person-centered care. The strategic plan integrates four overarching guiding principles across all policies and programs to support SAMHSA in achieving its mission and vision: equity, trauma-informed approaches, recovery, commitment to data and evidence.

SAMHSA identifies enhancing access to suicide prevention and mental health services as a strategic priority describing these services as often fragmented such that transitions from one level of care to another are challenging. It aims to lead access to a full continuum of care that provides timely and high quality services to anyone who needs them including, in part, enhancing access to suicide prevention and crisis care as crucial elements of the mental health continuum of care, so that people experiencing suicidal ideation and other behavioral health crises can receive the care they need and want in order to thrive and achieve well-being.

The full mental health continuum outlined by SAMSHA includes mental health promotion and early intervention services, mental health crisis care and suicide, and treatment and recovery support services. The continuum and its identified elements align with Palm Beach County's resilience and recovery ecosystem model and other recovery-oriented system of care modeling developed throughout the nation.

SAMHSA emphasizes that, *"Across the continuum, it is critical to achieve a seamless integration of services for mental health conditions."* This can and will be achieved through the

County's implementation of neutral care coordination. Recovery and improved health and well-being are the goals of mental health care for individuals with a mental health condition. Individuals often take different pathways to engage with behavioral health services and initiate and sustain recovery. Because a mental and/or substance use disorder (SUD) crisis often results from environmental challenges and events, such as trauma, job loss, or financial or interpersonal stressors, addressing these issues is crucial to sustaining recovery. The recovery process is highly personalized, with individuals engaging in a variety of services and supports that may include treatment as well as recovery support services.

SAMHSA states robust, culturally appropriate, and responsive systems will be essential to meeting crisis care needs across the nation. The foundation SAMHSA relies on in the design of crisis services starts with the individual's needs and having planning thinking about these as well as the circumstances, and situation of a person in crisis. Through this whole-population approach, SAMHSA is promote and enhance genuine engagement with persons who have experienced crisis and are living with or are in recovery from mental illnesses or SUDs by developing several initiatives that will improve and serve as a model for state and community systems on consumer engagement in services design and delivery. The incorporation of person-centered, trauma-informed principles will promote engagement and improvements in quality crisis service delivery.

SAMHSA is also advancing bi-directional integration of healthcare services across systems for people with behavioral health conditions. Bi-directional care integration focuses on improving access to and delivering whole-person care. It also includes addressing physical and behavioral health in an integrated system where providers work together to deliver and coordinate care. SAMHSA acknowledges that bi-directional care integration is not a "one-size-fits-all" endeavor.

Specialty behavioral health and primary care settings differ in significant ways, including patient populations, provider expertise and background, resource needs, financing and information technology systems, and primary drivers of care. These differences need to be factored into any integration activities.

Despite these differences, consistently applying a whole-person care approach equitably, no matter the setting, can improve health outcomes for people with behavioral health conditions. Non-specialty healthcare settings, whether emergency departments, hospitals, or primary care, may be the first place for an encounter with an individual in need of behavioral health services.

These encounters represent significant opportunities for screening, diagnosis, and engagement in effective services and supports, not only for physical and behavioral health conditions but also for supports that pay attention to social determinants of health (SDOH). Interventions for behavioral health conditions in primary care especially reach the large population of individuals with less complex or stable mental and SUD.

SAMHSA recognizes the importance of addressing SDOH as key levers to achieving improved outcomes for people with behavioral health conditions. Wraparound services for transportation assistance, case management, and supportive and recovery housing are a few examples of

allowable activities that can be supported with SAMHSA grant funds (SAMHSA, Strategic Plan, 2023).

SAMHSA's person-centered mission is lofty and its push for whole-person care is admirable as are the innumerable initiatives to address mental health at every level of government. Despite these, the pain and frustration for both individuals and families navigating care remains.

This is no more evident than the regular personal and painful testimony received from impacted family members and individuals navigating care in Palm Beach County; leading one National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Palm Beach County family member to question, "System? What system? There is no system." These are not isolated sentiments and are difficult words to hear. They have been and must continue to be listened to in order to further propel and achieve the County's aim to establish a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care.

Palm Health Foundation has been a leader in community health initiatives that promote the adoption of healthy lifestyles and tackle the social, economic and environmental factors that impact physical and mental health in Palm Beach County neighborhoods. Core to the Foundation's mission is the belief overall health and wellbeing is intimately connected to the good health of an individual's brain.

As such, the Foundation is leading a movement to advance brain health in Palm Beach County through its charitable funds and community initiatives. More specifically, through its Brain Health and Neuroarts Collaborative Initiatives. The Foundation is also a leading systems change agent and has advanced the work of Dr. Thomas Insel, former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

For over a decade at NIMH, Insel directed billions of dollars into research on neuroscience and the genetic underpinnings of mental illnesses. In a March 2022 interview with National Public Radio Insel discussed his book, *Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health*, published that year. Insel stated, "Our efforts were largely to say, 'How can we understand mental disorders as brain disorders, and how can we develop better tools for diagnosis and treatment?'" and admits that the results of that research have largely failed to help Americans struggling with mental illnesses. (Chatterjee, 2022)

"Our science was looking for causes, while the effects of these disorders were playing out with more death and disability, incarceration and homelessness, and increasing frustration and despair for both patients and families," writes Insel. Insel tells of one poignant moment giving a presentation when the father of a 23-year-old son with schizophrenia who'd been hospitalized five times, in jail three times and made two suicide attempts yelled from the back of the room, "Our house is on fire and you're telling me about the chemistry of the paint! What are you doing to put out the fire?"

Insel stated he was initially quite defensive but that there was a part of him that realized that the pain that the father and so many other people were feeling had an urgency to it that our science wasn't addressing. He stated, "This is a crisis of care. This is our failure to be able to provide the things that we already have in hand." It's why Insel left the NIMH he said which led him to

getting more involved with starting a social movement to bring attention to the fact that this house is on fire. (Chatterjee, 2022)

In another interview with Dr. Eric Topol of Medscape's Medicine and the Machine podcast titled, *The Medical Model Doesn't Work for Mental Health*, Insel is asked, "So how can we do better? We've been following a specific model for mental health for the past several decades. Like the medical approach to an infectious disease, it's to define a problem through a diagnosis and provide medication to fix it. This hasn't worked as well for people with mental illness as it has for people with infectious diseases. (Topol, 2022)

Insel states an alternative to this is a recovery model that is a radical alternative that focuses not only on the relief of symptoms, but also helping someone build a life through what he models as the three P's: people, place, and purpose. These mean finding people for support, having a place or sanctuary to heal, and discovering a purpose or mission. Each of these is essential for building a life after, for example, a psychotic episode, a severe depression, or a bout of anorexia nervosa.

Insel also states mental illnesses need to be addressed with the same rigor, standards, and reimbursement we use for any serious medical problem, however, we can't address this as another medical problem. He added, the solutions must include people, place, and purpose and the focus needs to be on fixing the social safety net so mental illness is no longer criminalized mental illness and people with serious mental illness don't die homeless and neglected. (Topol, 2022)

Insel concluded in a Business Trip interview focused on exploring the future of mental health and wellness that the three P's are not focused on in the current care system, and they are not paid for with insurance. He discussed adding a 4th "P": Payment, and states, "We have to figure out how to pay for this." (Kubin, 2023)

SAMHSA indicates that together components such as these, when person-centered and coordinated with other services, can address the goal of serving anyone, at any time, from anywhere across the country. SAMHSA notes to help achieve this goal, on July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and became effective as a result of enactment of The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 which designated 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for suicide prevention and mental health crisis (SAMHSA, Strategic Plan, 2023).

In its 2022 Annual Report, the Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council reported the transition to 988 requires states to identify funding streams to build and sustain crisis response infrastructure and that the 1-800-273-8255 remains operational in addition to 988, calling either number will route an individual to an accredited Lifeline Member center. The Council also reported Florida has one of the most complicated networks of Lifeline centers with 13 local call centers comprising the Lifeline Network. A routing algorithm directs calls to a Lifeline center based on designated county coverage area in a tiered format. If one local Lifeline center is unable to answer, calls are re-routed to a second Lifeline center in the state that provides backup services. If neither in-state center can answer, the call is routed into a third tier of support, Lifeline's national-level backup network. (Florida Department of Children and Families, 2023)

211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast is the regional responder for the 988 Lifeline for Palm Beach County. In 2023, 211 reported 17,311 calls seeking assistance for mental health or substance use disorders (including 721 suicide related calls) representing 32.95%% of all its calls. In 2022, 211 reported 20,534 calls seeking assistance for mental health or substance use disorders (including 801 suicide related calls) representing 27.01% of all its calls. (211 of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast, 2024)

In 2021, the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County (DOH-PBC) and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County (HCD) enlisted the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) to facilitate a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). As part of this process, the Palm Beach County Community Health Advisory Council (Advisory Council), comprised of a diverse group of local public health system partners and stakeholders, was also engaged to inform and guide CHA and CHIP development (Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, 2023).

From January 2022 through June 2022, the Advisory Council convened to: 1) discuss the gaps in services and challenges facing Palm Beach County residents, based on the quantitative and qualitative CHA findings, 2) share their perspectives and experiences as local public health system representatives, and 3) develop a plan to address those needs. The Palm Beach County CHIP aims to address public health priorities by identifying which community partners and stakeholders will work on each priority area and how their individual organizations will support improving progress towards activities and health improvement strategies in Palm Beach County. The 2022 – 2027 Palm Beach County CHIP strategic priority areas are as follows: Chronic Disease Prevention and Self-Management; Mental and Behavioral Health; and, Access and Linkages to Health and Human Services.

The CHIP reports in 2019, approximately 9.2% of adults in Palm Beach County reported having poor mental health on over 14 days of the past 30 days, and this proportion was higher among White (10.7%) and Black (9.6%) residents. Furthermore, the rate of age-adjusted suicide deaths in the county was 13.9 per 100,000 population. This rate was 2.6 times higher among White residents compared to their Black counterparts, and 2.2 times higher among non-Hispanic residents compared to their Hispanic counterparts.

The CHIP found poor mental health increases one's risk for engaging in substance misuse. Moreover, it found poor mental health and heavy substance use increases the risk of an individual engaging in abusive behaviors, but that the cycle does not end there. According to the CHIP, evidence shows that the mental anguish that domestic and intimate partner violence survivors experience causes some to cope through substance use. Widely, research has found that substance use plays a pivotal role in violent and abusive behaviors, and always worsens patterns of abuse. In Palm Beach County, the rate of domestic violence offenses was 296.5 per 100,000 population in 2020. Of growing concern, human trafficking, which intersects in many ways with domestic violence, poor mental health, and substance use, has also exponentially increased.

Thus, the Advisory Council selected Mental and Behavioral Health as a top priority due to the great impact on the overall wellbeing of an individual and their community. The following shows the goals, objectives, strategies, and activities that will provide direction for the community health improvement planning efforts in the community for this priority area. The Plan also includes best practices, evidence supported initiatives, and currently available community resources specific to this priority area.

Goal 1: Reduce the prevalence of mental and emotional disorders.

Strategy: Promote and offer resources to enhance education and awareness of mental and emotional disorders, such as MHFA training, support groups, and community newsletters.

Strategy: Promote behavioral health integration into primary care.

Goal 2: Reduce the burden of mental and emotional disorders.

Strategy: Develop and distribute resources for the medical community to encourage and enhance early diagnosis and linkages to care.

Goal 3: Reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders and drug overdoses.

Strategy: Promote resources for support system members, community members, and those engaging in substance use to enhance community conversations around behavioral health and link residents to needed resources.

Goal 4: Reduce the burden of substance use disorders and drug overdoses.

Strategy: Increase partnerships and training related to drug misuse across the community and healthcare system.

Goal 5: Reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and human trafficking throughout Palm Beach County.

Strategy: Increase partner participation on coalitions involved in addressing human trafficking in Palm Beach County.

The CHIP identifies the following Mental and Behavioral Health – Best Practices and Evidence-Supported Initiatives: Behavioral Health Primary Care Integration; Mental Health Benefits Legislation; Extracurricular Activities for Social Engagement; Mental Health First Aid; and, Trauma-Informed Health Care (Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County. 2023)

C: Building Youth Resilience: Palm Beach County's Youth-oriented Efforts

At the same time as multiple efforts were underway to address the substance use crisis that Palm Beach County faced there has been a recognition of a crisis in mental health for young people. The need to address education and early intervention is well documented in research on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and more recently factoring in Adverse Community Environments.

Resiliency building experiences for individuals are essential to addressing mental health needs. Multiple community efforts are underway with partnerships including Palm Beach County Youth Services, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County School District, United Way of Palm Beach County, BeWell PBC and several other community partners.

Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures

Just as is the case in the adult space, collaboration of partners is key to addressing behavioral and substance use disorders for youth. After the tragic shooting of children by a person with a mental health disorder at Sandy Hook elementary, County, school district, judicial and Children's Services leaders saw the need to collaborate for an effective system of care for children. An infant, child, youth and young adult symposium was held and the eventual outcome was the creation of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures and the adoption of a youth Master Plan called "Strengthening the Steps to Success."

That Plan prioritized the creation of a trauma sensitive community. The Plan is currently being updated after a great deal of community input, most importantly from youth. Mental Health was identified as the most pressing need along with social determinants of health such as education and economic access.

Youth Services Department and Sanctuary Certification

The Board of County Commissioners established the Youth Services Department (YSD) in FY 2015. The residential treatment and family counseling division (RTFC) provided direct mental health services to children and families in schools, on an out-patient basis and in the High Ridge Family Center which is a residential facility for youth 11 to 16. In addition, YSD has an American Psychologist Association (APA) training program for psychologists.

Recognizing the long term effects of ACEs and trauma on young people and the need to address generational trauma, YSD sought to implement a model of trauma-informed care period.

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) was certified in September of 2022 in the Sanctuary Model of Trauma-Informed Care by the Andrus Sanctuary Institute. It is the fourth government agency in the nation, and first in the State of Florida to receive this certification.

The Sanctuary Model is a blueprint for clinical and organizational change. The trauma-informed model promotes an environment emphasizing the seven commitments of nonviolence, emotional intelligence, social learning, open communication, social responsibility, democracy, and growth and change. The certification symbolizes the YSD's commitment to providing a higher level of care, a trauma-sensitive environment for the clients and community served, and a better work environment for employees. The implementation of the model also increases measurable levels of hope, safety, trust, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving skills in both staff and clients.

YSD has also demonstrated a 30-year long commitment to providing mental health services to youth and families of Palm Beach County through the Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division. YSD is able to offer free trauma informed outpatient therapy

services throughout the County at five different office locations for families with youth ages 0-22.

The Youth and Family Counseling program within YSD also has 7 therapists who are assigned to 14 different schools and provide on-site therapy services to the students at the schools. Additionally, the Education and Training Center location offers the evidence based treatment of Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) which has been very successful with behaviorally challenged youth between the ages of 2-7.

Additionally, comprehensive psychological assessments are provided at no cost to YSD clients and participants in a Community Based Agency funded by YSD. These psychological assessments can cost up to $3000 in the private sector. The assessments provide vital information regarding social, emotional and intellectual functioning to aid with school accommodations and treatment planning to help youth address academic and mental health concerns in order to reach their full potential.

For youth ages 11-16 years of age who need more than once per week outpatient therapy, but are not in need of psychiatric hospitalization or inpatient substance use treatment, YSD offers the Highridge Family Center program. Highridge Family Center is a Monday through Friday trauma informed residential program that focuses on helping youth who are struggling at home, school, and in their community (peers). Youth attend a Palm Beach County on-site school where their grades are transferred in when they arrive and transferred out to their school when they leave. Intensive group, individual and family therapies are provided throughout the 3-4 month stay. Youth go home each weekend so that they and their families can practice their newly learned coping and communication skills.

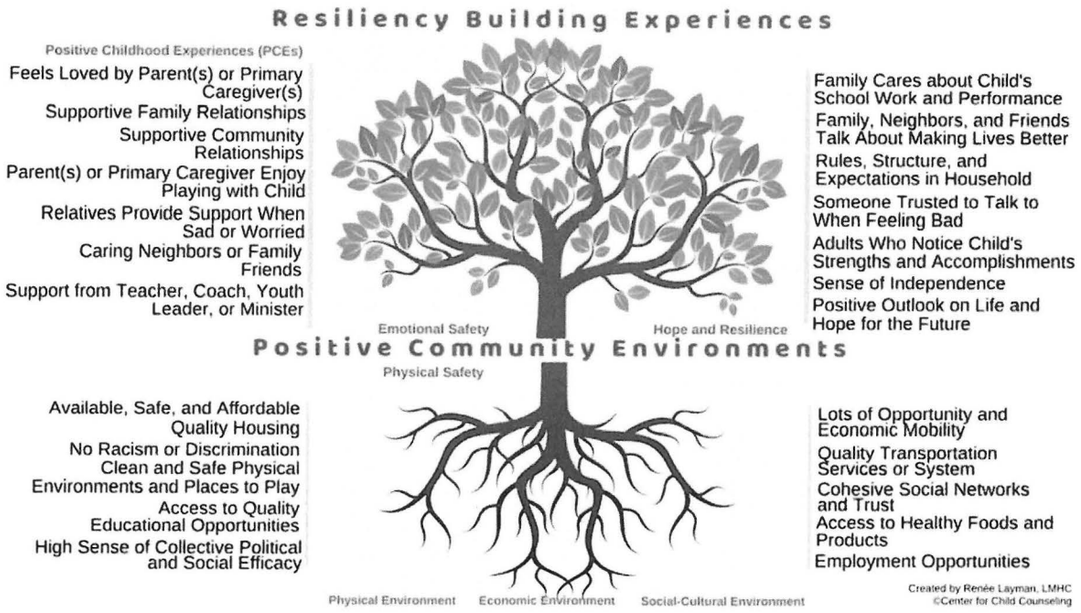
YSD also offers the Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP) where first time offenders with a domestic violence charge are able to be diverted to appropriate treatment programs based on their needs. YSD programs are considered a diversion program and for those youth who successfully complete the program, their charges are dropped.

The YSD also works closely with Community Based Organizations to provide programming and services to children and families throughout Palm Beach County. This is part of a broader collective impact initiative known as Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures which incorporates six action areas, including health and wellness, ensuring safety and justice, social emotional learning supports, and parenting and role models.

Community Based Agencies (CBAs) are organizations that receive funding from the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through its Youth Services Department. Each organization that receives YSD funding supports programs that fill service gaps as indicated by the Birth to 22 Youth Master Plan (YMP) for Palm Beach County. In FY2024, YSD supported the following agencies which provide mental health services through funding from the BCC:

- Children's Case Management Organization, Inc. (dba Families First of Palm Beach County)

- Community Child Care Center of Delray Beach, Inc. (dba Achievement Centers for Children & Families)
- Center for Child Counseling, Inc.
- Compass, Inc.
- Pace Center for Girls, Inc.
- Children of Inmates, Inc.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County, Inc.
- Milagro Foundation, Inc.



Children's Services Council

The Children's Services Council (CSC) is one of two backbone agencies of Birth to 22 along with the PBC YSD. CSC funds a continuum of services aimed at promoting social-emotional well-being and mental health for children and families, targeting the pre-natal early childhood years. This continuum encompasses universal prevention programs through targeted intervention services addressing trauma, toxic stress, and parent-child attachment concerns. The Council's commitment extends beyond simply funding the services to also include the continued development of workforce capacity and expertise of the providers delivering the services and ensuring fidelity to the various program models.

CSC's four goals are that all our children are:

- Born healthy
- Safe from abuse and neglect
- Ready for kindergarten
- Able to access quality afterschool and summer programming

The Council strategically focuses its investments in programs and services that support the physical, social-emotional and psychological development of children. It contracts with 43 agencies to provide direct services. Programs funded for the 2023-2024 fiscal year total $119,130,254 in the following categories:

Healthy Beginnings: Providing comprehensive integrated services to pregnant women, infants, young children and their families so more children are born healthy, grow up safe and are ready for school.

Quality Child Care: Providing increased access to quality early care and education so children are ready for school, and access to quality afterschool and summer programs so children are safe, reading on grade level and avoid summer learning loss.

BRIDGES: Connecting the child, family and neighborhood to the community at-large to ensure that children are healthy, safe, ready for school and on grade level at the end of third grade.

Initiatives: Giving children and families access to fundamental tools for success early in life so more children grow up healthy, safe and strong and our community thrives (Children's Services Council Palm Beach County, Types of Funding).

RALLY for Youth Mental Health

In response to the youth mental health crisis, BeWellPBC and partners developed the RALLY – Rapid Action Learning Leaders for Youth - a multi-channel, countywide approach to build and leverage capacity among a wide range of supports —youth peers, parents, schools, faith communities, neighborhood and grassroots initiatives, behavioral health agencies, etc.— in order to fill the gaps left wide open by a behavioral health profession shortage and disparities in access to care, and move beyond status quo methods and treatments to a vital conditions/equity approach for the complex challenges facing youth today.

With focus on youth ages 12-19 and their families, the RALLY became a data-driven, decision-making process to get people beyond talking about needs to taking action to solve problems through a collective and continuous effort to act, test, learn, and adapt. The original RALLY event on August 22, 2023, was an in-person gathering that hosted 96 Palm Beach County residents of all ages, community leaders, behavioral health professionals, funders, and system leaders to set priorities, identify existing supports and new concepts to tackle youth mental health, and move ideas to action with new relationships forming and capital dedicated to the cause. Post-RALLY, community and systems activated plans to deploy short-term and long-term solutions, and partners across the county worked together to bring solutions to fruition.

Behavioral Health Technician Allied Health (Medical Academy) Program

In March 2022, The State Board of Education approved the Behavioral Health Technician Program, a first-of-its-kind secondary curriculum created and designed by The School District of Palm Beach County and offered statewide, to prepare high school students for employment immediately after graduation and set them on a path to lifelong careers. Long-term, the program

aims to create a diverse and inclusive workforce pipeline and address the critical behavioral health professional shortage.

The Behavioral Health-Focused School Project Team that came together to develop the program was led by BeWellPBC and the School District of Palm Beach County's Choice and Career Options and Behavioral and Mental Health Departments, and included Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, CareerSource Palm Beach County, United Way of Palm Beach County and several other partners locally. Before creating the curriculum and with intent to utilize feedback from students and teachers, the project team conducted a two-year pilot from 2019-2021 comprised of 350 juniors and seniors and their teachers from five PBC high schools with high diversity and inclusion populations.

The state-approved course is designed for high school medical academies where juniors and seniors can choose to take the specialized curriculum once they have completed their general medical prerequisites. The course provides an integrated cross-trained foundation and practical experience in behavioral and social sciences and was designed to provide the learning and experience necessary to pass the Behavioral Health Technician Certification by the Florida Certification Board. Now, BeWellPBC and behavioral health providers are working alongside The School District to provide co-instruction in the classroom and internships in the field for high schoolers in the programs to gain firsthand experience.

Surgeon General: Protecting Youth Mental Health

United States Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy declared in the U.S Surgeon General's Advisory, *Protecting Youth Mental Health*, (Advisory) that, "the challenges today's generation of young people face are unprecedented and uniquely hard to navigate. And the effect these challenges have had on their mental health is devastating." This was true before the COVID-19 pandemic he said, but, "(This) era's unfathomable number of deaths, pervasive sense of fear, economic instability, and forced physical distancing from loved ones, friends, and communities have exacerbated the unprecedented stresses young people already faced" (The U.S. Surgeon General, Advisory, 2021).

While appealing in the post COVID-19 period to the unprecedented opportunity as a country to rebuild in a way that refocuses and puts people first as well as strengthens connections to each other, Murthy states, "… this isn't an issue we can fix overnight or with a single prescription. Ensuring healthy children and families will take an all-of society effort, including policy, institutional, and individual changes in how we view and prioritize mental health." The Advisory offers recommendations for supporting the mental health of children, adolescents, and young adults but recognizes that applicability of these to individuals who have varying degrees of control over their circumstances. That is why, the Advisory emphasized, "systemic change is essential."

Mental health challenges can be difficult to define, diagnose, and address, partly because it isn't always clear when an issue is serious enough to warrant intervention. Mental health encompasses our emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing, and is an essential component of overall health according to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services. The 1999 Surgeon

General's Report on Mental Health also described it as the "springboard of thinking and communication skills, learning, emotional growth, resilience and self-esteem."

The Advisory describes youth mental health as being shaped by biological factors including genes and brain chemistry, and environmental factors, including life experiences. They can also be interrelated, making it difficult to isolate unique "causes" of mental health challenges. A longer, but not comprehensive, list of factors identified by the Surgeon General in shaping youth mental health include:

- **Society** - Social and economical inequalities, discrimination, racism, migration, media and technology, popular culture, government policies
- **Environment** - Neighborhood safety, access to green spaces, healthy food, housing, health care, pollution, natural disasters, climate change
- **Community** - Relationships with peers, teachers, and mentors; faith community; school climate, academic pressure, community support
- **Family** - Relationships with parents, caregivers, and siblings; family mental health; financial stability; domestic violence; trauma
- **Individual** - Age, genetics, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, beliefs, knowledge, attitude and coping skills.

Environmental factors also include adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as abuse, neglect, exposure to community violence, and living in under-resourced or racially segregated neighborhoods. ACEs can undermine a child's sense of safety, stability, bonding, and wellbeing. Moreover, ACEs may lead to the development of toxic stress. Toxic stress can cause long lasting changes, including disrupting brain development and increasing the risk for mental health conditions and other health problems such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes, both during and beyond childhood as well as for future generations.

The Advisory not only emphasizes, "systemic change is essential," but so is a whole-of-society effort to address longstanding challenges, strengthen the resilience of young people, support their families and communities, and mitigate the pandemic's mental health impacts. The action steps that are identified as musts to be taken by the Surgeon General are:

- Recognize that mental health is an essential part of overall health.
- Empower youth and their families to recognize, manage, and learn from difficult emotions.
- Ensure that every child has access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally competent mental health care.
- Support the mental health of children and youth in educational, community, and childcare settings.
- Address the economic and social barriers that contribute to poor mental health for young people, families, and caregivers.
- Increase timely data collection and research to identify and respond to youth mental health needs more rapidly.

The Advisory lays out a series of additional action steps to take but recognizes, youth mental health challenges cannot be addressed solely by the efforts of youth, their families, local communities, and private organizations. In addition, all levels of government have a role to play. Wherein through the implementation of the following recommendations would mark an enormous step forward in supporting youth and their families:

- Address the economic and social barriers that contribute to poor mental health for young people, families, and caregivers.
- Take action to ensure safe experiences online for children and young people.
- Ensure all children and youth have comprehensive and affordable coverage for mental health care.
- Support integration of screening and treatment into primary care.
- Provide resources and technical assistance to strengthen school-based mental health programs.
- Invest in prevention programs, such as evidence-based social and emotional learning.
- Expand the use of telehealth for mental health challenges.
- Expand and support the mental health workforce.
- Expand and strengthen suicide prevention and mental health crisis services.
- Improve coordination across all levels of government to address youth mental health needs.
- Support continued reduction in biases, discrimination, and stigma related to mental health.
- Support the mental health needs of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.
- Support the mental health needs of youth involved in the child welfare system (The U.S. Surgeon General, Advisory, 2021).

Youth Surveys

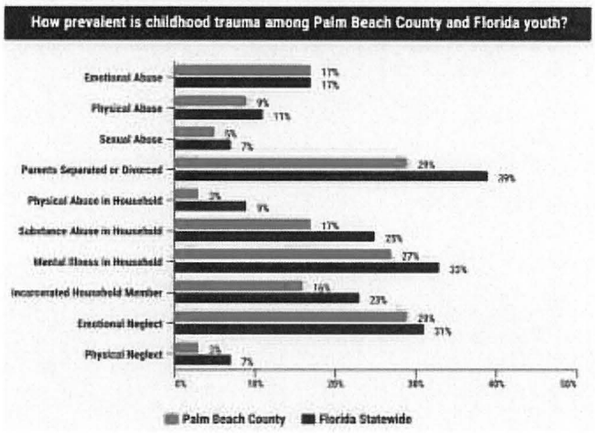
Florida Youth Surveys (FYS) are four statewide, school-based surveys conducted by the Florida Department of Children and Families in partnership with the Departments of Health, Education and Juvenile Justice. These surveys include the Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), Youth Tobacco Survey (FYTS), High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS), and, Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey (MS-YRBS) (The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Executive Office of the Governor, 2022).

The FYSAS tracks indicators assessing risk and protective factors for substance abuse, in addition to substance abuse prevalence. The FYTS tracks indicators of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke among Florida public middle and high school students and provides data for monitoring and evaluating tobacco use among youth. Both Surveys collect data at the state level each year, and it is collected at the county level every other year.

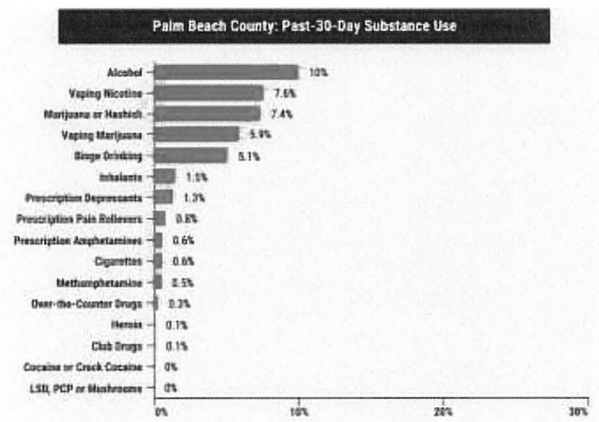
The YRBS surveys track indicators of behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence, sexual behaviors, substance use, tobacco use, physical activity, and dietary behaviors. Both surveys collect data at the state level in public and charter high schools during odd-numbered years.

The FYSAS is one of the first large-scale youth data collection efforts to include a comprehensive set of ACE questions. The high school version of the survey measures 10 areas of childhood trauma with known links to health and behavior. Exposure to four or more ACEs is considered a high level of trauma.

The 2022 FYSAS Palm Beach County report found 15.2% of Palm Beach County high school students have been exposed to at least four ACEs compared to 21.4% statewide. The 2022 FYTS Palm Beach County report found 9.4% of middle and high school students did something to purposely hurt themselves without wanting to die in the past year compared to 13.9% statewide.



The reports found Palm Beach County to be in the first quartile for these measures. This means that relative to other counties in Florida, the situation occurs more often in about three quarters of the counties. This may be attributable to the investment in youth mental health in Palm Beach County.



The final 2022 Palm Beach County FYSAS sample included 430 middle school students and 352 high school students, yielding a maximum margin of error of +/- 4.9 percentage points for the overall sample.

The graph shows past-30-day substance use prevalence rates for the combined sample of middle school and high school students.

Past-30-day prevalence (whether a student has used a substance on one or more occasions within the past month) is the standard indicator of current use (The Florida Department of Children and Families and the Executive Office of the Governor, 2022).

On November 8, 2023 Palm Beach County voters approved County Ballot Question #2 which gave the Palm Beach County School Board continued authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage for a variety of operational needs including mental health services. The referendum was originally introduced after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act was passed in 2018.

Passage allows for funds for a mental health professional in every school such as school counselors, social workers, and psychologists. The 2024 School Board budget appropriates $87 million for this purpose (Raub, 2022).

Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network appropriated $1,959,975 in Palm Beach County Primary Prevention Youth Funding for state fiscal year 2022-23. Funds were contracted with Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA) and Hanley Foundation.

DATA runs multiple behavioral health programs and services for youth and families that focus on reducing risk factors generally associated with the progression of substance use and mental health problems. Project SUCCESS is located in more than 21 middle schools and high schools in Palm Beach County and along the Treasure Coast. Services include a universal prevention education series, individual and group counseling, parenting programs, and referral services.

As part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act passed in 2018, DATA's School Based Behavioral Health Program places behavioral health therapists in 15 Palm Beach County schools on a daily basis. Its intervention services are provided to youth at more than 18 local high schools and middle schools. Services include the identification of youth at risk through individual assessment; individual psychosocial assessment; short-term individual, family and group counseling; and referral to appropriate services for youth who need more intensive care. (Drug Abuse Treatment Association, School Based Programs).

Hanley Foundation provides twelve distinct prevention programs across the age continuum, with particular focus on Palm Beach County middle and high-school students. With this age group, programming is designed to extend the age of first use by utilizing the teenage need for self-discovery and validation — educating teens about the actual effects of drugs and alcohol and correcting misconceptions. In addition to Palm Beach County, the Foundation delivers programming across 3 of Florida's 67 counties impacting the lives of some 75,000 students, parents, and caregivers in 2022 (Hanley Foundation, Prevention).

D: Network of Recovery Community Centers and Organizations Expanded

In May 2023, the BCC approved a contract in the amount of 1.25 million dollars with the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition which operates as the fiscal agent for the county-wide Recovery Community Organization (RCO), the Recovery Community Hub of Palm Beach County, to expand the County's network of recovery community centers (RCC) and allied local RCOs. The Recovery Community Hub of Palm Beach County (Hub), Delray Beach opened in May 2021 and the Hub of Lake Worth Beach hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and began services in September 2023.

The planned expansion includes establishing Hubs in Riviera Beach and Belle Glade with locally run RCO's and centers expected to be fully operational in fall 2024. Additionally, the expansion plans include the establishment of the aforementioned countywide RCO which facilitates the local RCO development process, provide ongoing technical and administrative assistance to the network, and conduct public awareness, training and education activities. To date, the

countywide RCO is fully operational, sites have been leased with renovation and local RCO development activities are underway.



The network of RCOs and RCCs is a critical underpinning to achieving the BCC's goal of establishing a readily accessible, integrated and coordinated person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care. They are also consistent with the 2022 Plan's recommendation to implement recovery supports to ease transitions and continuity of care, remove barriers and improve long-term recovery outcomes.

In calendar year 2023, the Hubs in Delray Beach and Lake Worth Beach engaged a total of 3,016 individuals in their services. Nine hundred sixty five (965) individuals received peer support services; 1,200 individuals participated in education and training events; and, 291 in social events.

RCCs are intended to be recovery hubs facilitating "one-stop shopping" in the accrual of recovery capital and provide strong, recovery-specific, social support. They may include, but not be limited to: housing, transportation, education and vocational services, mental health/substance use disorder services, medical care linkages (including HIV services) financial and budget counseling, legal and advocacy services, prevention for children and adolescents, and parenting and family services.



RCCs have been found to be of particular help to those more vulnerable individuals beginning recovery from substance use disorder who have few resources and low recovery capital. That said, they offer value to many others in the early years of recovery stabilization and beyond. They have also been found to provide a unique function in helping participants build recovery capital and thereby increase their quality of life, self-esteem, and decrease their psychological distress. (Kelly, 2020)

The BCC approved a contract in May 2023 enabling the CSD to partner with Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work and Criminal Justice (FAU) to perform a program research evaluation of the County's existing RCOs and RCCs and organizational development processes for the new locations. The research evaluation is examining the long-term recovery outcomes of the participants who interface with the RCO/RCC by evaluating levels of engagement and recovery outcomes with a report expected to be completed in December 2024.

The School's research team is led by Dr. Heather Howard whose research focuses on community engagement as the basis for the data collection and analysis methods she utilizes. Her primary area of research is centered on trauma-informed care for women, particularly in substance use and health care from an empowerment lens. Howard also has over 25 years of clinical experience in social work in healthcare with clinical expertise in the treatment of grief and loss, trauma, and substance use disorders.

E: Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program Demonstrated Effective

FAU is also a research partner in Palm Beach County's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) charged with its evaluation. COSSUP was the recipient of a 2023 National Association of Counties Achievement Award in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Category. COSSUP is funded by a federal Department of Justice $1.2 million grant which as of October 1, 2023 entered into its fifth and final year. COSSUP was operationalized in October 2020 by contract with the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) and Rebel Recovery as the service provider which outreaches to reentry services, the courts, providers and the community as a means to engage program participants.

COSSUP's aim is to reduce overdose deaths, promote public safety, and support access to treatment and recovery services in the criminal justice system. COSSUP's primary focus is on achieving housing stability for criminal justice involvement individuals at high risk of overdose, given its key predictive value in achieving long-term recovery outcomes. It expedites recovery support services and provides housing vouchers, care coordination and flex fund support.

The aim of the evaluation is, through a recovery capital framework, to determine the impact of social capital, housing stability and a recovery-oriented system of care on individuals' outcomes of personal capital, rearrests and housing stability at 90 days for persons with justice involvement and substance use histories. To date, the research team produced two reports: COSSUP Reports, 2021-22 and 2022-23. Two peer-reviewed articles were also published wherein CSD Office of Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder staff were co-authors. (See *"Now I Have My Own Key": The Impact of Housing Stability on Recovery and Recidivism Reduction Using a Recovery Capital Framework (*Howard, 2023).

> COSSAP has helped me enormously. Taken a huge weight off my shoulders and help me be able to figure things out and not be rushed into an environment where every dollar that I earn has to be paid towards rent. Helped me to save money and be able to figure out the next step in my life faster and better. Helped me be able to stay level headed.
>
> Bob, COSSUP participant, 2021

The research team found the COSSUP model was an effective strategy on building personal capital, housing stability, and recidivism reduction for justice-involved persons. In fact, of the 97 program participants only 14 experienced a rearrest (14 %). Of the 14 % (n = 14) that had a rearrest, 12 participants had a new charge whereas the others were based on technicalities (Howard, 2023).

The research team found recruiting recovery residences to participate in the Recovery Housing Provider Network proved difficult. This was true despite a 26 week resident housing voucher which met market rate and participant requirements that did not exceed Florida Association of Recovery Residences (FARR) certification standards or applicable federal law. FAU researchers indicated these realities and the project's findings bolstered the need to develop transitional housing capacity incorporating the project's programmatic interventions and affordable housing capacity given housing stability's predictive value in building recovery capital and improving long-term recovery outcomes.

In its storied history, the field of substance use disorder treatment has been unable to isolate certain interventions in an individual's care that would, with confidence, build recovery capital and create meaningful opportunities to achieve long-term recovery. The research team concluded the strong predictive relationships between identified recovery capital indicators and outcomes, including the reduction in criminal justice recidivism, have far reaching implications on how substance use disorder will be addressed in the future. Specifically, through operationalizing recovery capital and studying its relationships to outcomes, true person-centered, recovery-oriented care will not just be a theory, but can be provided through individualized recovery planning.

These findings are mirrored in research conducted by the University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine. Its research team investigated whether participation in an addiction medicine clinic with active case management led to improvements in patients' recovery capital and whether there were associated changes in criminal activity and co-occurring methamphetamine or alcohol use. (Bormann, 2023).

The Recovery Research Institute at Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital noted in its review of the study, *Recovery Capital Correlates With Less Methamphetamine Use and Crime in the Community,* that individuals with greater recovery capital – the acquisition and/or use of available resources that can be accessed to support the initiation and maintenance of recovery from substance use disorder – report improved recovery outcomes over time.

The Institute noted the period following reentry post-incarceration is a vulnerable time for individuals with opioid and methamphetamine use disorder and is associated with higher likelihood of return to use and recidivism. The Institute also noted incarceration often systematically removes access to recovery capital, bolstering the importance of building recovery capital upon community reentry among formerly incarcerated people (Recovery Research Institute, 2023).

In the study, researchers found that recovery capital increased on average among formerly incarcerated people engaged in an addiction medicine clinic, and that increased recovery capital was associated with 60-75% reduced likelihood of alcohol and methamphetamine use and criminal. Reductions in methamphetamine use was particularly significant considering that there

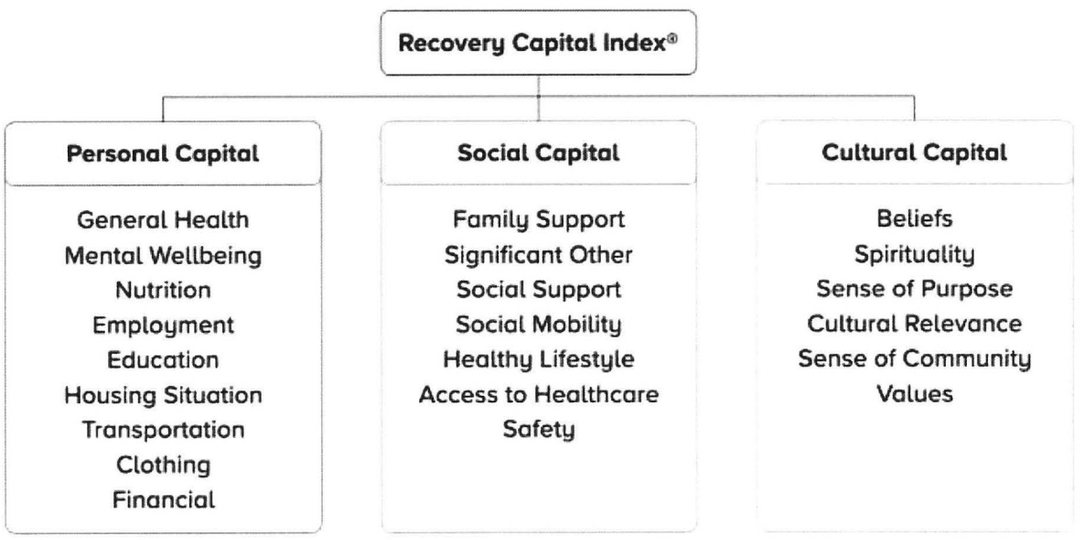
are currently no FDA approved medications for methamphetamine use disorder. (Bormann, 2023).

F: Recovery Capital: Integrating and Measuring Resilience and Risk

The measurement for assessing and enhancing recovery capital utilized by the FAU research team was the Recovery Capital Index (RCI) to support long-term recovery for justice-involved persons. The CSD deployed RCI in 2019 through its provider network which is key to measuring the system of care's success.

RCI is a peer-reviewed, validated assessment tool that accurately described the individual's current state of recovery. (Whitesock, 2018) Nationally, CSD has been at the forefront of deploying RCI and analyzing the data to inform its decision-making processes which has been memorialized in a Partner Story published in collaboration with Commonly Well, RCI's architect (Commonly Well, 2024)

The RCI provides a comprehensive picture of a person's whole well-being using an automated self-survey that allows for a personalized approach to care. RCI is person-centered and scientifically validated to reliably measure overall wellness regardless of treatment modality, recovery pathway, or substance of choice. It measures health and wellness using three domains (social, personal and cultural) and twenty-two components. The components provide a comprehensive baseline and, over time, allows for tracking of individual progress and tailored support as well as intervention effectiveness.



RCI was originally developed under the early associations of recovery capital and substance use disorder. Unlike other recovery capital assessments, the RCI is not substance focused. It does not include questions

asking about a person's use or non-use of substances, nor does it take into direct account of a person's use or non-use of specific recovery support services.

Instead, the RCI is based upon the broader notion of recovery as defined by SAMSHA. Eleven of the 68 items are sourced from the World Health Organizations Quality of Life questionnaire. Further, throughout its development, the RCI was applied and widely used in a peer coaching program for family members and loved ones of people struggling with SUD. For that reason, an alternative version named the Resilience Capital Index was developed. In the resilience version, any reference to "recovery" is removed and replaced with notions of life improvement, wellness, and well-being.

Commonly Well is currently piloting the use of the RCI and assessing its validity with adolescents and families in an extended out-patient treatment program in New Mexico.

More than 4,600 RCI surveys have been completed by individuals served by CSD funded programs as of February 2024. There is a 95.3% survey completion rate (Commonly Well, 2024).

5 Indicators of Resilience	Avg.	5 Indicators of Risk	Avg.	Domains	Avg.
Sense of Purpose	79.0	Financial Wellbeing	39.87	Cultural Capital	71.73
Beliefs	74.36	Employment	48.46	Social Capital	62.96
Safety	70.27	Housing/Living Situation	50.42	Personal Capital	55.26
Healthy Lifestyle	70.06	Transportation	53.75		
Values	69.64	Access to Healthcare	54.98	Total RCI	63.32

Overall, respondents are reporting low support in the workplace; insufficient housing and transportation; as well as low access to and high cost of health care. Commonly Well, through conducting a regression analysis, found Health and Wellness had the highest correlation to and impact on the overall RCI score followed by: Knowledge and Skills; Social Network; Healthy Activities and Environment; and, Basic Needs.

CSD's Financially Assisted Agencies (FAA) contracts with behavioral health providers that went into effect October 1, 2021 reflected the BCC's aim to establish of a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care. Providers were required to follow specified guiding principles for such care and administer the RCI to clients with substance use and/or co-occurring disorders.

The RCI is required to inform the development a recovery plan for individuals with a substance use disorder or an individual with a mental disorder with a co-occurring substance use disorder prior to discharge. The recovery plan is to be person-centered, recovery-oriented; reflect the client's strengths, needs, and preferences. It is also to include a "warm-transfer" referral to a RCC and linkages to housing, employment, and/or recovery support services with client consent.

These newly initiated contracts pivoted away from successful discharge as an outcome measure and instead oriented measuring programmatic success toward clients being successfully transitioned to recovery support services. Specifically, whether clients are successfully transitioned to a RCC prior to discharge.

Clients are also expected to be linked successfully to housing, employment, and/or recovery support services. Further, there is an expectation that the clients' overall well-being will improve as indicated by whether their RCI score improved at least one point in the 3 domains from the baseline score at admission compared to the score at discharge.

Overall, Palm Beach County's initiatives are building recovery capital year over year. The highest year-over-year changes in the average scores for total RCI being recorded in 2022 with an increased score of 5.83 over the prior year.

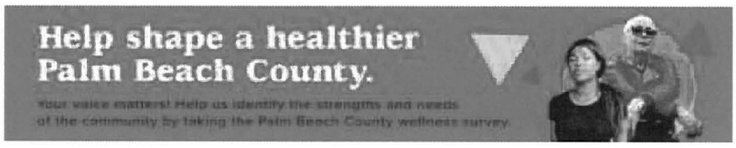
Additionally, in March 2022, CSD contracted with FARR in the amount of 60 thousand dollars to launch a Recovery Capital Initiative which educates, trains and engages FARR certified recovery residences regarding the RCI. The Initiative also provides: education and training on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR) to these residences, owners and staff to broaden acceptance of MAT/MAR; and, helps develop best practices and compliance in following prescriptions for individuals utilizing MAT/MAR.

Palm Beach County has an interest in appropriately measuring long-term recovery outcomes in the recovery residence environment through the use of RCI. A major aim of the Initiative is to build recovery capital capacity within the County's FARR certified recovery residences. The intent is to foster an environment that maximizes a resident's opportunity to achieve long-term recovery through education, monitoring and measuring outcomes.

FARR currently has 103 housing providers certified statewide, representing 1,492 locations and 6,384 beds. Palm Beach County accounts for 51 of the statewide recovery residence programs (49.5 %), representing 635 locations (42.5 %) and 2,712 beds (42.5%). Housing stability is a key predictor of achieving long-term recovery outcomes. As such, Palm Beach County has a keen interest in ensuring that the County's certified recovery residences are rigorously screened and monitored to provide safe and stable housing environments. Thus, another aim of this initiative is to ensure FARR has sufficient capacity to also achieve housing stability for recovery residence residents utilizing the RCI.

Since October 1, 2023, FARR has conducted 24 onsite recovery residence assessments including education related to overdose prevention. MAT/MAR protocols have been conducted with administrators and staff to increase MAT bed capacity. FARR has also conducted seven trainings involving 16 recovery residences to review ROSC principles and implementing RCI.

G: Shaping a Healthier Palm Beach County: Assessing Community Wellness



Scan or text PBC
to 844.926.6691

The CSD partnered with BeWell PBC and the Recovery Community Hub of Palm Beach County in September 2023 to launch the Help Shape a Healthier Palm Beach County campaign to coincide with National Recovery Month. The campaign aims to have county residents complete an anonymous wellness survey wellness survey in order to identify the strengths and needs of communities county-wide and is expected to conclude by September 2024, National Recovery Month.



The survey measures an individual's resilience capital which represents the internal and external resources someone can use to maintain a healthy lifestyle and overall well-being. The campaign's aim is to evaluate the community's strengths and needs in order to inform actions taken to improve the health and well-being of residents and communities.

H: Beyond Co-Occurring: The Intersectionality of Behavioral Health, Substance Use Disorders, HIV and Homelessness

Research consistently demonstrates that people with mental illness are more likely to experience a substance use disorder (SUD), and that people with SUDs are at particular risk for developing one or more primary or chronic behavioral health (BH) conditions. The co-existence of both a BH and SUD is referred to as co-occurring disorders. SAMHSA's 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported that 21.5 million persons aged 18 or older in the United States have a co-occurring disorder (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States, 2023).

An effective person-centered system of care must extend beyond co-occurring BH and SUDS to also address intersectional biological and social conditions. In Palm Beach County, both HIV and homelessness are prevalent intersectional conditions. The phrase "comorbidity" is frequently used to describe concurrent diseases. When socioeconomic factors influence the vulnerability and exacerbate these disease states, a synergistic epidemic, or syndemic, exists.

The US Department of Health and Human Services formed a Syndemic Steering Committee in 2022 and have developed a common syndemic definition:

"Syndemics occur when two or more diseases or health conditions cluster and interact within a population because of social and structural factors and inequities, leading to an excess burden of disease and continuing health disparities. Syndemics arise when:

1. Two (or more) diseases or health conditions cluster and interact within a population;
2. Social and structural factors and inequities allow for diseases or health conditions to cluster; and
3. The clustering of disease or health conditions results in disease interaction, either biologic or social or behavioral, leading to an excess burden of disease and continuing health disparities, (Sullivan, 2015)."

In 2023, a review of electronic health records (EHRs) of people with HIV (PWH) in PBC revealed that 20% screened positive for mental health issues and nearly 8% for active SUDs. These rates are double that of the general population, as reported in the PBC Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

A data match between the PBC homelessness and HIV data management systems returned more than 300+ unsheltered PWH. Of the total number of duplicated enrollments of persons enrolled in Palm Beach County shelters since January 2022, 3,062 individuals self-reported alcohol and/or drug use only and 1,846 individuals reported mental health only as barriers. In the 2024 unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) count, 43% disclosed a SUD, and 32% a psychiatric condition. Through data analysis, it is concluded that a statistically significant higher proportion of PWH in care with a negative screening for mental health or substance use have a stable/permanent housing status. This data supports the existence of an active BH/SUD/HIV/Homelessness syndemic in Palm Beach County.

In addition to contributing to the unsheltered population, this syndemic also has a measurable impact on the health care system. A 2024 study of 42,271 PWH in Florida found that PWH with SUDs experienced a higher burden of chronic comorbidities, a faster accumulation of comorbid conditions, and more frequent inpatient and ED visits. People with any stimulant or opioid use disorder had the highest healthcare utilization, but also the fastest comorbidity accumulation. (Liu, 2024)

Interventions that address two or more components of this syndemic have proven to be the most successful. The best example of this can be found in the PBC Syringe Service Program. In July 2019, the BCC was the first in Florida to enact an ordinance establishing a needle exchange program only a few days after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the Infectious Disease Elimination Act authorizing Florida counties to approve such a program. Palm Beach County contracted with Rebel Recovery FL, Inc. as the first and only community-based operator of a syringe services program (SSP) in Florida. This Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) program has been operating since April 2021 through a mobile health unit, allowing for services to be providing throughout the County.

In addition to sterile needle and syringe exchange, FLASH distributes naloxone (Narcan), provides counseling and testing for HIV and Hepatitis C, acute wound care, referrals for substance use disorder treatment and other health care services, and peer recovery support. Since beginning operations, FLASH has served 709 unduplicated clients, collected 183,150 used syringes and distributed 167,670 clean/unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 15,480 syringes in the community. (Palm Beach County Syringe Services Report, 2022).



In addition, 1,368 kits of naloxone (Narcan) were distributed resulting in 935 reported overdose reversals, 269 participants were linked to substance use disorder counseling or treatment, and 153 referred to shelter. In 2023, FLASH also expanded to new locations in Riviera Beach and South Bay; areas of the County with high incidences of HIV and substance use. FLASH's Wound Care Clinic served 40 unduplicated clients for services ranging from general health screenings to acute wound care as well as referrals to primary and specialty care when needed.

Moving beyond co-occurring disorders by approaching a person-centered, recovery oriented system of care with intersectional interventions will challenge the biopsychosocial siloes that have permitted the burden of each individual condition to persist for decades. This approach will also allow for the interconnected nature of the syndemic to be the key to its resolution.

I: Managing Entity: Looking Up to Patients as the Guiding Star to Client-centric Care

SEFBHN is a critical partner in the County's efforts to address behavioral health and substance use disorders. SEFBHN is the managing entity for Palm Beach County contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to administer and provide oversight of behavioral health services. Its aims align with those of the BCC with respect to orienting toward person-centered and recovery-oriented care. According to Ann Berner, SEFBHN CEO and President, SEFBHN has made it its mission to shift from a top-down view of the behavioral health system to a client-centric view that looks up to patients as the guiding star (Otero, M., 2023).

SEFBHN appropriates more than $70.3 million annually for community-based and residential treatment; acute care and community-based non-treatment services. Providers are required to employ principles of recovery including: choice, hope, trust, personal satisfaction, life-sustaining roles, interdependence, and community involvement.

Palm Beach County had four Baker Act receiving facilities as of 2022 of which only one accepted youth under 18-years-old. SEFBHN added a fifth when it contracted with NeuroBehavioral Hospitals of the Palm Beaches (NBH) for inpatient services in West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach. The Boynton location includes voluntary admissions for people needing acute care (Otero, M., 2023).

The BCC approved a contract with SEFBHN effective October 1, 2020 wherein the managing entity partnered with the County to conduct a neutral care coordination pilot project to provide assessment, referral and care coordination services oriented toward individualized service plans unique to the individuals' needs and consideration of their choices with a care provider network comprised of treatment, social and recovery services as well as with the underpinnings of peer supports. In implementing neutral care coordination, the contract achieved an overarching high priority of the 2022 Plan Update 2022 and its aims to achieve cost-savings which will be reinvested in needed social, recovery support and prevention services.

In the second year of the contract, SEFBHN established the Expanding and Maximizing Better Access to Recovery and Resiliency through Care Coordination (EMBARCC) program. EMBARCC expanded the comprehensive neutral care coordination program to act as an initial and central point of contact for individuals seeking substance use disorder and mental health treatment services.

SEFBHN continued the project at the expiration of the County contract in September 2022. EMBARCC is described as playing a pivotal role in an overall transformation towards a recovery-oriented system of care by improving identification of behavioral health needs, maximizing coordination and linkage with needed services across health domains, and optimizing utilization of levels of care. This has been demonstrated to be cost-effective and maximizes the benefit to the individuals receiving services which is outlined in more detail on page 25 of this 2024 Plan.

J: Health Care District: Implementation of the Crisis Now Model

In January 2019, the BCC approved an inter-local agreement with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County (HCD) to provide a revenue guarantee that would support the establishment of an addiction stabilization unit (ASU) on the campus of JFK North Hospital. An agreement between the BCC and JFK to provide financial assistance in the amount of $500,000 per year was later executed for this purpose.

The ASC is a unique public-private partnership designed to address the immediate and critical care of individuals experiencing medical emergencies due to opioid or other substance use disorders. The model, as originally designed, provided a central location with an emergency room component that allowed for lifesaving overdose intervention delivered within the ASU and a "warm hand off" to an adjacent outpatient clinic operated by the HCD where MAT and behavioral health services could be initiated or continued by a specialized, addiction-trained medical team.

Recognizing the success of the ASU in Palm Beach County, Governor Ron DeSantis in 2022 launched the Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network (CORE), modeled after the Palm Beach County program. The Governor's office described the program as the "first comprehensive solution to addiction recovery in the nation." In its inaugural year, CORE was rolled out in 12 Florida counties. Additional counties are now in various stages of implementing the statewide model (DeSantis, 2023).

The Florida Blue Foundation also highlighted this partnership with its 2023 Sapphire Award naming it the first-place program in recognition of the public health system's innovative outpatient addiction treatment model, which is now being replicated by the state in counties across Florida. (Health Care District, 2023)



The HCD has invested heavily in facilities and services in response to the opioid epidemic and the increasing need for substance use and co-occurring disorder services. The annual operational costs exceeded $3 million for the last fiscal year.

The Mangonia Park Clinic was opened which is specifically designed to provide substance use services and support to the ASC. For the period October 1, 2021 to February 18, 2024 the HCD reports serving 2,296 unique patients at the ASU and a total of 3,543 patient visits. Sixty eight percent (2,373) of which were walk-ins with the remainder largely being transported by local or county fire rescue departments. (Health Care District, ASU Data Report, February 18, 2024)

Fifteen percent of patients report coming to Florida for treatment. Of patients reporting having overdosed, 508 patients (60%) report having done so five or more times; 20% of which (256) report having overdosed ten or more times. Two hundred forty-two (242) patients reported carrying nasal Narcan spray and 73 patients report participating in a clean needle exchange. Seven percent of patients (251) reported a Baker Act history (Health Care District, 2024).

For the period October 1, 2021 to February 18, 2024, the HCD served 1,930 unique patients at its Lewis and Mangonia substance use disorder clinics. More than 1,500 patients were received Suboxone treatment in the District's MAT program. For these patients and others, 24,437 MAT prescriptions were written of which 63% were filled at District pharmacies at no cost to the patient. The balance of the prescriptions were filled in local pharmacies for patients with insurance.

Sixty five percent (65%) are reported to be homeless with 463 patients reporting they were street homeless. Additionally, more than two-thirds of the patients are reported to be in need of care coordination for food (1,294), housing (1,258), and transportation (1,296). The HCD's housing and transportation care coordination needs are also identified in the Recovery Capital Index's highest risk factors. Housing ranked as the third highest risk factor and transportation was ranked fourth. (Health Care District Clinic Data Report, February 18, 2024).

Responding to community concerns regarding perceived deviations from the initial model that were primarily articulated in late 2023 and early 2024 at the BHSUCOD's ASU subcommittee and a recommendation by it to conduct an after action review, FAU clinical research team has been engaged as part of its existing contract with the County to produce a report that describes and documents the creation and the history of the ASC, the components of the applied health care model, and the implementation by the participating partners. It is anticipated the report will inform future decisions related to County funding for ASU operations and updates to the County's Behavioral Health Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders Master plan.

In December 2023, the Health Care District unveiled the preliminary results of a feasibility study approved by its Board in June 2023. HCD recognized that crisis care is an integral part of the behavioral health infrastructure, the District contracted with Initium Health of Denver, Colorado to conduct the study to present recommendations on the crisis care approach best suited for Palm Beach County to address emergency mental health needs through a medical lens as well as addressing social determinants of health. Initium recommended implementation of a Crisis Now Model (Initium, 2023).

Spearheaded by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), the model serves as a framework for communities to implement the National Guidelines. Initium stated there are a variety of ways to implement and operationalize the model's key programmatic components; someone to call; someone to respond; and, somewhere to go.

Initium utilized the NASMHPD Crisis Resource Need Calculator (Calculator) to provide an overview of the estimated cost reduction associated with transforming the existing crisis care system in Palm Beach County focused solely on emergency department and inpatient psychiatric services. Said services were estimated to cost $281 million while adoption of the Crisis Care model is estimated to cost $138 million.

Initium states the emergency department and inpatient psychiatric services scenario is a starting point for communities to estimate their cost reduction potential. It indicates by implementing the full continuum of Crisis Now services, Palm Beach County can build on its existing crisis services and realize significant savings (Initium, 2023). Initium, however, did not specify which entity (ies) (i.e. government, payors, private hospitals, etc.) would stand to realize these savings.

The Calculator enables consideration of the potential healthcare costs of scenarios such as adopting the Crisis Now model; using and expanding existing emergency departments and inpatients sites; and, adopting a modified behavioral health crisis care model. It is not designed for or intended to be used estimating a state or county's current total cost of behavioral health crisis care. Nor is it intended to specify cost savings and returns on investment for states or counties (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Crisis).

A final report entitled, *"Implementation of the Crisis Now Model in Palm Beach County"* was publicly released by the HCD in April 2024. The report identifies, of the estimated $138 million in costs, services will include 20 mobile crisis teams, 82 crisis receiving chairs, 69 short-term crisis beds and 186 acute in-patient beds. The report also identifies more than 20 key performance indicators including, but not limited to: the number of individuals served per 8 hour shift, total cost of care for crisis episode, percent of mobile responses resolved in the community and call volume (Health Care District of Palm Beach County, Implementation of the Crisis Now Model in Palm Beach County).

Additionally, the District is in a planning phase for an expansion of hours at the Mangonia Park Clinic in hopes of achieving a 24/7 access point for substance use and mental health related services. Specialized addiction services are also being provided at the District's Delray Beach Health Center location and expanded hours are also being considered at this location. The HCD costs will increase significantly as hours are expanded.

K: Data to Action, Social Determinants of Health

To provide context to the number of individuals served by the HCD and SEFBHN funded providers noting the number of calls placed to 211 of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast (211) for mental health and addiction assistance is helpful. During the same HCD reporting period, October 1, 2021 to February 18, 2024, 211 reported 43,971 mental health and addiction calls.

The calls were 211's second most requested category for the period which represents 24.1% of the total 182,807 calls received. (211 of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast, 2024)

In this context, the Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County's (DOH) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can be viewed. OD2A was renewed in 2023 and is a multi-year cooperative agreement to fund overdose surveillance and prevention programs. Overdose surveillance is conducted by DOH, while overdose prevention is mostly carried out through community partnerships. The goal of surveillance is to increase the foundational knowledge of the overdose and substance use epidemic in the County and to utilize local data to guide decision-making by putting overdose data to action to drive real, sustainable change.

Although more work remains to address historic concerns related to shared data, measurement, and outcomes, DOH's contributions have significantly aided in closing these identified data deficits. DOH's work provides important data to the County's decision-making processes which aids in achieving OD2A's aim of utilizing the data to drive real, sustainable change.

DOH releases monthly Syndromic Surveillance Reports and bi-annual and annual reports. The most recent annual report, *Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Overdose Surveillance Annual Report Palm Beach County, FL, 2022*, was released in August 2023. These provide important detailed data analysis related to overdosed individuals' demographics, suspected drugs involved with and location of event, number of emergency room visits and discharge disposition (VanArsdale, W., 2023).

Critical to the BCC's goal of establishing a person-centered, recovery oriented ecosystem is the social determinants of health (SDOH) data DOH has contributed to the County's efforts of achieving this aim and its resilience and recovery orientation.



The CDC, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion defines social determinants of health (SDOH) as the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. SDOH is grouped into five domains: economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Healthy People).

In this regard, DOH's 2022 Annual Report provides SDOH related to social and community context (i.e. marital status, emergency contact) as well as employment, health insurance and housing. People from all walks of life may be affected by substance use disorder but protective factors like social support helps maintain healthful behaviors. Experiencing and maintaining

supportive and healthy relationships among family, friends, and romantic partners affect a person's emotional and mental health (Van Arsdale, W., 2023).

DOH found the percentage of individuals unemployed in 2022 was 43.8% higher than the percentage unemployed in the 2021 data sample. DOH cited a study of a large national cohort of people who lived with a disability, were unemployed, and/or were retired and were found to have a higher risk of overdose death compared to those who were employed.

DOH indicates such research demonstrates unemployment or retiring may lead to changes in routines, social connections, social support, and socioeconomic status—all social determinants of health. Additionally, people who use drugs often experience barriers to employment, including living in areas with few job opportunities, low educational attainment and lack of skills, poor access to transportation, and criminal history.

DOH found evidence of homelessness was present in 28.9% of the County's non-fatal overdose cases identified in the study. One in four suspected overdoses occurred among individuals that were currently experiencing homelessness. Additionally, DOH found that 22.5% of people who experienced an overdose had one associated address within the past year, but 77.5% had 2 or more associated addresses within the last year. Reasons for residential relocation are unknown.

In reporting on housing and homelessness DOH indicates housing instability can impact health outcomes and that studies show that experiencing housing instability or residential relocation can be linked to increased odds of experiencing violence, life-threatening health outcomes, high-risk health behaviors, decreased access to services, and criminal-legal system involvement. Furthermore, involvement in the criminal-legal system can restrict access to housing.

DOH found that the 2022 overdose data show that 40.2% of the sample are uninsured, 28.7% are privately insured, 15.6% receive Medicare, and 10.8% receive Medicaid. Since 2021, the number of uninsured people in the annual non-fatal overdose data sample has decreased by 15.2%, and the number with private insurance increased by 33.3%.

In reporting on health insurance, DOH indicates having health insurance is a strong indicator of a person's ability and willingness to access and stay in care. People who are uninsured, especially nonelderly adults and children, are less likely to have had a usual source of health care or a recent health care visit than people who are insured. SUD can be effectively managed as a chronic illness, similar to diabetes, when people have access not only to inpatient and outpatient treatment, but also to lifesaving MAT like buprenorphine, naltrexone, and methadone. Without insurance, these medications may not be affordable for most people (Van Arsdale, W., 2023).

L: White House Social Determinants of Health Playbook and Building a Recovery-Ready Nation

The White House Domestic Policy Council (DPC) released *The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health* (*Playbook*) in November 2023. The DPC drives the development and implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda in the White House and across the Federal government, ensuring that domestic policy decisions and programs are consistent with

the President's stated goals, and are carried out for the American people (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Playbook, 2023).

The DPC emphasizes the fact that improving health and well-being across America requires addressing the social circumstances and related environmental hazards and exposures that impact health outcomes. An inability to meet these social needs puts individuals at higher risk for exacerbating health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, depression, cancer, and diabetes according to the DPC. Compounding the problem, unmet social needs can cause major disparities in health outcomes stratified by geography, race, ethnicity, age, income, disability status, sexual orientation and a number of other factors.

The DPC highlights evidence that suggests that interventions addressing social needs can improve health outcomes. For example, research has found that housing individuals with HIV who are experiencing homelessness increases survival with intact immunity by 21% after one year.

The *Playbook* lays out an initial set of structural actions federal agencies are undertaking to break down these silos and to support equitable health outcomes by improving the social circumstances of individuals and communities. The Playbook sets the stage for agencies and organizations to re-imagine new policies and actions around SDOH, both inside and outside of government.

The vision and coordinating actions outlined in the Playbook *creates a scaffolding upon which entities from all segments of society can build.* (emphasis added) These initial efforts are focused on individual and community-centered interventions with actions grouped into three pillars as follows:

- **Pillar 1:** *Expand Data Gathering and Sharing: Advance data collection and interoperability among health care, public health, social care services, and other data systems to better address SDOH with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial support.*
- **Pillar 2: Support Flexible Funding for Social Needs:** *Identify how flexible use of funds could align investments across sectors to finance community infrastructure, offer grants to empower communities to address HRSNs, and encourage coordinated use of resources to improve health outcomes.*
- **Pillar 3: Support Backbone Organizations:** *Support the development of community backbone organizations and other community infrastructure to link health care systems to community service organizations.*

The DPC's aim is to accelerate innovation across sectors to develop practical solutions that equitably improve social circumstances and achieve better health outcomes. It declares it will continue to champion advancements that foster individual and community engagement, enhance public health, improve well-being, and serve communities and calls upon all Americans to partner in these efforts and commit to investing in communities to strengthen the health of society (White House, Playbook, 2023).

Critically, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in release of its 2022 National Drug Control Strategy (*Strategy*) emphasized recovery-oriented and harm reduction strategies in three of its seven drug control priorities as follows:

1. Expanding access to evidence-based treatment, particularly medication for opioid use disorder.
2. Advancing racial equity in our approach to drug policy.
3. Enhancing evidence-based harm reduction efforts.
4. Supporting evidence-based prevention efforts to reduce youth substance use.
5. Reducing the supply of illicit substances.
6. Advancing recovery-ready workplaces and expanding the addiction workforce.
7. Expanding access to recovery support services (ONDCP, Strategy, 2022).

ONDCP leads and coordinates the nation's drug policy so that it improves the health and lives of the American people. ONDCP is responsible for the development and implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy and Budget. ONDCP coordinates across 19 federal agencies and oversees a $41 billion budget as part of a whole-of-government approach to addressing addiction and the overdose epidemic (White House, ONDCP).

In outlining A Comprehensive Path Forward through its 2022 *Strategy*, ONDCP defines harm reduction as an approach that emphasizes working directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of those served, and offer flexible options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care services. ONDCP emphasizes harm reduction is people-centered (ONDCP, Strategy, 2022).

Specifically, ONDCP's focus on harm reduction includes naloxone, drug test strips, and syringe services programs. Syringe services programs are community-based programs that can provide a range of services, including links to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and links to care and treatment for infectious diseases. Syringe services programs can be a critical intervention to reduce overdose deaths and communicable disease. Access to these proven, lifesaving interventions should not depend on where someone lives and instead should be available to all who need them.

The 2022 *Strategy* places great emphasis on Building a Recovery-Ready Nation. The four major dimensions of recovery prioritized in the *Strategy* are home, health, purpose, and community as defined by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. It reports Americans follow diverse trajectories from SUD to recovery or remission. In 2020, an estimated 29.2 million Americans perceived ever having a substance use problem. Of these, 21 million (72%) identified as in recovery or recovered from a substance use problem.

The *Strategy* also identifies a 2017 study which found that, among people who reported having resolved an alcohol or other drug program, the most common recovery supports included mutual aid groups (45%), treatment (28%), and emerging recovery support services (22%). ONDCP concludes reaching recovery is more important than the specific path taken to it.

The Strategy's goals to Build a Recovery-Ready Nation are:

1. Increase scientific understanding of recovery.
2. Foster adoption of more consistent certification and accreditation standards nationally.
3. Expand the peer recovery support services (PRSS) workforce and the organizational infrastructure that supports it.
4. Address stigma and misunderstanding, and
5. Eliminate barriers to safe and supportive housing, employment, and education for people in recovery. (ONDCP, Strategy, 2022).

President Biden, during his 2022 State of the Union address, stated, "If you're suffering from addiction, you should know you're not alone. I believe in recovery, and I celebrate the 23 million Americans in recovery… Now is our moment to meet and overcome the challenges of our time together. And we will" (Biden, J., 2022). The White House issued similar information/documents on mental health such as the "White House Report on Mental Health Research Priorities" (February 2023), "Fact Sheet: Biden/Harris Administration Announces New Actions to Tackle Nation's Mental Health Crisis" (May 2023), and "Reducing the Economic Burden of Unmet Mental Health Needs" (May 2022).

M: Community in Action



Granicus deploys digital and other communications strategies to better connect people with decision-makers. It defines community advocacy as "a strategic approach to influencing outcomes and driving change on behalf of the community. It involves representing the community's rights and needs to the level of government best able to respond." (Granicus, 2023). There is no greater example of community advocates in action and providing strong leadership to establish a recovery-oriented landscape than the Southeast Florida Recovery Advocates and Our2Sons.

These organizations, which represent persons in recovery, parents of loss, effected family members and other allies, were successful in advocating for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to have their PBSO deputies and corrections officers not to carry Nalaxone (aka Narcan). Advocates held protests and candlelight vigils in January and April 2022 outside PBSO office in hopes of changing the policy requiring all law enforcement officers to carry Narcan.

In July 2022, advocates appeared before the BCC to advance their cause. The next month, PBSO announced a for all deputies and corrections officers to carry Narcan. The PBSO also announced it would conduct a three-year study on frequency and results of officers carrying Narcan to determine continued deployment (Palm Beach Post, 2022).

In late October 2022, the Palm Beach Post reported PBSO announced more than 2,000 sworn PBSO deputies and correction officers were armed with the nasal spray. The PBSO noted it obtained the doses from the Florida Department of Health's HEROS Program, or Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support, at no cost to the agency (I Save FL, 2022). The HEROS program provides free naloxone to emergency response agencies.

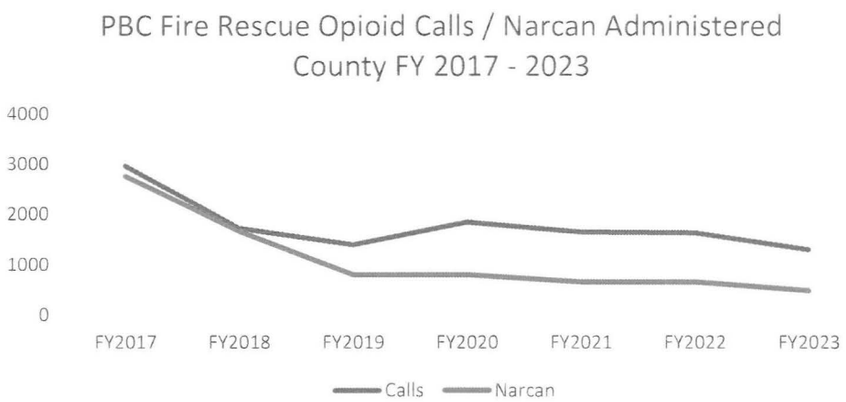


Florida's Department of Children and Families also provides free Narcan to approved providers statewide through its I Save FL program. There are 23 approved providers in Palm Beach County who are regularly distributing Narcan, conducting Narcan trainings, and recording overdose reversals resulting from distributed Narcan (I Save FL, 2022).

N: Fire Rescue's Mobile Integrated Health

On the front line of care is Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR), meeting the needs of patients and families when experiencing a substance or alcohol-related medical emergency or a mental health emergency. PBCFR reported 1,298 opioid related calls to 911 during the County's fiscal year 2023. This represents an overall 56% decrease from the 2,965 calls received at the opioid epidemic's height in fiscal year 2017. There was a reported 20% year-over-year decrease in calls between fiscal years 2022 to 2023, from 1,631 to 1,298 calls.

PBCFR also reported Narcan was administered to 475 overdosed individuals during fiscal year 2023. This represents an overall 83% decrease from the 2,752 overdosed individuals administered Narcan in fiscal year 2017. There was a reported 27% year-over-year decrease in Narcan administered between fiscal years 2022 to 2023, from 649 to 475 (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, 2024).



PBCFR launched Florida's first Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) team in 2017. MIH serves as a bridge to a recovery-oriented system of care through all County and community resources ensuring warm transitions of care to address the unique needs of individuals. To expand Fire Rescue's reach beyond the 911 scene, the MIH team, which includes community paramedics and medical social workers, provides outreach to patients and families after their 911 call.

By combining multidisciplinary expertise and community trust in EMS, MIH is empowered to reach patients in whatever setting they perceive to be their safe space, including their housing, in the community, or via telehealth. By providing education, specialized recovery-oriented care coordination to meet the needs of even the most medically complex and offering harm reduction tools through the distribution of kits containing Narcan, condoms, and recovery-oriented resources, such as The Recovery Community Hub of Palm Beach County, the MIH team can connect to individuals who otherwise may lack access points to services and supports.

With a mission of continuing to seek new paths of reaching individuals living with substance, alcohol, and mental health disorders, the MIH team is planning an expansion to emergency department co-response, advocating for, supporting, and connecting patients to recovery care options that meet their own unique needs. By serving as a trusted bridge between individuals in crisis and the recovery-oriented system of care, the individual is set on a course for success in reaching their recovery and wellness goals. Programs such as Fire Rescue's MIH team are essential for addressing health disparities, gaps in access, and creating an effective and trusted partner-oriented path for those seeking care in our County.

Additionally, The School District of Palm Beach County reports all District operated schools carry Narcan in the school clinics. Narcan is made available in partnership with the Health Care District and the Department of Health. The School District will also be expanding this initiative with the School Police Department in the near future.

O: Leading the Way in Person-centered, Recovery-oriented Care

The 2017 Opioid Response Plan did not focus on recovery and person-centered, recovery-oriented care. Person-centered care was first developed for the population with mental illness in the 1940's. While a relatively new concept in the substance use disorders field and advanced by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) the expectation was the structure of recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) would evolve at all levels of government.

William L. White's seminal monograph in ROSC, recovery management and ROSC addiction treatment literature, *Recovery Management and Recovery Oriented Systems of Care: Scientific Rationale and Promising Approaches*, has been advanced to help evolve this modality. The monograph comprehensively lays out the empirical support for moving to (ROSC).

White, Emeritus Senior Research Consultant at Chestnut Health Systems, is widely published in peer-reviewed journals and authored or co-authored more than 20 books as well as 400 articles, monographs, and research reports. His works, *Slaying the Dragon – The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America* and *Let's Go Make Some History: Chronicles of the New Addiction Recovery Advocacy Movement*, enjoy wide critical acclaim (Chestnut, William White Papers).

The monograph provides a systematic review of the literature to support this transition; concrete strategies to make the vision of recovery-oriented service systems a reality; and, outlines the scientific conclusions and the systems-performance data supporting extension of the acute-care model of addiction treatment to a model of sustained recovery management.

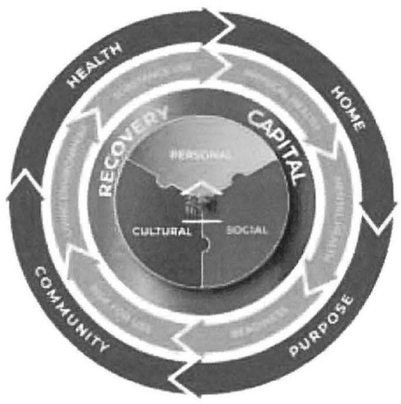
White issues a clarion call in the monograph, "It is time we proactively managed the prolonged course of addiction and recovery careers and stopped focusing on brief episodes of biopsychosocial stabilization. It is time for national, state, and local initiatives to create recovery-oriented systems of care that can promote this model of sustained recovery management within addiction treatment programs across the country."

It is time we ... stopped focusing on brief episodes of biopsychosocial stabilization. It is time for national, state, and local initiatives to create recovery-oriented systems of care that can promote this model of sustained recovery management.
William L. White

Palm Beach County has responded to White's clarion call with, as noted earlier, the BCC's declaring its expressed approval of a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care focused on quality of care and long-term recovery outcome improvements in the Resolution establishing the BHSUCOD.

All the County's collective and collaborative efforts, prior and since, have been directed at planning, developing and executing a comprehensive person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care. In 2023, the initial system model was modified to orient the County's efforts toward a Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem approach to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Care which has been adopted by the County. (See Appendix A)

PALM BEACH COUNTY RESILIENCE & RECOVERY ECOSYSTEM OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CARE



The ecosystem model integrates American Society of Addiction Medicine's (ASAM) Third Edition criteria and its six dimensions. The ASAM Criteria is the most widely used and comprehensive set of standards for placement, continued service, and transfer of patients with addiction and co-occurring conditions. Many states across the country are using the ASAM Criteria as the foundation of their efforts to improve the addiction treatment system.

It should be noted ASAM recently released Fourth Edition criteria which were adopted subsequent to the County's current ecosystem modeling. The Fourth Edition criteria will be integrated into the ecosystem model in the near future.

ASAM Third Edition Dimensions	ASAM Fourth Edition Dimensions
1. Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential	1. Intoxication, Withdrawal, and Addiction Medications
2. Biomedical Conditions and Complications	2. Biomedical Conditions
3. Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications	3. Psychiatric and Cognitive Conditions
4. Readiness to Change	4. Substance Use-Related Risks
5. Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential	5. Recovery Environment Interactions
6. Recovery/Living Environment	6. Person-centered Considerations

The Fourth Edition reorders the dimensions from the Third Edition. Readiness to change is now considered within each dimension, and the Third Edition Dimensions 5 and 6 were shifted to Dimensions 4 and 5, respectively, in the Fourth Edition. Important to the County's ecosystem model, the new Dimension 6: Person-Centered Considerations considers barriers to care *(including social determinants of health), patient preferences,* (emphasis added) and the need for motivational enhancement. (ASAM, ASAM Criteria)

The ecosystem also integrates the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's (SAMHSA) for major dimensions of recovery: health, home, purpose and community (SAMHSA, Recovery). See Section III, Introduction to the Plan Update 2024, page 36 for additional details on SAMHSA's guidance related to ROSC and guiding principles.

The ecosystem at the Macro level is concerned with interaction and interdependence of individuals with their surrounding physical, social, and cultural systems in order to holistically assess how individuals affect and are affected by such systems. It makes accessible a network of services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to achieve improved health, wellness, and quality of life.

The Meso level provides a non-conflicted entity serving as a single point of contact providing assessment, level of care determination, referral, prior authorization and payment of certain care, and, care monitoring across clinical and non-clinical recovery support and social services aimed at achieving seamless movement in order to increase recovery capital and improve long-term recovery outcomes.

The Micro level aims to increase an individual's recovery capital through network of "recovery hubs" and other support services providing nonclinical resources, including peer support, employment and job training linkages, social and recreational activities intended for people in or seeking recovery.

In sum, the ecosystem model identifies the behavioral health and substance use disorder needs of the client population; improves client care with linkage efforts across all health domains; and, informs public payers of appropriate level of care purchases resulting in anticipated cost-savings which will be reinvested to needed social, recovery support and prevention services. It has also informed policy, planning, and programmatic decisions and is the lens through which funding opportunities are identified.

The ecosystem is consistent with achieving the process metrics related to the BCC's aims as follows: implement neutral care coordination; establish recovery community organizations and recovery community centers; broaden the reach of peer support services across the continuum; and, launch a Recovery Capital Instrument and train providers in its use.

It also remains consistent with the Palm Beach County 2019 Behavioral Health Needs Assessment (Assessment) recommendations which remains important guidance and include:

- Enhance "no wrong door policies and practices" and *development of a central assessment and care coordination system for the community.*
- Continue utilization of system-wide evidence-based practices including the *development of a true Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) and a comprehensive implementation of care coordination and wraparound services* (The Ronik-Radlauer Group., 2019)

The primary goals of the ecosystem are to:

- Ensure uniform assessment of substance use and/or mental health severity throughout the client population in order to decrease fragmentation of treatment services among providers offering various levels of care.
- Reduce the use of crisis services.
- Maintain and utilize a comprehensive continuum of substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment services integrated with other social and recovery support services.
- Provide the structure, process, and outcome measures necessary to meet care coordination goals and to streamline continuity, communication, and tracking of clients across providers and service settings.

The Assessment's recommendation is to develop a central assessment and care coordination system is mirrored by the White House Domestic Policy Council's call to communities to establish a backbone organization and other infrastructure which will serve to link health care

systems to community service organizations (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Playbook, 2023).

The DPC's definition of a backbone organization and its responsibilities describes near perfectly the initiatives to establish neural care coordination such as the SEFBHN pilot program discussed earlier which the managing entity continues as EMBARCC. The DPC defines backbone organizations as entities that manage community-based partnerships formed across sectors such as health care, social services, public health, and economic development to improve the health and well-being of individuals and the community

The DPC states these organizations can serve as central coordinating hubs that connect individuals needing various services such as housing support, transportation, legal services, or nutrition support with relevant providers. At their best, these entities coordinate across service providers, integrate funding from multiple public and private sources to support operations and service delivery, leverage trusted relationships and members' existing assets, and foster community-based workforce development and training.

DPC cites one example of a specific type of backbone organization with a robust set of capabilities is a community care hub. These organizations centralize administrative functions and operational infrastructure for a network of community based organizations, including, but not limited to, payment operations and contractual agreements, management of referrals, service delivery fidelity and compliance, technology maintenance, information security, data collection, and reporting. (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Playbook, 2023).

Care coordination entities recommended by DPC and the Assessment are supported by the evidence. In a study published in the American Journal of Public Health, researchers tested the effectiveness of a long-term coordinated care strategy - intensive case management (ICM) - compared with usual care (UC) which was piloted by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey (NCADD-NJ) and since has become the standard of care coordination for the state's welfare-to-work population.

Usual Care is often referred to as the "screen and refer" model and was the standard of care in New Jersey at the time of the study. ICM is consistent with a chronic disease management strategy that augments current disconnected episodes of acute care with longer-term care strategies and cross-systems coordination that addresses other health and social needs and provides relapse monitoring and support during extended time periods.

Researchers found ICM clients had significantly higher levels of substance abuse treatment initiation, engagement, and retention compared with UC clients. In some cases, ICM treatment attendance rates were double those of UC rates. Additionally, almost twice as many ICM clients were abstinent at the 15-month follow-up compared with UC clients (Morgenstern, J., 2009).

Now the National Center for Advocacy and Recovery for Behavioral Health (NCAAR), its Work First New Jersey Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Initiative (SAI/BHI) completed its 25th year of providing services in 2023. SAI/BHI provides comprehensive assessment, referral, care

coordination, and intensive case management services to General Assistance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients throughout the state (NCARR, Annual Report, 2023).

Over twenty-five years NCAAR reports having completed more than 217,000 referrals; more nearly 155,000 assessments; and nearly 100,000 individuals who entered treatment. SAI/BHI clients receive wrap around case management services, referrals to community-based resources, and assistance with medical appointments which allows individuals to thrive in a less intense level of care and stay in their communities.

In fiscal 2023, 5% of SAI/BHI clients were placed in residential treatment, including 2% residential withdrawal management, 1% short- term residential, 2% halfway house, and 1% long-term residential. The remaining 95% of SAI/BHI clients were referred and placed in outpatient treatment services, including 67% outpatient, 14% intensive outpatient, 6% partial care, and 7% in methadone maintenance (NCARR, Annual Report). It also reports its average cost per client per episode of care is $3,400 compared to the national average, which is between $14,000 and $23,000 (Wolff, S., 2018).

By any measure, NCAAR has been successful in developing an accountable behavioral health system to help reach the State's goals for quality care, accessibility, eliminating gaps in service, and moving clients cost-effectively along the continuum of care.

The County has worked diligently to implement neutral care coordination as noted earlier by its collaboration with the SEFBHN pilot program which the managing entity continues as EMBARCC. Before COVID halted efforts in 2020, the County also collaborated with SEFBHN on a contract that was executed to engage a consultant to assess the current and potential resources, and readiness to implement a neutral care coordination system that will include the use of a standardized level of care instrument and care coordination to navigate the system of public and private behavioral health and substance use disorder programs in Palm Beach County.

The consultant's work was to result in a plan and recommendations to implement the transition to a person-centered, recovery-centric and recovery-oriented system of care. The plan was to include independent and uniform assessment as well as care coordination for community-based behavioral health and substance use disorder programs. The County continues to collaborate with SEFBHN to achieve these aims and also collaborated with the HCD in early 2023 to discuss executing neutral care coordination in meetings facilitated by the Palm Health Foundation.

In 2021, the County established a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to establish neutral care coordination in Palm Beach County. The working group included professionals with significant experience operationalizing and working in a neutral care environment including Ariana Ciancio, Delray Beach Police Department Client Advocate and current Advisory Committee member. Previously, Ms. Ciancio served for seventeen years in multiple capacities with NCAAR's SAI/BHI program.

The Plan, *Establishing a Palm Beach County Neutral Care Coordination Entity and executing a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care, July 2021*, outlined the goals of a Neutral Care Coordination Entity (NCCE) as follows:

- Ensure uniform assessment of substance use and/or mental health severity throughout the client population in order to decrease fragmentation of treatment services among providers offering various levels of care.
- Maintain and utilize a comprehensive continuum of addiction and/or mental health treatment services integrated with other social, non-clinical and recovery support services.
- Provide the structure, process, and outcome measures necessary to meet care coordination goals and to streamline continuity, communication, and tracking of clients across providers and service settings.
- Accomplish the necessary underlying structure and processes needed to meet care coordination goals.

The Plan described the NCCE as a non-conflicted, neutral body, which serves as a single point of entry (SPOE) for referrals to providers as well as prior authorizer of and payer of certain care. Its core values are:

- Client choice and identified needs shall be the primary driver of service engagement and referral in a timely fashion. Clinical decisions shall be based on client need and obtaining best available care.
- Care coordination shall assist the client with a successful transition between assessments, initial placement, through a seamless movement along the continuum of care.
- Coordination services to include facilitation of communication among all professionals involved with the client and the community identified provider which most closely meets client's needs.
- Primary role is to eliminate barriers to achieve acceptance and admission to the appropriate level of care and facility in a timely manner.

The Plan also provides key programmatic elements as well as anticipated personnel and budget requirements. In July 2023, a Plan Executive Summary was also developed. (See Appendix B)

Much has been articulated regarding the County's efforts at *Leading the Way in Person-centered, Recovery-oriented Care*. Numerous bodies of planning documentation, research and programmatic evidence has been pointed to within Palm Beach County as well as nationally. To conclude, returning to White's Monograph and its summary of recommendations support the call for a transformation in the structure and service processes from a model of acute intervention to a broader model of sustained recovery management. These recommendations are worthy of further consideration as efforts to build a robust resilience and recovery ecosystem continue. (See Appendix C)

P: One Overdose Death is One Overdose Death Too Many

The BHSUCOD applauds the continued downward trend in overdose deaths in 2023. Given the devastation overdose deaths have on families, friends, and the community the BHSUCOD maintains the position that one overdose death is one overdose death too many.

The BHSUCOD wishes to see continued reductions, which may never arrive at zero, but believe tracking overdose death rates should not be the singular outcome measure of the County's efforts success. Beyond this measure, the BHSUCOD supports the County's ongoing efforts to measure its initiatives through a recovery capital framework and its ability to capture resilience, health, well-being, social determinants of health and risk factors.

In June 2023 the Gallup published findings in a report, *The Opioid Epidemic: How Wellbeing Can Help Bend the Curve*, which found high statewide wellbeing was linked to lower and slower-rising overdose rates. Additionally, career wellbeing stood out as key to curtailing drug overdose deaths. (Witters, D., 2023).

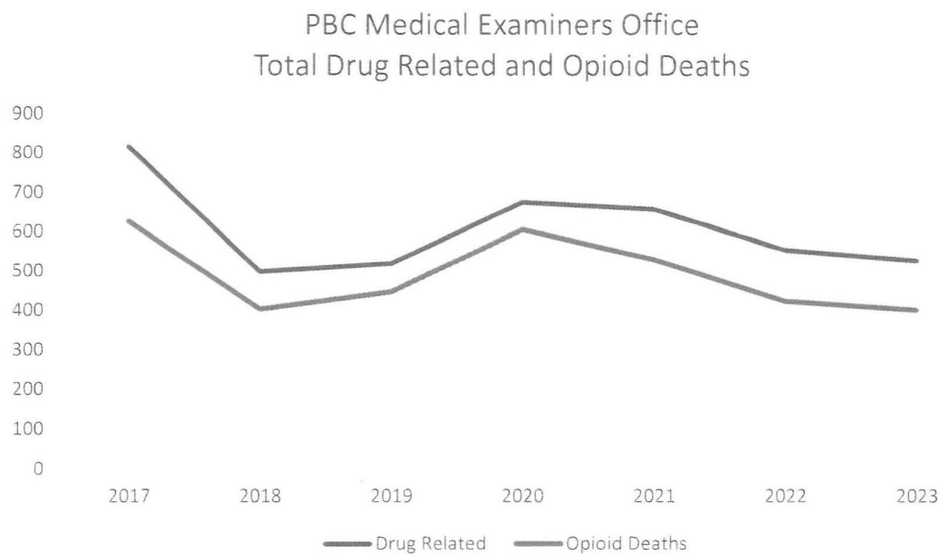
More specifically, that wellbeing was inversely related to drug overdose rates among states and the potential exists to mitigate the worsening opioid epidemic by expanding and elevating wellbeing. Gallup's analysis of the 2017 state ranks based on overall Well-Being Index scores showed that the highest-wellbeing states in 2017 had substantially lower average drug overdose rates in 2018 than what was found among the lowest-wellbeing states.

Furthermore, the rate of increase in the following two years also varied greatly, with the five lowest-wellbeing states in 2017 (West Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Kentucky) increasing their already elevated overdose rates another 15.8 cases per 100,000 residents, on average -- compared with an increase of 5.3 cases per 100,000 among the five highest-wellbeing states (South Dakota, Vermont, Hawaii, Minnesota and North Dakota).

Gallup found high population wellbeing can serve an insulating function, whereby a cultural foundation exists that lowers the probability of per capita drug overdoses the following year. High drug overdose rates, in turn, reduce the probability of high population wellbeing the following year, but to a lesser extent.

Analyzing the data further, more specific to the five specific elements of wellbeing: career, community, social, physical, and financial wellbeing. All five are inversely related to the next year's drug overdose rate -- but the relationship with career wellbeing was strongest by far, outpacing social, financial, physical and community wellbeing (Witters, D., 2023)

Gallup also identified individual aspects of wellbeing that are critically important to understanding what increases or decreases drug overdose rates in states. These aspects of wellbeing referred to as warning signs by Gallup are worthy of further consideration as efforts to build a robust resilience and recovery ecosystem continue. (See Appendix D)



The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) reported 817 drug related deaths in 2017 of which 626 were opioid deaths and in 2018 recorded 498 drug related deaths of which 402 were opioid deaths; a 39 and 36% reduction respectively. The MEO reported 519 drug related deaths in 2019 of which 446 were opioid deaths and in 2020, amidst the COVID pandemic, recorded 675 drug related deaths of which 605 were opioid deaths; a 30 and 36% increase respectively from 2019 to 2020. (Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office, Annual Report 2023)

In 2021, the MEO reported 626 drug related deaths of which 524 were opioid deaths; a 7 and 14% decrease respectively from 2020 to 2021. In 2022, the MEO reported 554 drug related deaths of which 423 were opioid deaths; a 12 and 19% decrease respectively from 2021 to 2022. In 2023, the MEO reported 527 drug related deaths of which 400 were opioid deaths; a 5 and 5% decrease respectively from 2022 to 2023.

In its 2023 Annual Report the MEO reports fentanyl and its analogs (including acetyl fentanyl and fluorofentanyl) far exceeded the other opiates (such as heroin and oxycodone) in 2023 which also reported by the MEO in its 2022 Annual Report. Most opioid deaths had multiple opioids contributing to the death. In its 2023 Annual Report, the MEO indicated the average age of accidental drug fatality victims was 43 years old and the victims were predominantly men (3:1). The MEO also indicated white individuals were 5.7 times more likely to die of an accidental drug overdose than those of Hispanic/Latino or Black/African American ancestry

The MEO reported 232 suicides in 2023, 243 suicides in 2022 and 2021 and 172 in 2020. It reports the average annual number of suicides for the last ten years is 231. The male: female ratio for suicide victims in 2023 was 3.1:1. Most 2022 suicide victims were White (197), followed by Hispanic/Latino (16), Black or African American (15), and Asian (4) with the average age of a

suicide victim was 54 years (Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office, Annual Report 2023)

The Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County's (DOH) 2022 Annual Surveillance Report reported on non-fatal overdoses and reviewed approximately 3,200 hospital medical records for suspected drug overdoses. Of those records reviewed, about half (number[n] =1611) met the criteria to be included in the sample of suspected non-fatal overdose (VanArsdale, W., 2023).

DOH identified sample characteristics. Of the 1,611 non-fatal overdoses cases included in the 2022 surveillance sample, 1,055 (65.5%) were among males and 556 (34.5%) were among females. This distribution is similar to that of prior years. Among females, 6 (1.1%) were pregnant at the time of overdose.

Of the suspected non-fatal overdoses 1,126 (69.9%) occurred among White non-Hispanic individuals. Overdoses among Hispanic individuals of any race accounted for 12.9% (n=208) of suspected non-fatal overdoses. Overdoses among Black non-Hispanic individuals accounted for 12.5% (n=202). The average age was 42 years with most overdoses occurring among adults aged 25 to 44 years and are overrepresented in the sample compared to their overall proportion in Palm Beach County. (VanArsdale, W., 2023).

While important progress has been made, the BHSUCOD continues to find systemic challenges so clearly identified in the 2019 Behavioral Health Needs Assessment remain. These include, amongst others:

- Fragmentation and disjointed care from multiple treatments, social and recovery support providers;
- Determinations of client treatment that are based on the services available at a particular provider, rather than on individualized needs;
- Ineffective transitioning of clients from one level of care or one service provider to another;
- Lack of timely sharing of needed treatment information among providers;
- Lack of monitoring and follow-up to ensure client engagement;
- Lack of accountability and agreed upon responsibilities among multiple treatments, social and recovery support providers serving one client; and
- On-going silos when it comes to client care (The Ronik-Radlauer Group, 2019).

Q. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Community education remains a critical component of an effective behavioral and substance use disorder system. MHFA and Youth MHFA have proven effective and cost-effective ($35 per student). Alpert Jewish Family Services introduced MHFA, with over 12,000 people trained with over 80 certified instructors. The School District of Palm Beach County is the largest provider of YMHFA. Many governmental, law enforcement, community-based and faith-based agencies have participated in the trainings. MHFA covers:

- Commons signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Commons signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect a person with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use, and self-care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), poor mental health increases one risk of substance use. More than fifty percent of adults with substance use disorder have a co-occurring mental illness, often left undiagnosed and untreated. The international evidence-based early-intervention MHFA course offers education and awareness, destigmatizes mental illness and substance use disorders, and teaches the skills needed to recognize and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges as well as how to provide initial support until the person is connected to appropriate professional help.

III. PRIORITY AND OPIOID SETTLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Palm Beach County Advisory Committee on Behavioral Health, Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders (BHSUCOD) established by the BCC in November 2022 held its organizational meeting on January 12, 2023 at which it approved its operational guidelines manual. As noted earlier, the BHSUCOD was established 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 BCC also declared, via Resolution R2022-1340, that:

- 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);
- 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)

Section 4 of Resolution R2022-1340 also outlined that the BHUSCOD shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- Collect information related to substance use 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).
- 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.
- If requested by the BCC, provide recommendations on positions the BCC may take on local, state and federal legislation.

In its update to members the Florida Association of Counties reported the suits against 11 corporate entities for their wrongful conduct in the opioid epidemic crisis went to trial in April 2022 and all the corporations involved settled in the pretrial phase. An allocation agreement was negotiated into three funds: the State Fund, Regional Fund, and City/County Fund which may only be used to abate or remedy the opioid epidemic. (Florida Association of Counties, The Opioid Settlement: Where are we now?).

State and subdivisions will receive more than $3.1B over the next 17 years. Over 18 annual distributions from the Regional and City/County funds, Palm Beach County is expected to realize nearly 122.5 million dollars. (See Appendix E) The states, counties, and cities also developed a thirteen-page list of programs that are illustrative of the types of programs that can be funded with settlement funds. (See Appendix F)

City / County	Regional / Abatement
$1,252,081.64 (yr. 1 pmt. rec'd.)	$14,575,999.21 (yr. 1 pmt. rec'd.)
$2,814,714.93 (yr. 2 pmt. rec'd.)	$6,882,120.16 (yr. 2 pmt. rec'd.)
$4,066,796.57 (sub-total rec'd.)	$21,458,119.37 (sub-total rec'd.)
$24,791,658.48 (18 yr. total)	$97,694,428.99 (18 yr. total)

On March 22, 2022 the BCC approved participation in the Settlement Agreement and Release between the State of Florida and Endo (Florida Opioid Agreement and Statewide Response Agreement) and authorized the Mayor to execute the Subdivision Settlement and Participation Form. The County worked with the Palm Beach County League of Cities to secure inter-local agreements with Palm Beach County Municipalities that represent a more than 50% of municipalities' total population as required by the Florida Plan (Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners Agenda. March 22, 2022).

Palm Beach County submitted its Florida Opioid Agreement and Statewide Response Agreement Qualified County Qualification Form to the State of Florida on April 12, 2022. In doing so the County certified:

- The County has a population of at least 300,000 and an opioid taskforce or other similar board, commission, council, or entity, including some existing sub-unit of the County's government responsible for substance abuse prevention, treatment, or recovery of which it is a member or it operates in connection with its municipalities or others on a local regional basis.
- The County has an abatement plan that has been adopted or utilized to respond to the opioid epidemic.
- The County was as of December 31, 2021, either providing or is contracting with others to provide substance use, prevention, recovery, and treatment services to its citizens.
- The County has entered an inter-local agreement with at least 50% of the Municipalities (by population) located within the County.

The BHSUCOD meets bi-monthly on the even numbered months of the calendar year. Members also lead eight (8) subcommittees that regularly engage and invite open participation of community members, stakeholders and other interested parties. The subcommittees are facilitated by the OBHSUD Program Evaluator and meet bi-monthly on the odd numbered months of the calendar year.

Florida Atlantic University School of Social Work and Criminal Justice (FAU) is also engaged as a research partner respective of the BHSUCOD and its subcommittees. FAU is conducting process and outcome evaluations for Plan Update, the BHSUCOD overseeing implementation and reporting on it, and initiatives of person-centered recovery-oriented systems of care.

In order to address re-occurring report findings and community concern about siloes between government, providers, and communities that create barriers to care, FAU surveyed the BHSUCOD utilizing the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory. The inventory is an assessment tool that helps provide an idea of how well interagency collaboration is doing in areas important

to success. It identifies strengths and weaknesses of individual factors in an organization's collaboration and is used to provide an overall score of collaborative success.

The FAU research team used process and outcome evaluations for the BHSUCOD, Master Plan, and Initiatives of person centered recovery oriented systems of care. A thematic analysis was conducted and major themes were created based on interviews. Major themes consisted of barriers, programmatic and purpose.

The Wilder Inventory demonstrated that 80% of the responses were somewhat agree to strongly agree regarding collaboration as indicated by the inventory's indicators. Some of the indicators that received strongly agree responses were:

- The political and social climate seems to be "right" for starting a collaborative project like this one.
- I have a lot of respect for people involved in this collaboration.
- Everyone who is a member of our collaborative group wants this project to succeed

There were also areas identified for improvement including:

- Trying to solve problems through collaboration has been common in this community. It has been done a lot before.
- The organizations that belong to our collaborative group invest the right amount of time in our collaborative efforts.
- Communication among the people in this collaborative group happens both at formal meetings and in informal ways.

The 2024 Plan is intentionally substance agnostic and intended to serve as a roadmap for Palm Beach County to bring to fruition an integrated and coordinated, person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care for anyone with a substance use disorder, behavioral health disorder and/or co-occurring disorders.

The OBHSUD Program Evaluator facilitated processes for subcommittee participants to consider and review previously identified issues and strategies while also soliciting additional input as well as regularly surveyed subcommittee participants as to their familiarity with the 2022 Plan. They and OBHSUD staff considered and reviewed an analysis of feedback received at community forums, provider surveys and related needs assessments and studies.

The recommendations contained within align with the core strategies and approved uses identified in the Settlement Agreement. They also align with the BHSUCOD's overarching priority recommendations and comprise a roadmap for the 2024 Plan for achieving the BCC's articulated strategic priority to establish a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care.

The BHSUCOD's comprehensive set of recommendations can be found on page 71 in Section IV, Proposed Theory of Action. The Committee developed initial recommendations after review of the 2022 Plan which served as the foundation for it its subsequent work in establishing the 2024 Plan's recommendations. The BHSUCOD found of the 49 total recommendations (22.45 %) of the recommendation were completed; 67.35% of the recommendations are in progress;

and, 10.20% of the recommendations have not yet started. Completed (C) recommendations are defined as recommendations accomplished since 2022. In progress (IP) recommendations have been initiated. And, not yet started (NYS) recommendations have not been initiated.

A draft of the 2024 Plan was publicly released in advance of BHSUCOD review and discussion at its March 14, 2024 Special Meeting. Public comment on the Plan was received at this meeting.

Subsequently, a public comment period was established from March 14, 2024 through March 29, 2024. Thirty six individuals and/or entities provided comments with nearly 150 suggestions, recommendations, resources and edits being received. All responses were received, acknowledged and documented. Several individuals and/or entities submitted more than one set of comments.

The program evaluator and FAU researcher conducted a content and thematic analysis. Comments were incorporated into a comment process sheet. It and all public comments received were publicly released in advance of initial review by the Executive Committee at its April 4, 2024 meeting.

Each response was granted equal weight. The analysis found comments fell into five categories: comments on the 2024 Plan, new content, resources, proof edits and two separate requests for funding. In addition, a thematic analysis was performed. The array of responses made it challenging to reach a 50% saturation threshold for themes. 50% is recognized as thematic saturation. However, related verbiage was grouped and the following themes were identified:

- Support for the Plan Update
- Broken system, continued siloes
- Align work with HIV (including syringe services), BH/SUD, and homelessness
- Affordable, attainable housing for SUD and Mental Health
- Centralized care coordination and crisis stabilization
- Emphasize mental health, youth services, prevention and education

The Executive Committee approved a motion to adopt these six themes for incorporation into the 2024 Plan for consideration by the full BHSUCOD. The full BHSUCOD unanimously voted to adopt the six themes for incorporation into the 2024 Plan at its April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Additionally, the BHSUCOD unanimously voted that the evaluation and monitoring subcommittee be required to include members with licensed medical and clinical behavioral health expertise and the operational guidelines outlining the subcommittee's responsibilities be amended to include providing medical quality assurance that programs adhere to SAMHSA and other evidence-based practices.

The BHSUCOD also unanimously voted that opioid settlement funds be spent 90% on social determinants of health prioritizing housing, recovery supports, care coordination and environmental strategies to include youth, families and community education 10% on deep-end and crisis care.

A discernible outcome of the collective work to date is the setting and execution of a vision to establish a readily accessible, integrated and coordinated recovery-oriented system of care that meets the needs of Palm Beach County residents. A rallying crying if you might that truly places an individual at the center of their care and delivers on an, to date, still illusive recovery-oriented system of care.

In sum, there have been some hard-won gains but the BHSUCOD recognizes how precarious this progress can be viewed by people and families affected by substance use and behavior disorders. Members are reminded day in and day out that its work is not complete.

BHSUCOD re-affirms the 2022 Plan recommendations while incorporating additional recommendations for the 2024 Plan Update. Its critical recommendations are as follows:

A. Overarching Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. BCC enactment of ordinance designating lead entity granting it leadership, budget, planning and monitoring authority. 2. Advocate for policies and legislation which advance person-centered, recovery-oriented systems of care and essential services that meet individual's needs and are readily accessible and integrated. 3. Identify and provide sustainable resources (essential services) for individuals re-entering the community such as those provided through the Community Services Department's federal grant research project, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). (Housing and peer support, care coordination, flex funds). 4. Implement person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that is readily accessible and integrated inclusive of Neutral Care Coordination; Care Provider Network and Recovery Supports to ease transitions and continuity of care, remove barriers and improve long-term recovery outcomes.	1. C 2. IP 3. IP 4. IP
2024	
1. Recommendation to BCC that the County lead and/or support comprehensive planning process between SEFBHN, HCD and other community partners to drive alignment, coordination, shared commitments, shared accountability, and clarify roles and responsibilities.	

B. Opioid Settlement Recommendations
2024

1. Provide sustainable resources (essential services) including housing, peer support, care coordination, and flex funds which mirrors the federal COSSUP program.
2. Housing should be focused on stable placement as well as affordability and should include transitional, recovery, supportive living and permanent opportunities for individuals with substance use and mental disorders, returning individuals with justice placements, seniors who are under strict financial pressures and living on fixed incomes and youth aging out of foster care.
3. Coordination with the Department of Housing and Economic Development, municipalities and other housing funding sources to support expanding housing opportunities for individuals with substance use and behavioral disorders.
4. Establish a non-conflicted neutral care coordination entity serving as a single point of contact providing assessment, level of care determination, referral, prior authorization and payment of certain care, and, care monitoring across clinical and non-clinical recovery support and social services.
5. Expand Syringe Services Program capacity and opportunities.
6. Expand comprehensive recovery and treatment services, including MAT, for populations with substance use and co-occurring disorders demonstrating high need and prioritizing pregnant and parenting women.
7. Promote recovery-ready work environments and expand transportation and employment opportunities for individuals with SUD and co-occurring MH conditions.
8. Create public awareness campaigns that promote recovery-ready communities focused on improving mental as well as overall health and wellness in order to build resilience in individuals and communities.
9. Create and/or support community-based education or support services for families, youth, and adolescents at risk for SUD and any co-occurring MH conditions which builds resilience, recognizes adverse child experiences and is trauma-informed.
10. Expand County's MH/SUD research capacity and enhance its monitoring, surveillance, data collection, and evaluation capabilities in conformance with SAMHSA quality assurance guidelines and other evidence-based methodologies.
11. Create and/or support community based education to increase awareness and ability to recognize warning signs of different stages for both behavioral and substance use issues.
12. Opioid settlement funds should be spent as follows: 90% on social determinants of health prioritizing housing, recovery supports, care coordination and environmental strategies to include youth, families and community education 10% on deep-end and crisis care.

Subcommittee Priority Recommendations

C. Prevention and Education Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Educate the community regarding: o Impact of substance use on brain development. o Narcan deployment, safe storage / disposal of prescription drugs (i.e. pill drops and drug take back programs) o How to select providers, avoid unethical providers; and, navigate insurance coverage.	1. IP
2024	
1. Engage community (youth included) and professionals reflective of Palm Beach County to participate, increase awareness, and ensure ongoing voice and choice. 2. Foster partnerships among schools, mental health organizations, healthcare providers, and community groups to create a network of support for youth mental health. 3. Support/enhance integrated services in Palm Beach County schools. 4. Support various outlets in community locations that are easily accessible for youth to express and receive support for their behavioral health needs including the arts, exercise, parks, etc. 5. Advocate for family trainings and programs in schools and community-based spaces (recreation centers, religious institutions, grassroots organizations) where families are already. 6. Rethink how providers can be available to deliver services so they are inclusive and meet the diverse needs of the community. 7. Develop non-traditional supports, like peer-to-peer support, to enhance the care system, offer more paths to help, and combat workforce shortages. 8. Support campaigns like the Get Your Green On campaign to spread awareness, encourage open discussion about mental health and trauma, and destigmatize challenges. 9. Educate on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the need for trauma-informed care. 10. Emphasize the importance of coping and self-care plans in building resilience. 11. Support behavioral health technicians' curriculum for high school students and promote MH and SUD professional internships. 12. Expand and support mental health first aide with a goal of one in fifteen citizens in Palm Beach County trained in MHFA, youth MHFA, or other versions.	

D. Public Policy Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Advocate for policies and legislation that improve standards of care including: integration of behavioral and primary health care; adoption of standards of care that are person-centered and recovery-oriented aimed at improving long-term outcomes; and, requirements needed for provider licensure. 2. Advocate for Medicaid expansion.	1. IP 2. IP
2024	
1. Recommendation to BCC that the County lead and/or support comprehensive planning process between the managing entity, Health Care District to drive alignment, coordination, shared commitments, shared accountability, and clarify roles and responsibilities. 2. Engage Palm Beach County policy makers by disseminating Plan and its recommendations. 3. Research, evaluate and recommend changes to federal law mandating 20 year sentence for individuals convicted of death or injury as a result distributing illicit drugs. 4. Add membership to BHSUCOD for individuals or family members of individuals with significant mental illness.	

E. Justice System and Public Safety Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Identify / develop alternative community placements in areas where there are few if any available. 2. Identify and provide sustainable resources (essential services) for individuals re-entering the community such as those provided through the Community Services Department's federal grant research project, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). (Housing and peer support, care coordination, flex funds). 3. Advocate for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to carry and use Narcan when responding to overdose calls.	1. IP 2. IP 3. C
2024	
1. Work with law enforcement and courts to intervene with offenders' misdemeanors earlier and provide treatment options.	

2. Demonstrate results through efforts like COSSUP and MAPS. 3. Fund more peer-to-peer efforts in SUD, MI, justice and corrections.	

F. Treatment and Recovery Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Advocate for increased Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through mobile services which will help individuals who are without transportation and need the continuing support of MAT. 2. Implement person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that is readily accessible and integrated inclusive of Neutral Care Coordination; Care Provider Network and Recovery Supports to ease transitions and continuity of care, remove barriers and improve long-term recovery outcomes. 3. Develop communication protocols and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) across provider and funding entities that will facilitate information sharing that allows for seamless transition of clients from one service or provider to another, based on individualized treatment and recovery plans, with appropriate warm hand-offs.	1. C 2. IP 3. IP
2024	
1. Advocate for options for MAT and evaluate efforts 2. Target efforts to address use disorder and pain to prescribers and support the medical community in peer education. 3. Integrate trauma-informed care. 4. For individuals with serious mental illness allow coordination with family members into the EMBARCC program.	

G. Essential Services Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Develop, identify, and maintain a real-time inventory (dashboard) of affordable, safe housing (recovery, supportive, transitional and permanent) for persons in recovery and other persons in recovery with diverse needs. (I.e. pregnant women, women with children, families, LGBTQ+, MAT, co-occurring).	1. NYS 2. IP 3. NYS

2. Identify and disseminate resources to persons in recovery, providers and others related to technical and career training as well as employment services. 3. Establish an Ombudsman and processes to assist individuals removed from, or at risk of being removed, from their housing.	
2024	
1. Create an up to date list of mental health, substance use and co-occurring recovery oriented care options in the County. 2. Implement a housing pilot program. 3. Support permanent affordable and supportive housing. 4. Encourage medical providers to include social determinants of health in diagnosis. 5. Continue to increase behavioral and mental health supports in the community and in schools.	

H. Evaluation and Monitoring Priority Recommendations	
2022	**Status**
1. Collaborate, coordinate, evaluate and disseminate with the Department of Health (O2DA) to obtain and share timely mental and/or substance disorder related data (i.e. RCI, overdose, Narcan deployment, mobile crisis, ER visits) from hospitals, fire rescue, law enforcement, Health Care District, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network and Medical Examiner's Office through a dashboard and other means. 2. Identify entities that are currently not reporting data and advocate for them to be required to do so. 3. Deploy RCI specifically with providers and more broadly in the community in order to collect data to determine success in achieving improvements in long-term recovery outcomes as well as overall community wellness.	1. IP 2. IP 3. C
2024	
1. Dashboard for shared data. 2. Evaluate number of MAT options available to individuals. 3. Maximize use of research and RCI data to improve the health and wellness of clients, program participants, policy makers, families, communities, and partners. 4. Expand data collection systems to include data on mental health such as including data from the mobile response teams.	

I. Faith Based Priority Recommendations
2024
1. Engage faith leaders and organizations in the update of the Master Plan and support faith efforts to serve communities. 2. Deploy RCI specifically with faith-based entities in the community in order to collect data to determine success in achieving improvements in long-term recovery outcomes as well as overall community wellness. 3. Advocate funding for Pastor Associations to educate church leaders about recovery-centered resources including Hubs, trauma informed care and importance of destigmatizing substance use and behavioral disorders. 4. Identify associations or agencies specific to various faith groups to take the lead in community education for their faith group.

J. Addiction Stabilization Unit Recommendations
2024
1. In partnership with the Health Care District, contract with one emergency department to serve as an addiction stabilization unit and train fire rescue accordingly. 2. Connect emergency services to an outpatient facility and provide case management and social work assistance. 3. Complete an after action review to assess the use of the model and lessons learned.

IV. Foundational Plan Elements

Looking to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to inform the County's person-centered, recovery-oriented framework is beneficial. SAMHSA defines recovery as a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential (SAMHSA, Recovery).

SAMHSA reports 50.2 million American adults considered themselves to be in recovery from their substance use and/or mental health problems. With 2 in 3 adults who ever had a mental health problem considered themselves to be recovering or in recovery and 7 in 10 adults who ever had a substance use problem considered themselves to be recovering or in recovery.

SAMHSA's defines recovery from mental disorders and/or substance use disorders as a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

It delineates Four Major Dimensions of Recovery that support a life in recovery as follows:

- **Health** - Overcoming or managing one's disease(s) or symptoms - for example, abstaining from use of alcohol, illicit drugs, and non-prescribed medication if one has an addiction problem- and for everyone in recovery making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being.
- **Home** - Having a stable and safe place to live.
- **Purpose** - Conducting meaningful daily activities, such as a job, school volunteerism, family caretaking, or creative endeavors, and the independence, income, and resources to participate in society.
- **Community** - Having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

SAMHSA also outlines the operational elements of a ROSC as:

- Collaborative decision-making
- Individualized and comprehensive services and supports
- Community-based services and supports
- Continuity of services and supports
- Multiple stakeholder involvement
- Recovery community / peer involvement
- Outcomes-driven
- Adequately and flexibly funded

> Recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) are networks of formal and informal services developed and mobilized to sustain long-term recovery for individuals and families impacted by severe substance use disorders. The system in ROSC is not a treatment agency, but a macro level organization of a community, a state or a nation.
>
> William L. White
> Author, Slaying the Dragon
> The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America

Self-determination and self-direction are the foundations for recovery as individuals define their own life goals and design their unique path(s) towards those goals. Individuals optimize their autonomy and independence, to the greatest extent possible, by leading, controlling, and exercising choice over the services and supports that assist their recovery and resilience. It is essential that the individual become an active partner with care providers in their own recovery process.

A. Development Process

The 2024 Plan has benefited from the collective wisdom and expertise of the BHSUCOD and subcommittee members as well as participants from all fields who met regularly to assess and update strategies and goals for it. Many of the contributors are themselves individuals with lived experience, parents of loss, and individuals who work or have worked in the fields of behavioral health and substance use disorders.

Also contributing to this plan were community champions, representatives from non-profit organizations and county agencies and analyses of community cafés, focus groups and input by participants of the County's fifth annual Facing the Crisis events held in September 2023.

The BHSUCOD subcommittees and OBHSUD staff began development of the Plan Update by assessing each of the strategies and objectives from the 2022 Plan.

The 2019 Behavioral Health Assessment (Assessment) was again considered and the following recommendations are affirmed:

- Develop a common language including the ***use of system-wide taxonomies***, data sharing and common outcome measurements.
- Enhance "no wrong door policies and practices" and ***development of a central assessment and care coordination system*** for the community.
- Continue utilization of system-wide evidence-based practices including the ***development of a true Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC)*** and a comprehensive implementation of care coordination and wraparound services.
- Provide ***peer support in other systems*** beyond behavioral health and child welfare. (The Ronik-Radlauer Group., 2019)

Also noted was the fact that while progress has been made through assessing the BHSUCOD's collaborative efforts silos remain and opportunities to improve were identified as follows:

- Expanding efforts to educate the community about behavioral health to increase awareness and decrease stigma;
- Having providers, funders, and other stakeholders work together to address the behavioral health needs in Palm Beach County;
- Break down silos across sectors, populations, and communities;
- Examine outcomes, which is critical to an understanding of the effectiveness and efficacy of services provided; *and*

- Have funders of behavioral health services collaborate through the potential development of shared data and shared outcomes.

The BHSUCOD affirms the Assessment's recommendations that the CSD focus its funding allocations on the Support Services category to include: expanding care coordination to populations that are not considered "high utilizers", encourage wraparound case management for all populations and prioritize funding for individuals and families experiencing co-occurring psychiatric, substance use and other complex conditions.

Currently, there are eight (8) subcommittees designed to align with the BCC's strategic priorities within behavioral health and substance use disorders. The subcommittees are:

1. Prevention and Education
2. Treatment and Recovery
3. Public Policy
4. Justice System and Public Safety
5. Evaluation and Monitoring
6. Essential Services
7. Faith Based
8. Addiction Stabilization Unit

B. Infrastructure

Implementing and operationalizing an integrated, coordinated person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care requires a foundation (i.e., infrastructure) to be in place. This infrastructure must consist of:

- A continuum of care starting with prevention and including early intervention, treatment, and long-term recovery.
- Neutral care coordination.
- Utilization of valid tools to identify appropriate levels of care throughout the continuum.
- Provide for movement across and between levels of care as needed
- Be evaluated and monitored to ensure data are being collected, analyzed and used to inform outcomes, measure the impact and effectiveness of strategies and assess long-term recovery outcomes, and adjust strategies as necessary.

Client satisfaction and measures of wellness through recovery capital indexing also must be obtained to ensure that the focus remains on individualized needs. Accordingly, the system must be able to rely and capitalize on:

- Cross-agency cooperation and communication
- Person-centered individualized planning
- Outcomes as a measure of success, rather than measuring success by completion of treatment

- Funding that emphasizes and supports the development of community-based and accessible (in the broadest sense) resources

Barriers that affect engagement in treatment and recovery, such as premature medical facility discharges, must be continually identified and removed. Providers must recognize the importance of communicating with each other for shared clients and the necessity of collecting and using data to promote genuine and holistic individualized care. Recovery is a journey, regardless of substance used or pathway taken. Treatment is simply a step on the path to recovery that requires planning and individualization of recovery supports. This and building resilience are the key to success and will save lives as well as help reduce repeated cycling in and out of deep-end treatment.

C. Neutral Care Coordination

Neutral Care Coordination (NCC) is an essential building block for establishing this *system of care*. It is defined as services provided by a non-conflicted, neutral body functioning as a single point of entry for referrals to providers. Services include assessment, initial level of care determination, referral, and care coordination across a continuum of clinical and non-clinical care, as well as prior authorization and payment of certain care.

Neutral Care Coordination values individualized care and individual choice in development of care plans. Individualized care plans are the primary drivers of care engagement and are aimed at achieving successful, seamless movement along a continuum of clinical care through non-clinical recovery support and social services to improve long-term recovery outcomes.

Neutral care coordinators are not tied to any provider organization and are responsible for assessing and referring individuals based on identified need, rather than based on availability within a particular entity. It incorporates neutrality into "[c]are coordination … deliberately organizing patient care activities and sharing information among all of the participants concerned with a patient's care to achieve safer and more effective care. This means that the patient's needs and preferences are known ahead of time and communicated at the right time to the right people, and that this information is used to provide safe, appropriate, and effective care to the patient". This model is utilized for chronic medical conditions, so substance use disorders, which are chronic health conditions, should be handled in the same manner.

Utilizing an unaffiliated, external, neutral specialist as a care coordinator is the most effective and unbiased way to obtain a true person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care while at the same time contributing to the elimination of unnecessary and duplicative services and repetitive cycling into deep-end treatment without any differences in outcomes. Providing care based on need is expected to free up financial resources that can be invested into community-based care, which is imperative for client access.

Neutral Care Coordination embeds the idea that individuals in recovery do not need the added obstacle of navigating an unconnected set of supports on their own. As such, there must be shared responsibility and accountability across providers to ensure that individuals are seamlessly transferred from the care of one provider to the next in a way that supports the individual and facilitates connection to identified and necessary services and supports.

Neutral care-coordinators can fulfill this role and providers also can support these practices by facilitating warm transfers of their clients, creating an atmosphere of transparency before, during and after such transfers, and by keeping focused on patient needs, choices and outcomes. Regardless of where or when transfers of clients occur, the expectation must be that there is cooperation and communication between providers which takes place electronically, over the phone, face-to-face, or via video-chat.

D. Utilization of Valid Tools to Identify Appropriate Levels of Care

Measurements to assess and inform individualized needs should include but not be limited to the use of the following validated tools and strategies:

- Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)
- Depression and Suicide screenings
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria or Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) or child and adolescent level of care utilization system (CA LOCUS) to determine appropriate levels of care
- Completion of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resiliency questionnaire.
- Completion of the Recovery Capital Index (RCI)
- Use of Motivational Interviewing and trauma informed care.

Throughout an individual's journey of recovery, the neutral care coordinator should continually engage the client to assess if any additional supports or services are needed for recovery as well as to identify and help remove barriers that may make, stall or hinder progress while in recovery. Additionally, there should be regular check-ins to ensure services and supports continue to be effective and needed.

Recovery and peer supports are critical to individual recovery and serve as the underpinning of the system of care model described heretofore. RCOs and RCCs help individuals build relationships, increase their social capital, learn how to apply new or re-learned recreational skills in a sober environment and build confidence in their ability to remain in recovery long-term.

Recovery capital is a concept that respects the entire presence and experience of a person. Most definitions of recovery capital — like the one below — shift the focus from the reasons one has an addiction to the components that promote recovery. "Whether we're in a state of addiction or in a state of recovery, we're still pulling from the same social, economic, and environmental components that promote or hinder wellbeing. Recovery, like life for someone not affected by addiction, is an ongoing dialogue with those components. We can best think of recovery capital as a specialized representation of wellbeing".

> Recovery Capital is the depth and breadth of internal and external resources that can be used by someone to begin and sustain wellness from addiction.
>
> (Granfield & Cloud, 1999).

The RCI is a "scientifically validated survey instrument that provides a multidimensional measure of wellbeing. It effectively measures change regardless of treatment modality or intervention at individual and population levels. Care can be personalized, while individuals see success reinforced." The RCI has also been validated through research and is used to guide treatment and assess recovery.

E. Provision for Movement Across and Between Levels of Care

Anyone who enters the *system of care* should expect to be treated with dignity and in a culturally and linguistically respectful manner. Clients must be assessed holistically to ensure that they have access to what they require in terms of individually identified needs, including, but not limited to: housing, education and/or training for employment, mental health services, substance use treatment, community connections, safe spaces for peer connections, attention to physical health and access to nutritious food and safe water.

F. Evaluate and Monitor Data Collected and Analyze to Inform Outcomes

Required data must be valid, reliable, and timely. For providers that contract with CSD OBH-SUD, data are to be entered into the identified system in the manner called for and at the times required. Data are critical for determining if outcomes are improving and where focus may need to be redirected or intensified. Data should be continually reviewed, shared with individuals and used for decision making. The RCI a measure of recovery wellness, provides a unique opportunity to engage clients and when combined with motivational interviewing, has the advantage of helping clients hypothesize reasons and possible actions based on what they see from their own results and scores over time.

In addition, gathering data on programs to determine if they are utilizing evidence-based practices. Practices such as trauma-informed care, trauma-informed cognitive behavioral therapy, parent-child interaction therapy, multi-systemic therapy, brief strategic family therapy, or other evidence-based practice models.

G. Contractual relationships

Contracts must focus on short and long-term outcomes, clearly define accountability, expected outputs and outcomes, and provide clear definitions of process metrics, anticipated outcomes measures and expectations of contractors. Contracts must require providers to communicate with each other, share data on common clients with client consent and ensure that each client's voice is heard.

Additionally, identical or substantially similar services should not be provided simultaneously to any individual, nor should any clients receiving services from more than one provider hear conflicting information from multiple providers. Further, clients should not be left to navigate through the system of care (providers, resources, etc.) on their own.

These kinds of tasks are for neutral care coordinators who should be working with individuals, identifying whether services are meeting needs and if not, re-referring and removing any barriers that will help ensure a true "no wrong door" approach. This includes behavioral health and co-occurring conditions as well as complex cases. Contractors must be held accountable fiscally and substantively. Reimbursements or payments are to be clearly supported by documentation according to contractual obligations.

Contracts in behavioral health and substance use disorders must be:

- Transparent on permitted spending and documentation for reimbursement
- Providers must have qualified staff who will work with clients that have complex issues
- Staff must have the capacity and ability to implement services and supports with fidelity
- Staff must be knowledgeable and able to implement effective practices
- Staff must utilize strategies premised on equity and multicultural awareness
- Staff must be able to tailor approaches and strategies on an individualized basis
- Staff must be able to establish short and long term goals with expected outcomes in individualized, person-centered plans
- Programs and services should routinely assess client satisfaction with both the provided services and the specific provider(s) and/or entity and
- Contractors should ensure clients experience smooth transitions with warm-hand-offs.

Client essential needs must be considered and planned for in a recovery-oriented manner. Additionally, when developing a budget utilizing a per-person, per-contact, or per-service as the defined "unit of cost" will not be sufficient. Instead, costs are to be based on quality of services, established recovery-oriented outcomes and quantifiable costs that are directly attributed to an individual and the actual services that were provided.

Services and supports should not only be available to those who can afford them or for individuals that are fortunate enough to get "scholar-shipped in". Implementing a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care requires a focus on the person's needs and also the acceptance of each individual at the point in time when their individual journey to recovery begins.

VI. Proposed "Theory of Action" for getting to a coordinated person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care.

Beginning with the end in mind, this theory of action provides strategies and steps that will enable Palm Beach County, through neutral care-coordination and a coordinated network of public and private sector providers to realize its goal of implementing a person-centered recovery oriented system of care that is both integrated and coordinated across and between providers. A system that recognizes the importance of looking at individuals holistically and actualizes a "no wrong-door" approach through warm hand-offs and coordinated follow-up care that addresses essential needs and services that support long term recovery.

Typically, a Theory of Action describes how a project or a program is designed and set up. It articulates the mechanisms through which the activities are being delivered, e.g. through which actors (for example, NGOs, government or markets) and following which processes (for example, grants to NGOs disbursed from a challenge fund, provision of technical assistance, advocacy activities, or the establishment of partnerships). (Coffee) Additionally, within each of the following "buckets" the BHSUCOD subcommittees have identified a number of issues and strategies to address them which comprise the roadmap for this Strategic Plan.

A. Opioid Settlement

Palm Beach County has been harmed by misfeasance, nonfeasance and malfeasance committed by certain entities within the pharmaceutical industry which fueled an opioid epidemic and exacted a high price in overdose deaths as well as significant harm to families, friends and the Palm Beach County community at large. It is only fitting that the Settlement funds realized should be dedicated to effectuating the BCC's aims of establishing a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that promotes resilience and recovery. These funds should be appropriated in a targeted way to ensure this aim is achieved and adheres to the Plan Update's mission, vision and values, guiding principles as well as research and evidence.

Issues – Opioid Settlement	
1. Palm Beach County and its residents were harmed by acts of the pharmaceutical industry causing an opioid epidemic. 2. Ensure Settlement funds are appropriately leveraged to address these harms.	
Why	
1. Settlement funds can effectuate establishment of person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care.	
How (strategies)	
1. Provide sustainable resources (essential services) including housing, peer support, care coordination, and flex funds which mirrors the federal COSSUP program. 2. Housing should be focused on stable placement as well as affordability and should include transitional, recovery, supportive living and permanent opportunities for individuals with substance use and mental disorders, returning individuals with justice placements, seniors who are under strict financial pressures and living on fixed incomes and youth aging out of foster care.. 3. Coordination with the Department of Housing and Economic Development, municipalities and other housing funding sources to support expanding housing opportunities for individuals with substance use and behavioral disorders.. 4. Establish a non-conflicted neutral care coordination entity serving as a single point of contact providing assessment, level of care determination, referral, prior authorization and payment of certain care, and, care monitoring across clinical and non-clinical recovery support and social services. 5. Expand Syringe Services Program capacity and opportunities.	

6. Expand comprehensive recovery and treatment services, including MAT, for populations with substance use and co-occurring disorders demonstrating high need and prioritizing pregnant and parenting women. 7. Promote recovery-ready work environments and expand transportation and employment opportunities for individuals with SUD and co-occurring MH conditions. 8. Create public awareness campaigns that promote recovery-ready communities focused on improving mental as well as overall health and wellness in order to build resilience in individuals and communities. 9. Create and/or support community-based education or support services for families, youth, and adolescents at risk for SUD, mental health disorders and any co-occurring MH conditions which builds resilience, recognizes adverse child experiences and is trauma-informed. 10. Expand County's MH/SUD research capacity and enhance its monitoring, surveillance, data collection, and evaluation capabilities in conformance with SAMHSA quality assurance guidelines and other evidence-based methodologies.. 11. Create and/or support community based education to increase awareness and ability to recognize warning signs of different stages for both behavioral and substance use issues. 12. Opioid settlement funds should be spent as follows: 90% on social determinants of health prioritizing housing, recovery supports, care coordination and environmental strategies to include youth, families and community education 10% on deep-end and crisis care.	
Accountability	
1. Complete monitoring, surveillance and evaluation of initiatives related to Settlement funds. 2. Development tracking systems for essential services initiated through these Settlement funds. 3. Contracts and agreements established with Settlement funds shall integrate recovery capital indexing as well as other health and wellness measures.	

B. Prevention and Education

Evidence-based prevention programs can dramatically reduce rates of substance use and SUD. These programs can also be highly cost-effective. Rigorous evaluations have found many prevention programs are good long term economic investments, returning more to society than they cost. Evidence-based prevention interventions, especially those that focus on early childhood, do more than decrease drug use; they also reduce mental health problems and crime and promote academic motivation and achievement. Thus, these programs can have tremendous, long-term benefits for the children and families they serve, as well as for society as a whole. The Prevention and Education subcommittee's responsibilities are to include, but not be limited to, establishing prevention and harm-reduction activities and education for residents in schools and communities.

Issues – Prevention and Education	
Why	
1. Too many residents are overdosing or dying as a result of substance use disorders. 2. Tailored education, prevention and interventions will provide residents with a better understanding of warning signs of mental and substance use disorders.	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**
1. Develop prevention programs at different levels (individual, family, school, faith-based organizations) that are tailored to specific target population needs. 2. Develop, disseminate community readiness surveys and results to inform development of targeted interventions. 3. Create dashboard reporting on current trends and mapping by zip code. 4. Develop a Countywide Strategic Prevention Framework which targets specific community conditions to reduce opportunities for substance use and to enhance healthy lifestyle choices. 5. Educate the community regarding: o Impact of substance use on brain development. o Narcan deployment, safe storage / disposal of prescription drugs (i.e. pill drops and drug take back programs) o How to select providers, avoid unethical providers; and, navigate insurance coverage. 6. Train educators on early warning signs and symptoms of mental and substance use disorders and school nurses on evidence-based assessment screening tools. 7. Advocate for mental illness, substance use disorder and trauma training in schools of medicine and pharmacy; and with emergency room and healthcare professionals, first responders and pharmacists. 8. Develop a Good Samaritan Law public awareness campaign. 9. Establish a media committee responsible for developing a communications plan.	1. IP 2. IP 3. IP 4. C 5. IP 6. IP 7. IP 8. C 9. IP
2024	
1. Engage community (youth included) and professionals reflective of Palm Beach County to participate, increase awareness, and ensure ongoing voice and choice. 2. Foster partnerships among schools, mental health organizations, healthcare providers, and community groups to create a network of support for youth mental health.	

3. Support/enhance integrated services in Palm Beach County schools. 4. Support various outlets in community locations that are easily accessible for youth to express and receive support for their behavioral health needs including the arts, exercise, parks, etc. 5. Advocate for family trainings and programs in schools and community-based spaces (recreation centers, religious institutions, grassroots organizations) where families are already. 6. Rethink how providers can be available to deliver services so they are inclusive and meet the diverse needs of the community. 7. Develop non-traditional supports, like peer-to-peer support, to enhance the care system, offer more paths to help, and combat workforce shortages. 8. Support campaigns like the Get Your Green On campaign to spread awareness, encourage open discussion about mental health and trauma, and destigmatize challenges. 9. Educate on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the need for trauma-informed care. 10. Emphasize the importance of coping and self-care plans in building resilience. 11. Support behavioral health technicians' curriculum for high school students and promote MH and SUD professional internships. 12. Expand and support mental health first aide with a goal of one in fifteen citizens in Palm Beach County trained in MHFA, youth MHFA, or other versions.	
Accountability	
1. Track trainings and activities provided and detail type, target audience, number of participants, and outcomes achieved, demographics of participants, location of activity and feedback from community. 2. Track community readiness activities and detail assessments conducted, target community, and any outcomes achieved. 3. Track progress and completion of the Strategic Prevention Framework. 4. Track progress and completion of other prevention and education strategic objectives.	

C. Public Policy

Public policy seeks to define issues and implement strategies that will produce a measurable and positive result for the general public. It defines a problem, gathers evidence, identifies causes, reviews any current policies, and strategizes solutions that anticipate the social response. Careful consideration of benefits and costs are key factors in implementing a policy that will elicit a positive, measurable outcome. The Public Policy

subcommittee's responsibilities are to include, but not be limited to, identifying, reviewing, and monitoring related public policies and legislation; and engaging, educating, and informing public officials, key strategic partners and constituency members in advancing sound public policy.

Issues – Public Policy	
1. Need for better alignment of behavioral health system of care entities to effectuate collaborative budgeting and planning and implementation of the Board's strategic aim to establish a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that is readily accessible and integrated. 2. There is no enforcement of the federal mental health parity law. 3. Mental and substance use disorder providers are currently regulated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) which is regulatory inconsistent when these disorders are viewed as a primary health issue and should be moved from DCF to the Department of Health. 4. Add membership to BHSUCOD for individuals or family members of individuals with significant mental illness.	
Why	
1. Mental Health Parity enforcement will allow County residents to have reliable access to a wide range of mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorder services; a choice of providers; and, be given recourse to effectively challenge caps on services. 2. Consistent with the charge of the advisory committee as stated in the county resolution "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."	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**
1. BCC enactment of ordinance designating lead entity granting it leadership, budget, planning and monitoring authority. 2. Advocate for the reinstatement of statewide Drug Czar's Office and dedicated funding for it. 3. Advocate for policies and legislation which advance person-centered, recovery-oriented systems of care that are readily accessible and integrated. 4. Advocate for policies and legislation that improve standards of care including: integration of behavioral and primary health care; adoption of standards of care that are person-centered and recovery-oriented aimed at improving long-term outcomes; and, requirements needed for provider licensure.	1. C 2. C 3. IP 4. IP 5. IP 6. IP 7. NYS 8. C 9. C

5. Advocate for Medicaid expansion. 6. Educate the community on how to report non-compliance with parity laws. 7. Transfer regulatory responsibility for mental and substance use disorder services from Department of Children and Families to the Department of Health. 8. Advocate that the Florida Opioid Abatement Task Force have at least one physician and at least one representative from an organization that works with individuals with mental, substance use and/or co-occurring disorders and at least one person to represent parents of loss, individuals with lived experience, or individuals in recovery. 9. Develop spending plan for settlement funds that is strictly for funding mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorder services.	
2024	
1. Recommendation to BCC that the County lead and/or support comprehensive planning process between the managing entity, Health Care District to drive alignment, coordination, shared commitments, shared accountability, and clarify roles and responsibilities. 2. Engage Palm Beach County policy makers by disseminating Plan and its recommendations. 3. Research, evaluate and recommend changes to federal law mandating 20 year sentence for individuals convicted of death or injury as a result distributing illicit drugs.	
Accountability	
1. Track progress and enactment of legislation: o Designating a County lead entity. o Making parity enforceable. o Placing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders under the State Department of Health. o De-criminalizing fentanyl test strips. o Expanding Baker and Marchman Act. o Expanding housing inventory for persons in recovery. 2. Track progress of Florida Opioid Abatement Task Force recommended membership. 3. Track progress on Opioid Settlement Plan for funding mental health, substance use and co-occurring disorder services. 4. Track progress and completion of other public policy strategic objectives.	

D. Justice System and Public Safety

Individuals with mental and substance use disorders involved with the criminal justice system has enormous fiscal, health, and human costs and remain a challenge. It is well known, many offenders with mental and substance use disorders still do not receive treatment during incarceration. This is not only a disservice to the offenders and their families; it is a threat to public safety. Diverting these individuals away from jails and prisons and toward more appropriate and culturally competent community-based care must be an essential component of any strategies aimed eliminating unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system.

Issues – Justice System and Public Safety	
1. Low utilization of drug- and related courts and lack of diversion services to decrease criminalization of substance use disorders and/or co-occurring disorders. 2. Individuals released from incarceration frequently do not remain engaged in services and often recidivate due to a lack of stable housing, support services and care coordination. 3. Law enforcement transport of individuals in mental health crisis.	
Why	
1. County correctional facilities and law enforcement personnel have become a de-facto system of care that is expensive, promotes inequity and does not promote recovery.	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**
1. Identify / develop alternative community placements in areas where there are few if any available. 2. Identify and provide sustainable resources (essential services) for individuals re-entering the community such as those provided through the Community Services Department's federal grant research project, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP). (Housing and peer support, care coordination, flex funds). 3. Develop plan to expand law enforcement partnerships and data access to increase ability to target over-prescribers. 4. Advocate for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to carry and use Narcan when responding to overdose calls.	1. IP 2. IP 3. C 4. C
2024	
1. Work with law enforcement and courts to intervene with offenders' misdemeanors earlier and provide treatment options. 2. Demonstrate results through efforts like COSSUP and MAPS. 3. Fund more peer-to-peer efforts in SUD, MI, justice and corrections.	
Accountability	

1. Track diversion programs and maintain a system that will enable appropriate referrals, real-time availability and criteria for enrollment. 2. Track numbers of individuals who are enrolled in diversion programs and related outcomes. 3. Track progress and completion of other justice system and public safety strategic objectives.	

E. Treatment and Recovery

Individuals with mental and substance use disorders involved with the criminal justice system has enormous fiscal, health, and human costs and remain a challenge. It is well known, many offenders with mental and substance use disorders still do not receive treatment during incarceration. This is not only a disservice to the offenders and their families; it is a threat to public safety. Diverting these individuals away from jails and prisons and toward more appropriate and culturally competent community-based care must be an essential component of any strategies aimed eliminating unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system. The Treatment and Recovery subcommittee's responsibilities are o include, but not be limited to, establishing a coordinated Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC); integrated behavioral health; expanding Peer Recovery Support Services (e.g., Recovery Community Organization/Recovery Community Centers (RCO/RCCs); access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT); and creating a neutral care coordination entity.

Issues – Treatment and Recovery	
1. On-going silos when it comes to client care and fragmentation/disjointed care from multiple treatment, social and recovery support providers. 2. Determinations of client treatment that are based on the services available at a particular provider, rather than on individualized needs; 3. Ineffective transitioning of clients from one level of care or one service provider to another. 4. Lack of timely sharing of needed treatment information among providers. 5. Lack of monitoring and follow-up to ensure client engagement. 6. Lack of accountability and agreed upon responsibilities among multiple treatment, social and recovery support providers serving one client. 7. Getting access to care at reasonably comparable reimbursement rates and overcoming hurdles such as a lack of transportation to get to a provider are barriers to getting help for behavioral health, substance use and/or co-occurring disorders. 8. Having the right type of treatment at the right time for clients is a barrier to obtaining the services and supports needed to get to recovery.	

9. Insurance can often be a barrier to obtaining needed services and it can also restrict the number of days that services are able to be provided. 10. Lack of detoxification services for benzodiazepines. 11. There are insufficient recovery support services (i.e. housing, transportation) for persons discharged from the Addiction Stabilization Unit and provider settings. 12. Where and how individuals get to services and supports for care and treatment of behavioral health and/or substance use disorders is too frequently based on where and by whom they are screened and assessed for services, treatment, or care.	
Why	
1. A "no wrong-door" person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care approach will help identify and remove barriers (including access related barriers) and serve as a bridge between providers and needed recovery supports. 2. Without reasonable reimbursement rates, the few existing providers will not provide needed services and getting help will be more difficult, especially with provider shortages. 3. Access to properly trained providers who have availability is a critical prerequisite for clients seeking care that is person-centered and recovery oriented. 4. Without sufficient coverage, many individuals are challenged to find providers that will work with them and/or have choices limited by the availability of providers who are able to work with a client and obtain a scholarship on their behalf. 5. PBC residents will be able to access individually identified services that are based on person-centered informed choice and individualized recovery plans	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**
1. Implement person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that is readily accessible and integrated inclusive of Neutral Care Coordination; Care Provider Network and Recovery Supports to ease transitions and continuity of care and remove barriers. 2. Reimburse virtual care at competitive rates and that are comparable to face-to-face rates in order to increase the number of potential clients that will be able to secure behavioral health services. 3. Advocate for increased Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through mobile services which will help individuals who are without transportation and need the continuing support of MAT.	1. IP 2. C 3. C 4. IP 5. IP 6. IP 7. IP 8. IP 9. IP 10. IP 11. IP

4. Utilize medical detailing to educate physicians and emergency room personnel on MAT and Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). 5. Educate the community about MAT, including non-traditional partners and the faith-based community. 6. Educate providers on prescription monitoring. 7. Engage post-secondary institutions and other entities to recruit and educate students to become licensed and certified clinicians. 8. Identify and provide training opportunities in evidence-based, evidence-informed promising practices. 9. Identify and develop alternative funding sources for un- or under- insured individuals. 10. Engage and educate health insurers about mental, substance use and co-occurring disorders and co-occurring disorders which will involve community members in outreach efforts. 11. Engage the recovery community to recruit and educate persons with lived experience to become Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS). 12. Develop policies and trainings for neutral care coordination that will ensure essential skills related to the implementation of the County's system of care model. 13. Collaborate and coordinate across entities serving individuals with substance use disorders and/or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders 14. Develop communication protocols and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) across provider and funding entities that will facilitate information sharing that allows for seamless transition of clients from one service or provider to another, based on individualized treatment and recovery plans, with appropriate warm hand-offs.	12. IP 13. IP 14. IP
2024	
1. Advocate for options for MAT and evaluate efforts 2. Target efforts to address use disorder and pain to prescribers and support the medical community in peer education. 3. Integrate trauma-informed care. 4. For individuals with serious mental illness allow coordination with family members into the EMBARCC program.	
Accountability	
1. Develop and maintain resource that identifies programs that are available, criteria for acceptance into programs, types of services and how to access programs (i.e., referrals to whom and how to ensure referral is acted upon.)	

2. Develop MOU related to data sharing across agencies. 3. Track number of individuals served by the ASU and related outcomes. 4. Track number of warm-handoffs through neutral care coordination and related outcomes. 5. Track status and implementation of neutral care coordination proposal. 6. Track progress and completion of other treatment and recovery strategic objectives.	

F. Essential Services

Essential Services (formerly Ancillary Services) more accurately reflects the critical nature of key long-term predictors of long-term recovery outcomes (i.e. housing stability, employment, strong family/society connection, altruism) to achieving the BCC's aim to establish a person-centered, recovery-oriented system of care that is readily accessible and integrated. These and other predictors are also referred to as social determinants of health which are conditions in the environments people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Social determinants have a major impact on health outcomes-especially for the most vulnerable populations and must be considered when providing person-centered, recovery-oriented care. Thus, when resources are available to overcome negative social determinants of health, they can have a significant impact on individual and population health outcomes. The Essential Services subcommittee's responsibilities are to include, but not be limited to, advancing social determinants of health such as food, housing, employment, education, access to medical care, and the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement.

Issues – Essential Services	
1. Insufficient inventory of available, affordable, safe housing (recovery, supportive, transitional and permanent) for persons in recovery and other persons in recovery with diverse needs. (i.e. pregnant women, women with children, families, LGBTQ+, MAT, co-occurring) 2. Lack of awareness of existing career and job assistance programs.	
Why	
1. Sufficient inventory of safe, supportive, affordable, alcohol and drug-free housing and employment opportunities are key predictors of long-term recovery outcomes.	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**

1. Collaborate with Florida Association of Recovery Residences and the State Attorney Addiction and Recovery Task Force to oversee recovery residences and deploy Recovery Capital Indexing. 2. Collaborate with Oxford House to include its inventory in accounting of available, affordable, safe housing and substance-free living spaces. 3. Develop, identify, and maintain a real-time inventory (dashboard) of affordable, safe housing (recovery, supportive, transitional and permanent) for persons in recovery and other persons in recovery with diverse needs. (I.e. pregnant women, women with children, families, LGBTQ+, MAT, co-occurring). 4. Develop respite capacity lost because of Ted's Place closure to include housing first like options for those actively using. 5. Establish an Ombudsman and processes to assist individuals removed from, or at risk of being removed, from their housing. 6. Establish a recovery high school program. 7. Identify and disseminate resources to persons in recovery, providers and others related to technical and career training as well as employment services. 8. Educate the recovery community about existing and emerging public transportation services programs. 9. Conduct Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trainings.	1. IP 2. IP 3. NYS 4. IP 5. NYS 6. NYS 7. IP 8. IP 9. NYS
2024	
1. Create an up to date list of mental health, substance use and co-occurring recovery oriented care options in the County. 2. Implement a housing pilot program. 3. Support permanent affordable and supportive housing. 4. Encourage medical providers to include social determinants of health in diagnosis. 5. Continue to increase behavioral and mental health supports in the community and in schools.	
Accountability	
1. Track progress and completion real-time inventory of available, affordable, safe housing homes. 2. Track progress and completion of career preparation and employment services resources made available for persons in recovery. 3. Track progress and completion of other essential services strategic objectives.	

G. Evaluation and Monitoring

Evaluation and monitoring are critical for assessing the range of interventions being implemented to mental and substance use disorders. It helps determine exactly when an intervention is on track and when changes may be needed. Evaluation and monitoring are also used to demonstrate that efforts have had a measurable impact on expected outcomes and have been implemented effectively. It is essential in helping managers, planners, implementers, and policy makers acquire the information needed to make informed policy and programmatic decisions; guide strategic planning; design and implement programs; and allocate resources. The Evaluation and Monitoring subcommittee's responsibilities are to include, but not be limited to, implementing a Recovery Capital instrument; measuring and tracking treatment outcomes across the care continuum using advanced analytics to establish evidence-based best practices; increasing Committee member participation in monitoring of publicly funded treatment and recovery programs and services.

Issues – Evaluation and Monitoring	
1. Numerous gaps and barriers still remain for obtaining data needed to see the trends and determine areas in which additional focus and attention. 2. Historic treatment outcome data (i.e. successful treatment discharge) is not a reliable measure related to the County's goal of improving long-term recovery outcomes and quality of care.	
Why	
1. Without data it is not possible to see patterns and trends and make data-informed decisions.	
How (strategies)	
2022	**Status**
1. Collaborate, coordinate, evaluate and disseminate with the Department of Health (O2DA) to obtain and share timely mental and/or substance disorder related data (i.e. RCI, overdose, Narcan deployment, mobile crisis, ER visits) from hospitals, fire rescue, law enforcement, Health Care District, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network and Medical Examiners Office through a dashboard and other means. 2. Identify entities that are currently not reporting data and advocate for them to be required to do so. 3. Deploy RCI specifically with providers and more broadly in the community in order to collect data to determine success in achieving improvements in long-term recovery outcomes as well as overall community wellness.	1. IP 2. IP 3. C 4. IP

4. Utilize Overdose Mapping (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)) data.	
2024	
1. Dashboard for shared data. 2. Evaluate number of MAT options available to individuals. 3. Maximize use of research and RCI data to improve the health and wellness of clients, program participants, policy makers, families, communities, and partners. 4. Expand data collection systems to include data on mental health such as including data from the mobile response teams.	
Accountability	
1. Track progress and completion of data dashboard. 2. Track utilization of RCI surveys and the number of housing, education and employment opportunities that have been initiated and provided based on needs identified through the survey results. 3. Review and analyze data and prepare quarterly reports to the Advisory Committee which addresses data quality and additional data needs. 4. Track progress and completion of other evaluation and monitoring strategic objectives.	

H. Faith-based

Faith, spirituality and altruism play an important role in achieving long-term recovery outcomes. Faith and community leaders are often the first point of contact when individuals and families face substance use, mental and co-occurring disorders. The Faith-based subcommittee's responsibilities are to include, but not be limited to, advancing inter-faith understanding of mental illness and substance use disorder and the important role of faith communities in a recovery oriented system of care environment.

Issues – Faith-based	
1. Faith leaders have developed innovative strategies like Recovery Church to serve as a point of entry and support for substance use disorder and behavioral health.	
Why	
2. The faith-based community in Palm Beach County plays a pivotal role in community efforts as part of a ROSC.	
How (strategies)	
1. Engage faith leaders and organizations in the update of the Master Plan and support faith efforts to serve communities.	

2. Deploy RCI specifically with faith-based entities in the community in order to collect data to determine success in achieving improvements in long-term recovery outcomes as well as overall community wellness. 3. Advocate funding for Pastor Associations to educate church leaders about recovery-centered resources including Hubs, trauma informed care and importance of destigmatizing substance use and behavioral disorders. 4. Identify associations or agencies specific to various faith groups to take the lead in community education for their faith group.	
Accountability	
1. Track engagement of faith based leaders in subcommittees and the Advisory Committee. 2. Track utilization of RCI surveys competed through faith based entities.	

I. Addiction Stabilization Unit (ASU)

The ASU is a unique public-private partnership designed to address the immediate and critical care of individuals experiencing medical emergencies due to opioid or other substance use disorders. The model as originally designed, provided a central location with an emergency room component that allowed for lifesaving overdose intervention delivered within the ASC and a "warm hand off" to an adjacent outpatient clinic operated by Health Care District where medication for opioid disorder and other medication assisted treatments and behavioral health services could be initiated or continued by a specialized, addiction-trained medical team. The ASU subcommittee is responsible for working with the Palm Beach County Health Care District to review ASU patient care and related matters as well as make recommendations related to such when appropriate.

Issues – Addiction Stabilization Unit	
1. Evidence based practice indicates that specialized emergency services with a "warm hand off" are especially effective with overdose patients. 2. Connecting patients to an outpatient center avoids subsequent overdose and use patterns. 3. Community concern about fidelity to the ASU model as it was initially operationalized.	
Why	
1. Palm Beach County needs a model where fire and rescue agencies bypass the closest hospital to transport overdose patients to an emergency department that specializes in substance use disorder.	
How (strategies)	
2024	

1. In partnership with the Health Care District, contract with one emergency department to serve as an addiction stabilization unit and train fire rescue accordingly. 2. Connect emergency services to an outpatient facility and provide case management and social work assistance. 3. Complete an after action review to assess the use of the model and lessons learned.	
Accountability	
1. Track utilization of services each month. 2. Monitor use by social determinant of health status and follow up.	

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