

State Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee Meeting MINUTES

Details:

Date: January 25, 2025, 2:30 – 5:00 pm

Location: Donald L. Tucker Civic Center Room A3, Florida State University

505 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32301 **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 2 (July 2023–June 2024) and current activities.

Member Participation:

Member Name	Member Organization	Attendance
Christopher Cogle, MD for Jason Weida	Agency for Health Care Administration	
Chrishonda Jenkins for Taylor Hatch	Agency for Persons with Disabilities	
Leandro Garcia	FloridaCommerce	
India Holroyd	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	
Shevaun Harris, MSW, MBA	Florida Department of Children and Families	
Peggy Aune	Florida Department of Education	
Michelle Branham	Florida Department of Elder Affairs	\boxtimes
Britney Moore	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	
Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD	Florida Department of Health	\boxtimes
Kenneth A Scheppke, MD, FAEMS	Florida Department of Health	
Sarah Quaranta, MPH	Florida Department of Health – Rural County Health Department	
R. Matthew Dobson, MS	Florida Department of Health – Medium County Health Department	\boxtimes



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Member Name	Member Organization	Attendance
Aaron Kissler, MPH	Florida Department of Health – Large County Health Department	\boxtimes
Ulyee Choe, DO	Florida Department of Health – Metro County Health Department	\boxtimes
Rita Smith, DNP, MPH, APRN, NP-C	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice	×
Lora Hollingsworth, PE	Florida Department of Transportation	
Pending Representation	Florida Division of Emergency Management	
Elizabeth L. Martin, JD	Office of Attorney General Ashley Moody	\boxtimes
Cynthia M. Harris, PhD, DABT	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University – Institute of Public Health	
Elena Bastida, PhD	Florida International University – Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work	
George Rust, MD, MPH	Florida State University – Center for Medicine and Public Health	
Cindy Prins, PhD, MPH, CIC, CPH	University of Central Florida – College of Medicine	\boxtimes
Linda B. Cottler, PhD, MPH, FACE	University of Florida – Colleges of Public Health and Health Professions and Medicine	
Ana Palacio, MD, MPH	University of Miami – Department of Public Health Sciences	
Paul Rowley	Florida American Indian Health Advisory Council	
Ben Browning, MPA	Florida Association of Community Health Centers	\boxtimes
Melanie Brown-Woofter	Florida Behavioral Health Association	\boxtimes
Joe Anne Hart	Florida Dental Association	
Nicole Pelligrino	Florida Hospital Association	\boxtimes
Rick Owen, MA	United Way of Florida	
Robin Safley, JD	Feeding Florida	\boxtimes
Kelli Tice, MD	Florida Blue	
Ashley Heath Dietz, MS	Florida Philanthropic Network	



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Member Name	Member Organization	Attendance
Mark Wilson, CCE	Florida Chamber Foundation	
Elaine Roberts	Florida Housing Finance Corporation	

Meeting Notes:

Topic	Summary of Key Points, Decisions and Action Items	Presenter
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Dr. Joseph Ladapo began his remarks by commending the substantial progress made under the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). He emphasized that these accomplishments are the product of effective cross-sector collaboration. Dr. Ladapo noted that recent updates in public health guidance have prompted a review of several SHIP objectives to ensure their alignment with the latest evidence-based practices.	Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD State Surgeon General Florida Department of Health
State Health Improvement Plan Cycle Updates	Dr. Emma Spencer provided an overview of the SHIP's progress, resources, and performance, noting that with two years remaining in the current cycle, preparations for the next SHIP are underway. She summarized key updates including website enhancements, as well as strengthening stakeholder engagement, resource access, community planning, and data sharing, as well as upcoming meetings anticipated through the end of 2026.	Emma C. Spencer PhD, MPH Director, Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management Florida Department of Health
Presentations on Statewide Youth Health Initiatives	 Mr. William Hardin discussed several Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) initiatives and corresponding results. In recent years, youth substance abuse and mental health service delivery increased by 17%, while involuntary Baker Act examinations for individuals under 18 decreased by 23%; both changes are driven by Mobile Response Teams (MRTs) and legislative reforms. The Baker Act Data Collection System, now in development, will enable real-time analysis and policy updates. The Facts. Your Future. campaign reached 48,749 students and has secured \$10 million for expansion. Community Action Treatment teams served 3,444 individuals in FY 2023-2024, diverting 98% from juvenile justice involvement, while Family Intensive Treatment programs treated 1,689 individuals, with 76% remaining in care for over 90 days. 	William Hardin Director of Services, Policy, and Contracts Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Florida Department of Children and Families Peggy Aune, EdD Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement Florida Department of Education Tracy L. Shelby, PhD Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Topic	Summary of Key Points, Decisions and Action Items	Presenter
Topic	 MRTs fielded 31,509 crisis calls, achieving an 80% diversion rate from involuntary Baker Act examination. The Children's Short-Term Residential Treatment (SRT) program, launched in the Southern Region. The SRT program has reported 38 admissions with a 2.6% 30-day readmission rate. Development of a second facility is underway. The newly created Office of Children's Behavioral Health Ombudsman addresses placement concerns and offers data-driven recommendations for service improvement. Dr. Peggy Aune provided an overview of key initiatives and investments in school health and mental health support. The School Health Services Plan, guided by section 381.0056, Florida Statutes, ensures the effective planning, implementation, and monitoring of school health services, jointly developed with county health departments (CHDs), and includes strategies for service delivery, financial resource allocation, and data systems. Local plans are required bi-annually, outline staffing, budget, and policies. Mental Health Assistance Programs mandate evidence-based care, multi-tiered support systems, and coordination between schools and community providers. Over 80% of staff receive training to connect families to local services. Investments in youth mental health have grown significantly, from \$75 million in FY 2019-2020 to \$180 million in FY 2024-2025. This funding increase led to the adoption of Resiliency Education standards in 2023, that emphasize skills like grit and critical thinking and provides resources at BuildResiliency.org. Additional initiatives include Resiliency Coach Support Training for mentors, offering stipends upon completion. Hope Florida connects families to resources for long-term prosperity through Hope Navigators for young children. 	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

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TOPIC	 Dr. Tracy Shelby, provided an overview of the system of care and services for youth within Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) custody, emphasizing innovations and improvements. Positions have been established within the Office of Health Services to oversee medical and mental health services, which are primarily delivered through contracted providers who receive technical assistance, training, and regular reviews. Youth entering DJJ custody often present with unknown histories and undiagnosed conditions, highlighting the importance of comprehensive screening, assessment, and tailored treatment plans. DJJ operates 21 state-run centers that feature designated spaces such as day rooms, soft rooms for calming, and sleeping rooms. Residential programs range from six months to two years, with over 40 facilities providing treatment services. Probation services are delivered through contracted professionals to identify diagnoses and treatment needs. In recent years, DJJ has focused on innovation, particularly in supporting youth with autism. Since 2018, 303 youth on the spectrum have entered DJJ care, reflecting the need for autism-specific services. A protocol shaped by Judge Ross Goodman helps distinguish criminal behavior from behavior associated with autism spectrum disorder. Quarterly site visits and increased annual reviews have enhanced oversight. Additionally, DJJ has implemented residential programs to meet diverse needs and reduce recidivism, ensuring holistic care across the continuum of services. Questions During the question-and-answer session, Dr. Christopher Cogle asked Mr. William Hardin about the 20% reduction in Baker Act admissions, inquiring if there were policy attributions contributing to this decline. Mr. Hardin explained that the decrease is multifaceted but sustained despite a brief rise during the pandemic. 	Presenter

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	 Contributing factors include: Mobile Response Teams (MRTs), which help determine who requires Baker Act-level care Efforts to reduce mental health stigma Evidence-based team initiatives Legislative adjustments over the past three sessions, including increased funding. He emphasized that the Baker Act should not serve as the primary entry point for mental health care, advocating for a shift toward community-based support. Michelle Branham, Secretary, Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) asked whether the Baker Act data covered both youth and adults. Mr. William Hardin clarified that the presentation focused on youth data, though adult data is available and reflects a similar decrease. He attributed the adult decline to comparable solutions, such as expanded MRTs for adults through increased funding, and agreed that legislative efforts addressing the Baker Act over multiple years have been instrumental. 	
Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Priority Area Workgroup (PAW) Progress	Achievements Florida has made significant progress in addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) as part of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and public health initiatives. The ADRD Resource Guide and Caregiver Toolkit have been finalized and provide essential support for caregivers and stakeholders. Efforts to address challenges in tracking and obtaining accurate data are ongoing. The workgroup expects to provide more at the next meeting. Multilingual versions of resources are being developed. Spanish versions are complete, and Creole translations are in development. Partnerships and distribution networks have been expanded, and critical funding has been secured, including a Health Resources and Services Administration grant for workforce training and the passage of legislation to amend section 943.17299, Florida Statutes, to provide law enforcement with dementia care training.	Jennifer Braisted, Director of Government Affairs, Alzheimer's Association Myasha Graham, SHIP and ADAC Coordinator, Florida Department of Elder Affairs (Virtual)

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	Next Steps Key priorities include the public launch of the ADRD Resource Guide and Caregiver Toolkit, which is anticipated within 30 days. Plans to advance training and education programs will continue, alongside efforts to strengthen the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative task forces. The team will also refine strategies to enhance community awareness, business education, and caregiver respite programs to further support those impacted by ADRD.	
	Questions During the discussion, Secretary Michelle Branham inquired about the release timeline for the ADRD Resource Guide. The presenters confirmed the guide is in its final stages and will be available to the public within 30 days. When asked about sharing the guide with other states, they stated the materials will be distributed to stakeholders within Florida and across state lines. An additional question regarding multilingual translations revealed that Spanish versions of the materials are complete, with Creole translations identified as a future goal.	
Chronic Diseases and Conditions PAW Progress	 Achievements Dr. Christopher Cogle initiated bi-weekly workgroup meetings, enabling the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data. Subject matter experts now have the opportunity to meet regularly, share information, data, and frameworks. Specific achievements include: The promotion of Quitline by Tobacco Free Florida, resulting in 450 new enrollments. The implementation of the Health Heart Ambassador Program in 15 CHDs, improving referrals and enrollment for blood pressure control. Live Healthy Legislation, section 381.4019, Florida Statutes, was enacted which provided Nova Southeastern University funding to place dental residents and a faculty member in Suwannee and Lafayette CHDs. The School-Based Sealant Program expanded to a total of 25 schools with new funding. 	Tara Hylton, MPH, Chief of Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention, Florida Department of Health Christopher Cogle, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Agency for Health Care Administration

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	 Brevard, Leon, and Volusia CHDs enhanced breast cancer screening with three Mobile Mammography Van (MMV) events, screening 83 women. 	
	 Next Steps The next steps include integrating SHIP data into workgroup meetings and recruiting advisory council chairs to form a Cardiovascular Advisory Council to address treatment and prevention gaps. The workgroup sees a need to gather more data and utilize the SHIP data dashboard, along with an additional workgroup to assist in collecting real-time data. Plans to implement Chronic Disease Management Programs and Performance Improvement Projects in new statewide Medicaid Managed Care plans are underway. The development of a "Dear Provider" letter to reengage health 	
	 systems and identify new referral coordination staff at primary care centers is also planned. The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer program's statewide MMV Provider Pilot Project will be extended into the upcoming fiscal year. Efforts will focus on developing objectives related to COPD and asthma, restructuring oral health messaging, and integrating oral health messaging with other PAWs. 	
	Questions Elizabeth L. Martin, JD, from the Office of Attorney General Ashley Moody, expressed excitement about the new enrollees in the Tobacco Free Florida program and inquired about data on those decreasing smoking or quitting more. While this data is not currently available, it can be provided upon request.	
	Dr. Rita Smith from DJJ highlighted that vapes are the number one contraband and asked if there is any data that focuses on adolescent vaping, expressing interest in seeing that data.	

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	Mr. Ben Browning from the Florida Association of Community Health Centers inquired about measures no longer included, and whether they are being replaced. Tara Hylton, MPH shared that efforts are underway to find an appropriate objective to replace these measures.	
	Dr. Christopher Cogle commended Tara Hylton for the celebratory and uplifting tone of the Chronic Disease Prevention meetings. He also mentioned the potential for synergy and initiatives that spin off the SHIP, leading to collaborative work, including future collaboration with university students.	
	Dr. Kenneth Scheppke, Deputy Secretary for Health, Florida Department of Health, celebrated Dr. Carolina Gutierrez's work, describing it as "nothing short of phenomenal" in developing best practices across data sharing, EMS, hospitals, etc. He suggested looking at AI integration to speed up readings for mobile mammograms. Tara Hylton responded to this suggestion with interest, indicating it is something they will discuss.	
	Achievements Dr. Joseph Pepe, serving as a first-time co-chair, expressed gratitude for the support received from the workgroup. He indicated that progress has been made in several areas, including drowning prevention, reducing fatal drug poisoning in adults aged 20 and above, and increasing the number of calls reported for domestic violence, with efforts to connect calls to cases.	Joseph Pepe, EdD, MSA, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County
Injury, Safety, and Violence (ISV) PAW Progress	 However, challenges remain in addressing motor vehicle injuries, and managing traumatic brain injuries, which have decreased in youth but increased in adults. Specific achievements include: The certification of 466 technicians through 46 courses provided by the Florida Occupant Protection Coalition and Safe Kids Florida The completion of the Sports Safety Program by Safe Kids Treasure Coast The distribution of 37,010 bicycle helmets statewide 	

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	 Reaching 161,274 Floridians through water safety education Expanded education and interventions to reduce falls among older adults by the Florida Falls Prevention Coalition Eighty-four nurses trained in basic and advanced sexual assault through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner courses by the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence 	
	Next Steps The next steps include developing a statewide social media campaign to expand caregiver education for the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death campaign, creating mockups of adverse childhood experiences infographics targeting professionals, policymakers, parents, and youth, and seeking first responders' participation to replicate Pinellas County's "Prevent the Fall, Prevent the Call" program statewide.	
	The Department's Violence, and Injury Prevention Section will provide mini grants for human trafficking prevention, and the ISV workgroup will recruit partners to enhance traumatic brain injury data collection and expand the FLHealthCHARTS.gov profile.	
	Efforts will also focus on integrating SHIP data into workgroup meetings, implementing Chronic Disease Management Programs, and developing objectives related to COPD and asthma, restructuring oral health messaging, and integrating oral health messaging with other PAWs. Rhonda Cerulli from DOH-St. Lucie was highlighted as the Goal 1 Champion and Safe Kids Coordinator, with 25 years of experience.	
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) PAW Progress	Achievements Dr. Miguel Venereo celebrated the ISV workgroup's progress in water safety education and highlighted the achievements of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) workgroup. Specific achievements include	Miguel Venereo, MD, FACOG, CPP Sr. Vice President, CMO Community Care Plan

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	 Advanced health care transformation through key initiatives and pilot programs by the University of Central Florida's Advancing Resources to Change Healthcare (HealthARCH) Promoted equal access to medical care for underserved populations through Family Focus workgroups by the Department's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program Implemented a collaborative care model for behavioral health by the Florida Pediatric Mental Health Collaborative Achieved 40% of births in Florida at hospitals verified by the Joint Commission and American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, Levels of Maternal Care program in partnership with the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaboration (FPQC) Improved Maternal Discharge Risk Assessments to 85%, post-birth warning sign education to 91%, and early postpartum visits to 61% through FPQC's Postpartum Access and Continuity of Care Initiative Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative launched the Pregnancy-related Optimal Management of Hypertension (PROMPT) initiative in October 2024, focusing on evidence-based hypertension management in pregnancy 	
	Next Steps Dental care is emphasized as crucial throughout every phase of a person's life, with a focus on ensuring pregnant women have at least one visit with a dentist to mitigate health risks associated with oral health complications. Questions Secretary Michelle Branham from the DOEA inquired about the start of the PROMPT process and its transition from hospital to home. Dr. Venereo	
	indicated that the process starts with the provider providing education and sending resources home with patients to encourage follow-up. Fori Reeves, MPH also responded online.	

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	Health and Substance Use, and continuing efforts and partnerships with key stakeholders. Goal groups will continue to meet monthly to ensure ongoing progress.	
Social and Economic Factors Contributing to Health (SEFCH) PAW Progress	Achievements Dr. Jessica De Leon, who joined in May 2024, acknowledged co-chair Amber Watson, who joined in June 2024. The SEC PAW met and exceeded Objective SEF 1.2 in the Education domain by lowering the gap ahead of the 2026 deadline and Objective 3.4 in the Environmental domain by increasing data sources from 10 to 37, surpassing the target of 20. However, challenges remain, such as increasing the number of sampled private wells to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals, which is creating barriers for others. Next Steps	Dr. Jessica De Leon, PhD, Associate in Research Assistant Professor Florida State University College of Medicine
	The next steps include recruiting a new PAW co-chair and establishing relationships with identified potential partners. Objective-level strategies and activities will be aligned with current initiatives of workgroup members. The PAW will continue individual goal group meetings, with upcoming workgroup meetings occurring quarterly on the first Thursday. The next meeting will be held February 6, 2025, from 3-4 pm. Improved attendance and more communication are the goals. Questions Dr. Joseph Pepe commented that health departments impacted by storms conduct private well testing.	
Transmissible and Emerging Diseases (TED) PAW Progress	Achievements Alaina McCorvey, MPH acknowledged her predecessor, Craig Wilson. Progress has been made in several areas, including viral suppression and increased opt-out testing facilities. Two objectives were met, although challenges remain in testing for acute hepatitis C, early syphilis, and gonorrhea.	Alaina McCorvey, MPH HIV Section Bureau of Communicable Diseases Florida Department of Health

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	 Specific achievements include: Hosting Candida auris workgroup meetings and developing a statewide action plan Operationalizing 27 out of 30 Frontlines of Communities in the United States (FOCUS) partners, Mapping syphilis cases in Duval and Orange counties Expanding the injectable Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Pilot Program from three to seven counties Renewing contracts with 13 community-based organizations to increase PrEP awareness, education, and referrals 	
	Next Steps The next steps include revising rule 64D-3.029, Florida Administrative Code., to include <i>Candida auris</i> as a reportable disease, developing an HIV prevention toolkit for AIDS drug assistance program counselors, case managers, peer navigators, and medical providers, meeting with hospital and clinical executives to operationalize FOCUS to address multiple public health epidemics, and expanding mapping syphilis cases to Hillsborough and Miami-Dade locations. Dr. Neryda Greene was highlighted for her contributions, having started in Lee County and joining the State Health Office in March 2022.	
Committee Discussion and Highlights	This section was omitted due to time constraints.	Mirine Richey, MPH, IBCLC Steering Committee Members
Public Comment	Dr. Mimi Graham, Director of Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy announced the re-launch of the Zero to Three program, which focuses on early childhood development and intervention. The program provides comprehensive support and resources for children from birth to age three, ensuring they receive the necessary care and education during these critical early years. Dr. Graham is actively seeking	Members of the Public

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	program partners to collaborate on the Zero to Three initiative. Potential partners are encouraged to join efforts to enhance early childhood development and intervention services, leveraging collective expertise and resources to maximize the program's impact.	
Closing Remarks	Dr. Joseph Ladapo thanked the Steering Committee members and members of the public for their attendance and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.	Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD State Surgeon General Florida Department of Health