



# State Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee Meeting MINUTES

## Details:

**Date:** January 24, 2024, 8:30 am–12:30 pm

**Address:** Florida State Conference Center  
555 W. Pensacola Street, Room 108  
Tallahassee, FL 32306

**Facilitator:** Mirine Richey, MPH, IBCLC

## Meeting Objectives:

1. Provide an update on implementation of the 2022–2026 State Health Improvement Plan
2. Discuss priority-level progress for Year 1 (July 2022–June 2023) and current activities.

## Member Participation:

Member Name	Member Organization	Attendance
Jason Weida, JD	Agency for Health Care Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Barber for Robin Safley, JD	Feeding Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cynthia M. Harris, PhD, DABT	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University – Institute of Public Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Rowley	Florida American Indian Health Advisory Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ben Browning, MPA	Florida Association of Community Health Centers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melanie Brown-Woofter	Florida Behavioral Health Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kelli Tice, MD	Florida Blue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Wilson, CCE	Florida Chamber Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexandra Abboud, DPL	Florida Dental Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shevaun Harris, MSW, MBA	Florida Department of Children and Families	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Smiley	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peggy Aune	Florida Department of Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Branham	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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Member Name	Member Organization	Attendance
Britney Moore	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD	Florida Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kenneth A Schepcke, MD, FAEMS	Florida Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Quaranta, MPH	Florida Department of Health – Rural County Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
R. Matthew Dobson, MS	Florida Department of Health – Medium County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aaron Kissler, MPH	Florida Department of Health – Large County Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ulyee Choe, DO	Florida Department of Health – Metro County Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rita Smith, DNP, MPH, APRN, NP-C	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lora Hollingsworth, PE	Florida Department of Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keith Bruin for Luke Strickland	Florida Division of Emergency Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mary Mayhew	Florida Hospital Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elaine Roberts	Florida Housing Finance Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joseph West, ScM, ScD	Florida Institute for Health Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elena Bastida, PhD	Florida International University – Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Heath Dietz, MS	Florida Philanthropic Network	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Rust, MD, MPH	Florida State University – Center for Medicine and Public Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth L. Martin, JD	Office of Attorney General Ashley Moody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rick Owen, MA	United Way of Florida	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Prins, PhD, MPH, CIC, CPH	University of Central Florida – College of Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ana Palacio, MD, MPH	University of Miami – Department of Public Health Sciences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**Meeting Notes:**

Topic	Summary of Key Points, Decisions and Action Items	Presenter
<b>Welcome and Open Meeting</b>	Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General for the Florida Department of Health (Department), opened the meeting, welcoming members, guests, and the public. He emphasized the concerning trend of maternal and perinatal mortality in the country.	<b>Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD State Surgeon General Florida Department of Health</b>
<b>State Health Improvement Plan Cycle Updates</b>	Emma C. Spencer, PhD, MPH, Director of the Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management at the Department gave an overview of the SHIP five-year cycle, the current phase of the SHIP development, the SHIP Priority Areas, and SHIP Objective performance measures. She also provided a timeline for upcoming subcommittee and Steering Committee meetings and reporting.	<b>Emma C. Spencer, PhD, MPH Director, Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management Florida Department of Health</b>
<b>Steering Committee Introductions</b>	Steering Committee members introduced themselves and their respective agencies and organizations.	<b>Mirine Richey, MPH, IBCLC  Steering Committee Members</b>
<b>Priority Area Workgroup (PAW) Progress</b>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> PAW Co-Chairs, Myasha Graham, SHIP and Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee (ADAC) Coordinator at the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and Jennifer Braisted, Director of Government Affairs at the Alzheimer’s Association</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW conducted surveys targeting caregivers, partner organizations, and health care providers, using the feedback to create the ADRD Resource Guide and Caregiver Toolkit, which will be published in 2024.</li> <li>• Objective AD 2.1 was updated to reflect new training requirements introduced by House Bill 299 (2023) <i>Education and Training for</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Co-Chairs</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Braisted Myasha Graham</b></p>

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	<p><i>Alzheimer's Disease and Related Forms of Dementia</i>, and a training specialist was hired to ensure compliance and enhance data collection.</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW will work to recruit new members and increase participation.</li> <li>• The group will monitor House Bill 299 (2023) training guidelines.</li> <li>• A checklist will be developed to help caregivers ease anxiety over using home health care.</li> <li>• Plans are in place to create an online community resource library.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives AD 2.1 and AD 2.2 were revised to align with new training requirements and to focus on training over designations.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> PAW Co-Chairs Tara Hylton, Chief for the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention at the Department, and Christopher Cogle, MD, Medical Director at the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of cancer deaths has decreased in the state. The Chronic Diseases and Conditions PAW works to address cancer-related deaths by the efforts of the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council along with the Collaboratives of the Florida Comprehensive Control Program. Their efforts have been targeted at raising awareness and education with the recent changes in eligibility criteria to increase screenings.</li> <li>• The colorectal screening program provided screenings for over 85,000 individuals, increasing the screening rate by 6%, with AHCA creating a financial incentive for colorectal screening.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Chronic Diseases and Conditions (CD) Co-Chairs</b></p> <p><b>Christopher Cogle, MD</b> <b>Tara Hylton, MPH</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco Free Florida has achieved significant success with their “Set a Quit Date” initiative.</li> <li>Feeding Florida and its partners have worked to increase access to nutritious foods through the “Food as Medicine” program.</li> <li>The objectives on oral health have seen success with the implementation of school-based sealant programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW will take additional steps to focus on oral health by targeting areas in Florida where there are few or no dental providers.</li> <li>Efforts will be made to reduce cardiovascular disease, including the suggested formation of a cardiovascular advisory council.</li> <li>There will be a focus on incorporating more data-specific measures related to social and economic factors contributing to health.</li> <li>The PAW will work to enhance collaboration and increase synergy among different PAWs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective CD 2.2 has been revised to focus more on stroke patients rather than stroke centers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> PAW Co-Chair Robert Karch, MD, MPH, FAAP, Health Officer of DOH-Orange County, Co-Chair of the Injury, Safety, and Violence PAW</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW has seen success in partnership initiatives and programs supporting drowning prevention, fall prevention, human trafficking survivors, and safe sleep programs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Injury, Safety, and Violence (ISV) Co-Chair</b></p> <p><b>Robert Karch, MD, MPH, FAAP</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Keep Kids Safe from Drowning initiative has begun working with rental properties that have pools to promote increased safety for children.</li> <li>The Sleep Baby Safely initiative is currently active in eight counties with the goal of expanding to sixteen counties by the end of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, working in conjunction with Safe Sleep Certified hospitals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW will provide continuing education credit access for health care providers on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).</li> <li>The group will track proposed bills HB 591/SB 554 (2024) focused on hot car death prevention and HB 581/SB 544 (2024) which implement a statewide swimming lesson voucher program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective ISV 1.4 has been removed from the PAW and will be tracked by the Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention PAW.</li> <li>Objective ISV 3.5 has been reclassified as a strategy under Objective ISV 4.1 to reduce adverse childhood events.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> Nicholas Alford, MPH, Administrator for Health Improvement Planning Section at the Department for the Maternal and Child Health PAW</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW recruited leadership to champion Objective 1.5 concerning infant developmental screening.</li> <li>Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) committees were established throughout the state as required by section 383.21625, Florida Statutes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Co-Chair Representative</b></p> <p><b>Nicholas Alford, MPH</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW piloted the Universal Prenatal Risk Screen in an electronic platform.</li> <li>• The Florida Maternal Mortality Review Committee established the Mental Health Subcommittee.</li> <li>• The PAW completed the first year of the Florida American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists Levels of Maternal Care (LOMC) verification process.</li> <li>• Documented improvements were made in hospital postpartum care through the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative, Postpartum Access and Continuity of Care Initiative.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW will provide in-state training to dental providers on caring for patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</li> <li>• The digital Universal Prenatal Risk Screen will be implemented statewide.</li> <li>• A media campaign will be developed for hospitals to self-promote their LOMC verification status.</li> <li>• The Florida Maternal Mortality Review Committee will begin informant interviews with family and friends of the decedents to develop a better understanding of contributing factors to maternal mortality.</li> <li>• The Maternal Mortality Physician Ambassador Outreach program will be renewed and expanded.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW is proposing to remove Objectives MCH 2.1 and MCH 2.5 due to challenges in securing leadership and representation. A change to Objective MCH 3.3 was recommended based on updated baseline data.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> PAW Co-Chair Jennifer Johnson, MPH, Senior Director of Public Policy at the Florida Behavioral Health Association</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PAW has achieved improvements in education, prevention, and access to care.</li> <li>• The data collection processes for the Baker Act Reporting system have been improved by transitioning from a paper system to an electronic system.</li> <li>• The use of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment practices have been promoted in healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• The number of organizations distributing naloxone has increased.</li> <li>• Funding of \$26 million was secured to continue the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network and expand CORE to an additional 17 counties, for a total of 29 counties.</li> <li>• The PAW has aligned its activities with the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs to promote the Florida Governor’s Challenge to decrease Veteran suicides.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations from the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders’ Interim Report will be incorporated within the Objectives of the workgroup.</li> <li>• Awareness campaigns will be created to reduce stigma, and partnerships will be established with post-secondary institutions to promote staff training on crisis response.</li> <li>• The PAW plans to work with jails and law enforcement to implement medication assisted treatment options for offenders.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mental Well-being and Substance Abuse Prevention (MWSAP) Co-Chair</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Johnson, MPH</b></p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional forums for discussion will be created.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The baseline for Objective MW 4.1 was increased from 7.9% (2019) to 9.1% (2022), and the target was raised from 5.4% to 6.6% to align with the new Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey tool.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> Nicholas Alford, MPH, Administrator for Health Improvement Planning Section at the Department for the Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health (SEC) PAW</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicholas Alford presented data on the social and economic conditions in Florida from 2022.</li> <li>The PAW has undergone restructuring, including new leadership, membership, and objectives.</li> <li>The PAW successfully met the target of Objective SEC 1.2, reducing the graduation rate gap between students with physical and/or developmental disabilities.</li> <li>The PAW surpassed the target of Objective SEC 3.2, focusing on the number of trail towns, and increased the target to continue progress on this objective.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW will expand and improve collaboration with partners at the local level.</li> <li>The Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health program will be promoted among the county health departments to assess community infrastructure and health.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Social and Economic Conditions Impacting Health (SEC) Co-Chair</b></p> <p><b>Nicholas Alford, MPH</b></p>

Topic	Summary of Key Points, Decisions and Action Items	Presenter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW will work closely with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to address the needs of unhoused Veterans in Florida.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective SEC 2.1 has been revised to focus on the percentage of uninsured children in the state of Florida.</li> <li>The target figure for Objective SEC 3.1 was reduced to be more attainable within the SHIP cycle time frame.</li> <li>The target figures for Objectives SEC 3.2 and 3.4 were increased from 15 to 20 for Objective 3.2 and from 4 to 20 for Objective 3.4.</li> <li>Objectives SEC 4.3 and 4.4 have been removed due to changes in PAW membership.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priority Area Workgroup Progress</b></p>	<p><b>Presented by:</b> PAW Co-Chair, Craig Wilson, Chief of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases at the Department.</p> <p><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PAW increased health care partners in the Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) Program, an initiative that enables partners to develop and share best practices in routine screenings in the emergency department for blood borne illness such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Syphilis. The adoption of the FOCUS program has resulted in 173,752 additional HIV tests (1.1% positivity rate, 88% linked to care) and 85,237 HCV tests (4.5% positivity rate, 74% linked to care).</li> <li>Governor DeSantis proposed a \$5 million budget to expand the FOCUS program for routine screening in emergency departments.</li> <li>An automated system for processing electronic syphilis lab results was developed, saving approximately \$185,000 annually in staff time as a result.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Transmissible and Emerging Diseases (TED) Co-Chair</b></p> <p><b>Craig Wilson</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan White Part B and six Ryan Part A jurisdictions aligned policies for reciprocal eligibility, improving patient care access for people with HIV.</li> <li>• Increased the number of urgent care facilities submitting data to ESSENCE.</li> <li>• Engaged stakeholders to develop a statewide C. auris action plan.</li> <li>• Developed the “Statewide Call for Action: Ventilator Associated Events (VAE )Prevention Toolkit” to promote prevention resources for healthcare facilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand partnerships among hospital emergency departments statewide to enhance screening for the FOCUS program and extend coverage to more regions.</li> <li>• Increase screening for communicable infections at non-traditional sites (jails, treatment centers, emergency departments) through various workgroups and databases like stopsyphillisfl.com</li> <li>• Continue data system automation and explore artificial intelligence for better data collection for diseases such as Syphilis, Hep C, and HIV.</li> <li>• Implement a syndemic approach to screening, treatment, and risk reduction for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, and Hepatitis.</li> <li>• Revise Florida Administrative Code to include C. auris as a reportable condition.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decisions and Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend changes to Objectives TED 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 4.3 based on updated baseline data.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>Introduction of Lieutenant Governor and Remarks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ladapo welcomed Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez at the conclusion of the PAW presentations.</li> <li>• Lieutenant Governor Nuñez expressed gratitude for the SHIP framework, emphasizing its role in improving partnerships and health outcomes.</li> <li>• She commended agencies, secretaries, and partners for their impactful work.</li> <li>• Lieutenant Governor Nuñez highlighted the need to focus efforts on critical improvements, including reducing HIV through the FOCUS program and addressing rising rates of maternal morbidity and mortality.</li> <li>• She emphasized the importance of expanding access to telemedicine.</li> <li>• Recognizing National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Lieutenant Governor Nuñez advocated for increased attention to stop human trafficking and asked that all county Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) include a human trafficking objective.</li> <li>• In closing, Lieutenant Governor Nuñez emphasized the benefits Floridians are experiencing from the SHIP's efforts.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD</b> <b>State Surgeon General</b> <b>Florida Department of Health</b></p> <p><b>Jeanette M. Nuñez</b> <b>Lieutenant Governor</b></p>
<p><b>Panel Discussion: High Impact Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes. Spotlight on FOCUS, Delivery Outcome Improvements, and Maternal Telemedicine Program</b></p>	<p><b>FOCUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kenneth A. Scheppke, MD, FAEMS, Deputy Secretary for Health, presented on the Department's collaboration with Gilead Science, through the FOCUS Program, which advocates routine, opt-out screenings for HIV, HCV, and syphilis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improvements in Cesarean Section Rates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shay Holloway, BSN, MBA, Director of the Division of Community Health Promotion at the Department, presented on Cesarean Section Rates in Florida.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kenneth A. Scheppke, MD, FAEMS</b> <b>Deputy Secretary for Health</b> <b>Florida Department of Health</b></p> <p><b>Shay Holloway, BSN, MBA</b> <b>Director, Division of Community Health Promotion</b> <b>Florida Department of Health</b></p> <p><b>Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH</b> <b>Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health</b> <b>Florida Department of Health</b></p>

	<p><b>Maternal Telemedicine Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health at the Department, presented on maternal morbidity and mortality, emphasizing the potential impact of public health programming on pregnancy-related outcomes, including the Maternal Telemedicine Program.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Discussion and Highlights</b></p>	<p>"Are there other examples or models like those discussed that can be expanded upon or used to further other objectives in the State Health Improvement Plan?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion included integrating a FOCUS model in corrections settings and identifying routine opportunities elsewhere, emphasizing bringing care to the patient.</li> <li>• Other models mentioned were the Florida Pediatric Behavioral Health Hubs and Spoke Framework and a better optimized Centers of Excellence model.</li> </ul> <p>"What strategies can be implemented to enhance collaboration and communication among different sectors, in achieving the goals of the plan?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies discussed involved integrating CHIP and SHIP objectives to leverage resources and enhance partnerships.</li> <li>• Participants emphasized increasing community engagement to address population growth and enhance partnerships.</li> </ul> <p>"How can the State Health Improvement Plan adapt to changing public health priorities and emerging health challenges over time?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversation centered on regularly reassessing state health assessments to inform plan adjustments and evaluating community needs through CHIPs.</li> <li>• Members expressed the need for CHIPs to be more regularly assessed and used to evaluate community needs, serving as informants for state health assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mirine Richey, MPH, IBCLC</b> <b>Steering Committee Members</b></p>

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	<p>"In what ways can the steering committee and PAWs leverage technology and data to inform and evaluate the progress of the State Health Improvement Plan?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Spencer discussed forthcoming data initiatives and prioritized the formation of a SHIP data subcommittee.</li> </ul> <p>The Steering Committee was prompted for a final response regarding what else everyone would like to see for the SHIP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses included considering exploratory objectives and utilizing data dashboards to identify weaknesses and opportunities.</li> <li>• Several members expressed interest in cross-PAW collaboration, especially for addressing shared priority populations or demographic groups.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>In-Person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mimi Graham stressed the need for better data on developmental screenings for children aged 1-3 years.</li> <li>• Jessica DeLeon emphasized follow-up data, qualitative outcomes, and a lifespan approach.</li> </ul> <p>Virtual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna Sabatino shared The Aids Institutes' "Positive Impacts of the FOCUS Project" reference guide.</li> <li>• Stacey Hoaglund highlighted the importance of data in understanding drowning rates among children with autism.</li> <li>• Miaisha Mitchell shared a link to the Tallahassee Food Network, mentioning the use of Neighborhood First Plans.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Members of the Public</b></p>
<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.</p>	<p><b>Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD State Surgeon General Florida Department of Health</b></p>