



Florida Behavioral Health Association

Inform. Innovate. Influence.

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2021

Contact: Mary Katherine Delegal

marykatherine@floridabha.org

The Florida Behavioral Health Association Applauds *Freedom First* Budget

Tallahassee, Fla.—The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) applauds Governor Ron DeSantis for continuing to prioritize community mental health and substance use services for Florida’s families. His [Freedom First Budget](#) includes more than \$188 million for initiatives to meet the increased demand for mental health services and more than \$82 million to battle the opioid epidemic.

“The past two years have affected Floridians’ health and wellbeing in unimaginable ways,” said FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter. “We are experiencing increases in overdoses, over dose-related deaths and suicides in every community in Florida. As the demand for mental health and addiction services continues to rise, FBHA is proud to have a Governor and a First Lady who recognize how important mental health and substance use treatment funding is. With this recommended budget, FBHA’s community behavioral health providers can continue to provide live-saving treatment services for Floridians.”

###

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.