



Florida Behavioral Health Association

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For Immediate Release

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The Florida Behavioral Health Association Thanks Governor Ron DeSantis for Signing Key Legislation into Law

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) commends Governor Ron DeSantis for prioritizing the wellbeing of all Floridians by signing key mental health and substance use legislation into law on Wednesday.

Through the governor’s and First Lady Casey DeSantis’ unwavering commitment to Floridians struggling with mental health and substance use disorders, community providers can continue to treat children and adults, fight the opioid epidemic, and strengthen families and communities.

“The FBHA is deeply grateful to Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for keeping mental health and substance use services a priority in this state,” said FBHA President and CEO Melanie Brown-Woofter. “The legislation that Governor DeSantis signed into law could not have come at a better time as the demand for services has never been higher. These good policy measures strike back at stigma and will allow providers to effectively continue to reduce barriers for families seeking care.”

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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

Bills Signed into Law on Wednesday, April 6, 2022:

- CS/CS/SB 1262 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- CS/SB 1844 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- HB 459—Step-Therapy Protocols
- HB 817 - Emergency Medical Care and Treatment to Minors Without Parental Consent

- CS/HB 1521 - Professional Counselors Licensure Compact
- SB 312 - Telehealth
- SB 534 - Prescription Drugs Used in the Treatment of Schizophrenia for Medicaid Recipients
- CS/SB 544 - Drug-related Overdose Prevention
- CS/SB 566 - Mental Health Professional Licensure
- SB 704 - Substance Abuse Service Providers
- SB 1712 - Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program