

**For Immediate Release**

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**The Florida Behavioral Health Association Applauds FL House Budget**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** –The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) applauds House Health Care Appropriations Chairman Bryan Avila and House Leadership for funding mental health and substance use disorder services in the Florida House Budget that was released earlier today.

“Adequate state funding is critical for community mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers,” FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter, said. “Over the course of the last year, the number of Floridians living with mental health trauma has significantly increased, opioid use has escalated, and families are at risk. Continuing to fund these services strengthens communities and keeps families together.”

*The Florida Behavioral Health Association is a non-profit organization that provides statewide leadership on behavioral health policy and practice. FBHA supports member agencies offering services to those in need of mental health and substance use disorder assistance and support. Its members include a broad range of provider types, ranging from small specialty organizations to comprehensive treatment organizations with multiple locations within a geographic region. For more information, please visit [www.floridabha.org](http://www.floridabha.org).*