



Florida Behavioral
Health Association

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



INFORM



INNOVATE



INFLUENCE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR



FBHA President and CEO

Members, thank you for another amazing year. Our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2023-24 strengthened our collective ability to reach individuals and families that are dealing with mental health illness and substance use disorders, build stronger families, and grow resilient communities.

Together, we have enhanced legislative knowledge and awareness, significantly expanded the public awareness and impact of the association, influenced critical policy decisions through administrative rule-making processes, and drastically increased our annual conference attendance. In addition, the association has informed national advocacy efforts and transformed the culture in the behavioral health industry.

While we still have goals to reach, our successes would not be possible without the tireless efforts of you, our incredible members, and partners. I

thank you for your commitment and dedication. We look forward to continuing our good work, together, in the year ahead.

Melanie Brown-Woofter, President and CEO



FBHA Chair Melissa Larkin-Skinner

As I reflect on chairing FBHA, I am deeply grateful to our executive committee, the FBHA, FCBH, and FADAA board of directors, as well as Melanie and her staff for their unwavering dedication over the last year. Florida's community mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers would not be where we are today without the leadership and innovation of all of the FBHA members working together. Our collective achievements are a testament to the hard work and commitment of every member. Please enjoy a glimpse of what we all accomplished together in this annual report.

Melissa Larkin-Skinner, Chair of FBHA 2021-2024

FBHA MEMBER FAST FACTS

3 National Council Board Members

604,000+ people were treated by FBHA members this past year

FBHA members provide services in all **67** of Florida's counties

22 FBHA members operate as a CCBHC, serving over **127,600** Floridians

40+ FBHA members have been providing services for over 30 years

18,200+ employees make up the FBHA statewide workforce



PROGRAM PERSPECTIVES

- 41** members provide Medication Assisted Treatment
- 28** members operate **40** Mobile Response Teams
- 26** members operate **57** Community Action Treatment Teams
- 23** members have a Crisis Stabilization Unit
- 20** members operate **30** Family Intensive Treatment Teams
- 18** members operate **24** Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams
- 15** members have a Central Receiving Facility

2024 LEGISLATIVE WINS

Passage of the **Health Care Bill “Live Healthy” (Senate Bill 7016)**. SB 7016 includes:

- \$11.5 million for enhancement to the state’s Mobile Response Teams.
- Statutory changes that allow psychiatric APRNs to work to the full extent of their education in a Baker Act setting.
- Loan forgiveness opportunities which now include behavioral health professionals in the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medicaid Education (FRAME) program.
- Creation of the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program allowing for funding for community behavioral health agencies to offset the administrative costs and loss of revenue associated with maintaining a clinical training program.
- Allows AHCA to fund up to 200 additional GME slots.

Passage of the **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Bill “Baker Act/ Marchman Act” (HB 7021)**. This bill re-defines several Baker Act and Marchman Act sections of Florida Statute and includes:

- \$50 million in recurring funding directed to Florida’s receiving facilities and toward implementation of the bill.
- Exemption of background screening requirements.

Passage of the **Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital Bill (SB 330)** which includes 40+ residency slots, or “Slots for Docs,” for psychiatrists and psychologists.

Achieved a **20% rate increase for work release programs** in the Florida Department of Corrections budget.

CCBHC HIGHLIGHTS

Establishing the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model in Florida, including a formal state certification process and prospective payment systems, continued to be one of FBHA’s policy priorities during FY 2023-24.

- BayCare Behavioral Health received its first CCBHC implementation grant.
- Centerstone Florida and LifeStream Behavioral Center received additional SAMHSA grant funding to continue and expand their CCBHC implementation efforts.
- FBHA secured \$7 million in general revenue funding to sustain efforts through FY 2024-25.
- FBHA continued to administer the statewide CCBHC Learning Collaborative to provide members an opportunity to gain knowledge about the model and state/federal implementation progress, as well as share best practices.
- The CCBHC model and its certification criteria were codified in federal law.
- The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Department of Children and Families worked on a state plan for CCBHC implementation, including rule development for certification and drafts for a Medicaid state plan amendment.

FBHA ACCOMPLISHED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN ITS 2021-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1 Advanced implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
- 2 Successfully advocated for the first Medicaid rate increase for behavioral health services in 20+ years
- 3 Influenced legislation for APRNs and Baker Act policy to allow APRNs to practice at the full extent of their training and education
- 4 Stabilized the central receiving system by securing recurring funding
- 5 Enhanced access to real-time data to improve care coordination for individuals experiencing a crisis
- 6 Spearheaded legislation changing children’s involuntary Baker Act procedures to a medical decision rather than a court proceeding
- 7 Implemented measurement-based care initiative to enhance the ability to demonstrate impact and value to policy makers
- 8 Successfully advocated for agency rules and policies that streamline and enhance provider operations
- 9 Increased the Annual Florida Behavioral Health Conference attendance by 20%
- 10 Significantly increased one-time funding for provider behavioral health projects for a combined three-year total of almost \$225 million



FADAA DASHBOARD

FY 2023-2024 • JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024



89
TRAINING EVENTS DELIVERED

New training events including webinars, workshops, summits, BHCon and recorded modules

27,777
INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

Sum of individuals in each training event including those hosted in the Learning Management System

15,179
CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS AWARDED

Florida Certification Board
Florida Board of Social Work
Florida Board of Nursing

144
NEW RESOURCES ADDED

The Resource Center houses information specially selected to support BH practitioners

97.8
PERCENT SATISFACTION TRAINING RATING

As reported by attendees following training events

66,544
RESOURCE CENTER VISITS

Page views of FADAA's web-based Resource Center

68
TREATMENT PROVIDERS DELIVERING MAT

Agencies under contract and providing Medication Assisted Treatment under contract with FADAA

3,031
PATIENTS THAT RECEIVED A MAT MEDICATION

Patients may have received any of the FDA approved medications, Naltrexone, Buprenorphine, or Methadone

5.6
AVERAGE VIVITROL SHOTS PER PATIENT

Reflects only patients that received one or more Vivitrol shots during the period

137
REGISTERED APPRENTICES

Individuals registered in one of the three approved apprenticeship programs: Behavioral Health Tech, Addiction Counselor, or Peer Specialist

29
BH EMPLOYERS

Registered in the Apprenticeship Partners Information Database System (RAPIDS) to employ apprentices

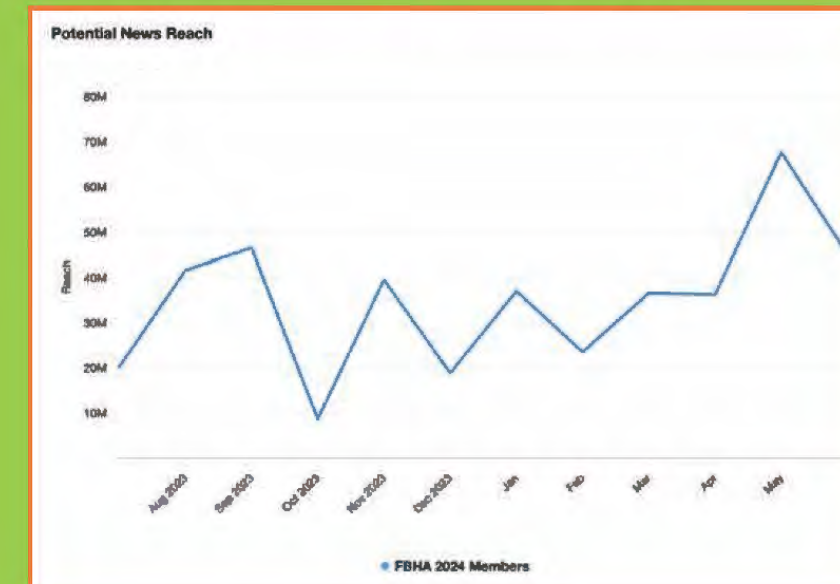
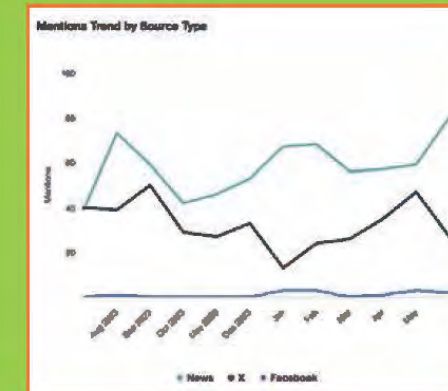
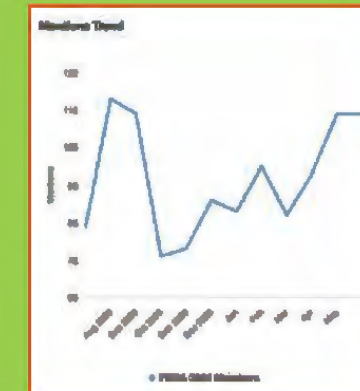
89
TA VISITS COMPLETED

Technical Assistance Visits include Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) reviews, Independent Review (IR) visits, and MAT in-person supports

COMMUNICATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The association and its members continued to make headlines and increase public awareness of Florida's behavioral health community this year. FBHA was mentioned **over 250 total times**, nearly 70 times online and almost 200 times on social media. FBHA members were mentioned **over 1,000 total times**, nearly 700 times online and **over 400 times** on social media.

Below is an overview of the trends FBHA members saw this year.



When news outlets and social media mentioned FBHA members, these are the most popular words associated with them.

budget organizations recovery patients behavioral health program person facility lives event individuals counties services care center **community** health life mental health help children addiction adults county families family programs treatment organization addiction through prevention

BHCon2023 - ELEVATE

**LARGEST IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE EVER!
1,817 PARTICIPANTS (440 MORE THAN 2022)**

TOP 10 FBHA MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Aspire Health Partners	64
Hanley Foundation	54
SMA Healthcare	43
Centerstone Florida	38
WestCare Florida	34
BayCare Behavioral Health	34
Operation PAR	31
Sunshine Health	30
Tri-County Human Services	27
Citrus Health Network	26

122 EXHIBITORS (11 MORE THAN 2022)

20 SPONSORS (1 MORE THAN 2022)

93 BREAKOUT SESSIONS (13 MORE THAN 2022)

156 SPEAKERS (25 MORE THAN 2022)



2023 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



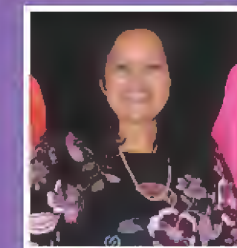
Supervisor/Administrator
of the Year
Sue Conger
of Apalachee Center



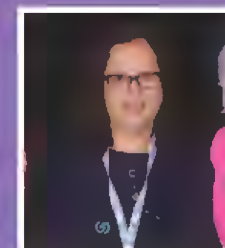
Clinician of the Year
(Adults)
Deborah Postell
of SMA Healthcare



Peer/Recovery Support
Specialist of the Year
Sara Holloway
of Centerstone Florida



Medical Professional
of the Year
Dr. Sangita Desai
of Directions for Living



Clinician of the Year
(Youth)
Myriam Buitrago
of Peace River Center

Distinguished Service Awardees

- Jan Cairnes
- Jonathan Cherry
- David Feldman
- Joe Rutherford



EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. FBHA Membership and Board Meetings

FBHA hosted four membership and board meetings throughout the fiscal year, gathering together in Orlando, St. Augustine, Tallahassee, and Miami.



2. Mental Health and Substance Use Commission Meeting

In August 2023, the Mental Health and Substance Use Commission convened together, live and in person, in Orlando.



3. Behavioral Health Day

In October 2023, FBHA members and partners gathered at the Florida Capitol for the annual Behavioral Health Day. FBHA was proud to have agency secretaries and state legislators join in the recognition.



- 125+ attendees

4. FBHA Administrator's Forum

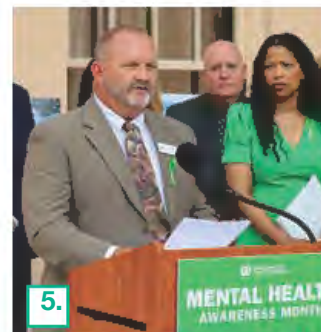
On April 30 and May 1, FBHA hosted the annual Administrator's Forum. Each year, FBHA members gather to network, share best practices, and foster new innovations.



- 125 Participants
- 16 Sessions
- Three sponsors: Carelon Health, Florida Insurance Trust, and Frontier.

5. Mental Health Month Press Conference

On May 16, FBHA hosted a press conference to highlight programs that provide wrap-around services to individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. Joining the event were the Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris, Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida, Community Assisted and Supported Living Chief Operations Officer PJ Brooks, and Boley Centers, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Kevin Marrone, along with other FBHA members.



FBHA MEMBER CEOs RETIREEES



Dianne Clarke, Ph.D.

Dianne Clarke, Ph.D. retired as CEO of Operation PAR after a tremendous 40-year career, where she led the organization for nearly eight years after serving as the Chief Operation Officer for 14. Dr. Clarke served her community at every level, including nationally, statewide, and locally. She was appointed to the National Addiction Treatment Panel, served on the FBHA executive committee, FBHA board of directors, and was the co-chair of the Pinellas County Opioid Task Force.



Barbara Daire

After 44 years, Barbara Daire retired from Suncoast Center. She began her career with Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health in July 1980 as a therapist in the Adult Outpatient Department. After she joined the Suncoast Center, Barbara assumed various leadership roles within the organization and became the agency's President/CEO in 1999. She was a leader in FBHA, serving two terms as board chair, and many years on the board of directors as well as the executive committee.



Michael Festinger

Michael Festinger of Better Way of Miami retired in March 2024 after 13 years as the agency's President/CEO. Michael joined the behavioral health care space as a second career after practicing law for over 21 years. He served on FBHA's board of directors for many years.



Patti Greenough

After 33+ years as CEO of EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, Patti Greenough retired. Over the years, Patti quintupled the size of EPIC and expanded the provision of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery support services. She also served in many capacities for FBHA, including the executive committee, board of directors, and vice-chair of FCBH. She also played an instrumental role in the merger of FCCMH and FADAA.



Eleanor Lanser

Eleanor Lanser retired from Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center after seven years as CEO, previously serving as the Director of Community Services. During her 34-year career, she provided both direct service and supervision to individuals in treatment for severe and persistent mental illness as well as housing opportunities for the homeless population. Like her colleagues, Eleanor served for many years on the FBHA board of directors.



Frank Rabbito

Frank Rabbito retired as the COO for WestCare Florida. In 2004, after 30 years of public service, he joined the WestCare Foundation. Frank held several positions including VP for the Village South and Village Virgin Islands, Senior VP for Florida Operations, and Deputy COO for the Eastern Region. He also served on FBHA's board of directors and was the chair of FCBH.

ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS



2023-2024 FBHA ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



- Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS)
- Agape Network
- Alpert Jewish Family Services of Palm Beach
- Apalachee Center
- Archways, Inc.
- Aspire Health Partners
- Banyan Health Systems
- BayCare Behavioral Health
- Better Way of Miami
- Boley Centers
- Bridges International
- Bridgeway Center
- Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
- CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Centerstone Florida
- Charlotte Behavioral Health Care
- Child Guidance Center
- Children's Home Society
- Chrysalis Center
- Circles of Care
- Citrus Health Network
- Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc.
- Community Health of South Florida, Inc.
- Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL)
- Cove Behavioral Health
- David Lawrence Centers
- Devereux Florida
- Directions for Living
- DISC Village, Inc.
- Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center
- Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County
- Drug Abuse Treatment Association
- EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Fellowship House
- Fifth Street Counseling Center IV, Inc.
- Florida Palms Academy
- Gateway Community Services
- Gracepoint Mental Health Care, Inc.
- Hanley Foundation
- Henderson Behavioral Health
- House Next Door
- House of Hope, Inc.
- IMPOWER
- Lakeview Center, Inc.
- Life Management Center of Northwest Florida
- LifeStream Behavioral Center
- Lightshare Wellness
- Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
- New Horizons Community Mental Health Center
- New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee
- Operation PAR
- Park Place Behavioral Health Care
- Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc.
- Personal Enrichment Through Mental Health Services (PEMHS)
- Phoenix House of Florida
- River Region Human Services
- SalusCare
- SMA Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
- St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS)
- Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare
- STEPS, Inc.
- Suncoast Center, Inc.
- The Bougainvillea House
- The Henry and Rilla White Foundation
- The Transition House
- Tri-County Human Services
- Wayside House
- WestCare Florida

FBHA CURRENT STAFF



Melanie Brown-Woofter
President/CEO



Ute Gazioch
Senior Director of
Behavioral Health Policy



Jennifer Johnson
Senior Director of
Public Policy



Shane Messer
Director of
Government Relations



Marcus Gazioch
Operations Manager/
Administrator



Teresa Jones
Health Services
Analyst, MAT Program



Jessica Stephens
Health Services Analyst



Natira Screen
Prevention and Treatment
Coordinator



Linda Macdonald
Senior Medicaid
Policy Director



Mary Katherine Graham
Senior Director of
Communications and Public Affairs



Kendra Salvatore
Director of
Membership Services



Stephanie Humphrey
Director of Events
& Development



Traci Cash
Financial
Consultant



Tammy Bolen
Fiscal
Assistant



Martie Kantor
Program
Assistant



Ive Vintimilla
Director of Contracts &
Professional Services



Darran Duchene
Director of
MAT Services



Angie Durbin
Director of Finance and
Human Resources



Diana Snyder
Director of Opioid Response
Training Project



Vanessa Addison
Director of FADAA/DCF
VIVITROL® Program



Robert Hersey
Director of Training and
Practice Improvement



Erik Nelson
Director of Web and
Information Technology



Christopher Caurana
LMS and Learning
Technologies Manager

FBHA MISSION STATEMENT

The Florida Behavioral Health Association (FBHA) is a statewide trade association that represents over 70 community mental health and substance use treatment providers throughout the entire state. FBHA's members span from Pensacola to Key West, serve over 604,000 individuals each year, and provide services in every county in Florida. These community providers primarily serve the uninsured, underinsured, and the Medicaid populations.



**Florida Behavioral
Health Association**

Inform. Innovate. Influence.

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