

2024-2025
ANNUAL REPORT

24/25



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIR



FBHA PRESIDENT AND CEO

Melanie Brown Wooffer

Members, thank you for an outstanding year, in which we made meaningful strides that elevated Florida's behavioral health system of care. We advocated at the state and national level for positive change that will strengthen families and communities and advance our ability to take care of individuals impacted by mental illness and substance use disorders. We experienced record-breaking attendance at BHCon, helping to support and inform your workforce and modernize treatment and services. These achievements would not be possible without your unwavering support. As we acknowledge our successes, I would also like to thank the incredible staff at FBHA who each help make these accomplishments possible.

We are grateful to advocate on your behalf and partner together in this important work. As we celebrate our sixth year of FBHA, we are stronger than ever.

—Melanie



FBHA CHAIR

Scott Burgess

As I reflect on my first year as Chair of FBHA, I am filled with deep gratitude for the unwavering dedication and support of our executive committee, the commitment of all on our board of directors, and the exceptional skill of the FBHA staff. The progress Florida's community mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers have made would not be possible without the visionary leadership and collaborative spirit of the FBHA team and members. Despite facing significant challenges and uncertainty, our mission has never been clearer, and the importance of our work has never been more evident. The accomplishments we have achieved together stand as a powerful testament to the hard work, passion, and tireless efforts of every individual involved.

— Scott

FBHA MEMBER FAST FACTS



70+
Organizational
Members
& **25**
Corporate
Partners

FBHA
Members provide
services in all

67
counties

**FBHA
MEMBERS**

treat over
half a million
Floridians
each year



22
FBHA Members
are CCBHC
grant awardees



18,700+
Employees make
up the workforce



40+
Members providing
services for
over 30 years

3

National Council
Board Members

PROGRAM PERSPECTIVES

16

members have a Central Receiving Facility

28

members operate 60 Community Action Treatment Teams

21

members have a Crisis Stabilization Unit

18

members operate 29 Family Intensive Treatment Teams

21

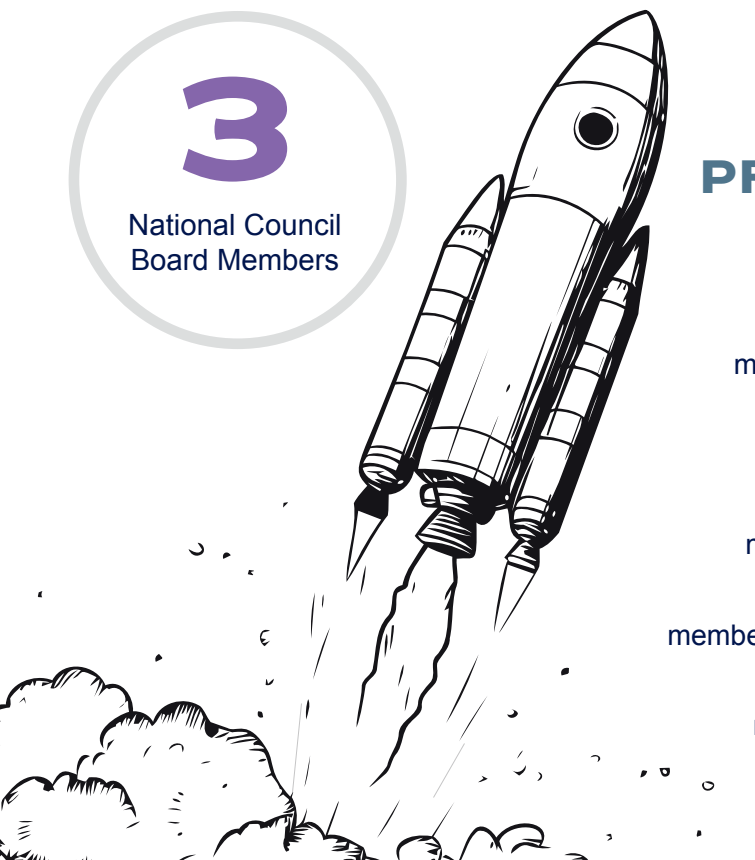
members operate 34 Florida Assertive Community Treatment Teams

17

members have a Pregnant Moms and Babies Program

25

members operate 40 Mobile Response Teams



Left: Dr. Lauren Pagel, CEO of Starting Point Behavioral Health, listens to speakers during the June 2025 Administrator's Forum in Clearwater. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Right:** Allison Hill, CEO of LifeView Group, and Babette Hankey, President/CEO of Aspire Health Partners, smile during BHCon2024 in Orlando. Photo by David Galindo Photography.



FBHA ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

"Florida's community mental health and substance use treatment system has advanced significantly thanks to the leadership, innovation, and collaboration of FBHA members. Our collective efforts continue to shape a stronger, more responsive behavioral health network."

— JEAN PIERRE, FADAA CHAIR

— JEAN PIERRE, FADAA CHAIR

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FBHA HISTORY

✦ Standing on the foundation of two long-standing, instrumental organizations merging together – the Florida Council for Community Mental Health and the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association – the Florida Behavioral Health Association was formed in 2019.

✦ The consolidation came at a time of increased understanding and recognition that mental illness and substance use disorder are often co-occurring.

✦ In 2019, FBHA was new in name but not in its mission. For decades, the community providers that both organizations represented served Florida's most vulnerable populations and continue today.

✦ During this past fiscal year, FBHA celebrated five years since the historic merger. In the last five years, FBHA has significantly increased public awareness, understanding, investment, and respect for mental health and substance use disorder treatment services.

FADAA's mission was to serve its members by advancing addiction and co-occurring treatment, prevention, and research through communications, professional development, and public policy leadership.



1958
FCCMH WAS
INCORPORATED

The purpose of FCCMH was to promote the welfare of persons with behavioral health disorders and those needing behavioral health services.



1981
FADAA WAS
INCORPORATED



2019
FCCMH AND
FADAA FORM
FBHA

The Florida Behavioral Health Association is the voice of Florida's community behavioral health industry.



VICTORY IN TALLAHASSEE

2025 Legislative Accomplishments

- Successfully influenced the Legislature to advance CCBHCs by including proviso in the General Appropriations Act directing state agencies to complete steps necessary for implementation.
 - Secured proviso language directing AHCA to seek federal approval to establish a prospective payment plan for CCBHC implementation no later than October 2025, and submit a legislative budget request for the 2026 legislative session.
 - Secured proviso language directing DCF to develop a certification process for CCBHCs by June 30, 2026, and to establish a CCBHC covered service within its financial rules that incorporates a prospective payment system in alignment with federal CCBHC payment guidance.
- Defeated legislation that would have diminished mental health and substance use services previously provided to children and adolescents.
- Guided SB 1620, the Mental Health and Substance Use Commission bill, and HB 633, the Behavioral Health Managing Entities bill, across the finish line with revisions that enhance community providers and the services they provide.
- In a fiscal year where the budget was cut by over \$1.5 billion, FBHA worked with legislative budget leaders to increase the overall recurring community substance use and mental health budget by over \$20 million.
 - Further increased the central receiving facilities (CRF) budget and brought new CRFs on board.
 - Received a Medicaid rate increase for Targeted Case Management.
 - Increased the Criminal Justice Reinvestment Grants budget to serve more Floridians involved in the justice system.

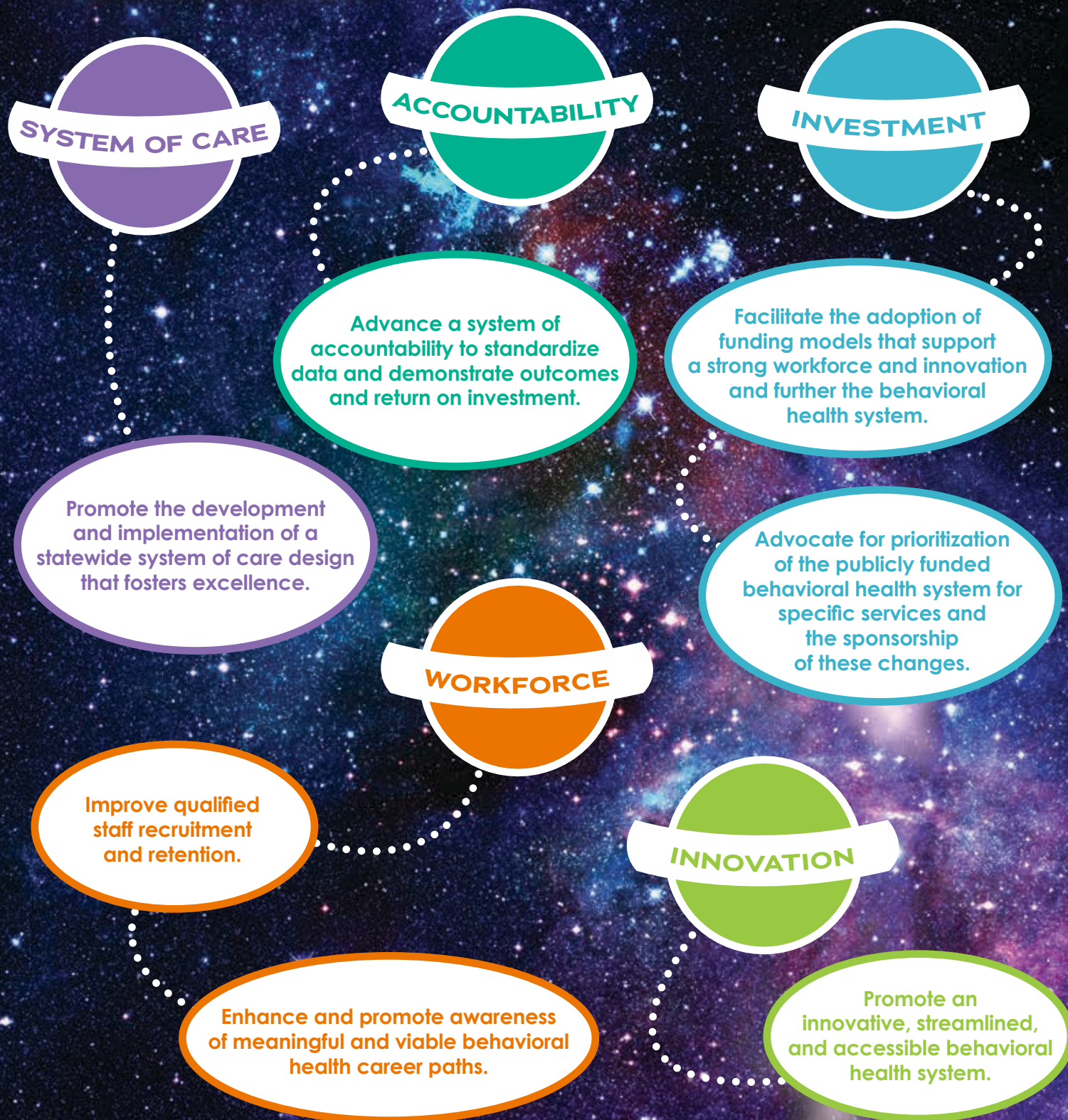
Additional CCBHC Accomplishments

- Engaged a consulting firm to assist CCBHC members in developing cost reports for AHCA to develop a cost model.
- Continued the statewide CCBHC Learning Collaborative to provide members an opportunity to gain knowledge about the model, receive updates on state and federal implementation progress, and share best practices.

Top: Larry Williams, President/CEO of Peace River Center, and Melissa Larkin-Skinner, President of Community Assisted and Supported Living, Inc., smile during the ABC Reception in February 2025 in Tallahassee. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. **Middle:** Maria Alvarez, President/CEO of Phoenix House Florida, speaks during a board meeting at BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Bottom:** Dr. Jay Reeve, President/CEO, and Heather Lincicome, CLO, of Apalachee Center, with Stephen Lord, CEO of Circles of Care, Inc., enjoy the ABC Reception in August 2024 in Orlando. Photo by David Galindo Photography.

FBHA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

After wrapping up an incredibly successful 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan, FBHA turned its focus to its new 2025-2028 Strategic Plan that establishes the foundation and direction for the continuous enhancement and improvement of Florida's system of care for community mental health and substance use providers. Moving forward, the three-year plan lays out a path that focuses on goals across five priority areas.



FADAA DASHBOARD

FY 2024–2025

86

TRAINING
EVENTS
DELIVERED

29,787

INDIVIDUALS
TRAINED

24,685

CONTINUING
EDUCATION UNITS
AWARDED

135

NEW RESOURCES
ADDED TO
THE RESOURCE
CENTER

95.7

PERCENT
SATISFACTION
TRAINING RATING
FOLLOWING
TRAINING EVENTS

55,860

RESOURCE
CENTER VISITS

65

TREATMENT
PROVIDERS THAT
DELIVERED MAT

3,267

PATIENTS WHO
RECEIVED
A MAT
MEDICATION

5.5

AVERAGE
VIVITROL SHOTS
PER PATIENT

17

TRAINING
SESSIONS AT
CORRECTION
VENUES

206

CORRECTIONAL
PROFESSIONALS
TRAINED

57

TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE VISITS
COMPLETED

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Learning Management System (LMS)

- In partnership with the Department of Children and Families, FBHA administers the Department's Learning Management System, providing more than 50 training and continuing education courses for Florida's mental health and substance use professionals.
- During the past year, FBHA
 - Administered courses for 22,246 people.
 - Updated Baker and Marchman Act courses to reflect legislative changes.
 - Updated the LMS home page to be more user friendly.
 - Implemented easy annual renewal options for course completion.

Webinar Successes

- With support from the Florida Department of Children and Families, FADAA administers webinars designed for professionals in the substance use and mental health sector, including behavioral health practitioners, prevention specialists, peer recovery professionals, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations. Webinars offer continuing education credits and are archived in a training library for on-demand access.
- During the past year, FADAA delivered a total of 22 webinars. The two most highly attended sessions were
 - *"2024 Legislative Updates to the Baker and Marchman Acts"* conducted by Community Assisted and Supported Living, Inc. and FBHA Legislative Advocacy Chair
 - *"Empowering Conversations: Mastering Motivational Interviewing and De-escalation Techniques."*

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Programs and Training

- MAT programs ensure that individuals have statewide access to a whole-patient approach for treating substance use disorders and preventing substance-related overdoses. FADAA develops and maintains a network of 65 community-based providers to administer MAT and reimburses providers for the cost and administration of medications. FADAA also implements statewide training sessions to advance knowledge and awareness of MAT among health care providers and key community partners such as law enforcement and criminal justice stakeholders.
- Program successes
 - 1,696 new patients were screened for treatment services.
 - 1,567 received a medical assessment and laboratory service.

- 94% of patients assessed began medication
- 3,343 individuals received medication
 - 6,522 injections of extended-release injectable naltrexone.
 - 624 injections of long-acting buprenorphine (Sublocade®/Brixadi®).
 - 55,016 doses of methadone.
 - 86,894 doses of sublingual/buccal buprenorphine.
 - 1,314 doses of oral naltrexone.

Training Successes

- FADAA administers the MAT in Corrections Training program in county jails to equip correctional staff with knowledge and skills about opioid use disorder and medications used to treat it.
 - Conducted 17 sessions to train 206 individuals.
 - Since inception in 2023, conducted 75 sessions to train more than 1,000 correction professionals across the state.
- Conducted April 2025 training on MAT Treatment and Resources for the Office of the State Court Administrator's Problem-Solving Courts.



Dr. Mark Stavros gives a presentation on behalf of FADAA at the Florida Sheriffs Association's 2025 Jail Summit.



Left: Ryan Roelans, President/CEO of Better Way of Miami, addresses FBHA members at a board meeting during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Top Middle:** Maria Alonso, COO of Citrus Health Network, speaks at a board meeting during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Top Right:** Scott Burgess, CEO of David Lawrence Centers, addresses the crowd during Behavioral Health Day in February 2025. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. **Bottom Middle:** April Lott, President/CEO of Directions for Living, speaks to a reporter during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Bottom Right:** Kevin Marrone, President/CEO of Boley Centers, Inc., answers a reporter's questions during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography.

COMMUNICATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The association and its members continued to make a splash in the newsstands this year.

FBHA was mentioned over **200** times, with **55** online and nearly **150** mentions on social media. With increasing awareness and trends in behavioral health, FBHA talked about many important topics, including **CCBHCs**, **Overdose Awareness Day**, **hurricane response**, the success of **988**, **BHCon2024**, **Behavioral Health Day**, and much more.

FBHA members were mentioned nearly **800** times, with **550** online and nearly **250** mentions on social media.

QUOTES FROM NEWS



"Mental health and substance use treatment is vital to the health of all of our communities in Florida, and the more that we can do to bring innovation, to bring change in the system of care and to increase access and make services available, the more healthy and the more vital our communities will be," explained Melanie Brown Woofert. — ABC Action News, September 18, 2024, Wendy Ryan



"Behavioral Health Day provides us the opportunity to share the incredible innovations Florida's mental health and substance use treatment providers and partners are doing each day to help heal our communities," said Melanie Brown Woofert, President and CEO of FBHA. — WESH 2 News, February 12, 2025, Christina Watkins



EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



FBHA Membership and Board Meetings

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



Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Meeting

On **August 20, 2024**, the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder convened together, in person, in Orlando.



Behavioral Health Day

On **February 12, 2025**, FBHA members and partners gathered at the Historic Florida Capitol Museum for Behavioral Health Day. FBHA was proud to have agency leaders and other stakeholders join in the recognition.



FBHA BBQ

Under the string lights at the Old Historic Lewis House, FBHA members, partners, and state legislators enjoyed networking and food on **February 11, 2025**, for the FBHA BBQ.



Opioid and Stimulant Forum

The 2024 Opioid and Stimulant Forum was on **September 3, 2024**, in Orlando. The event was held alongside the Department of Children and Families' Child Summit and focused on families and youth dealing with opioid and stimulant use disorder.



FBHA Administrator's Forum

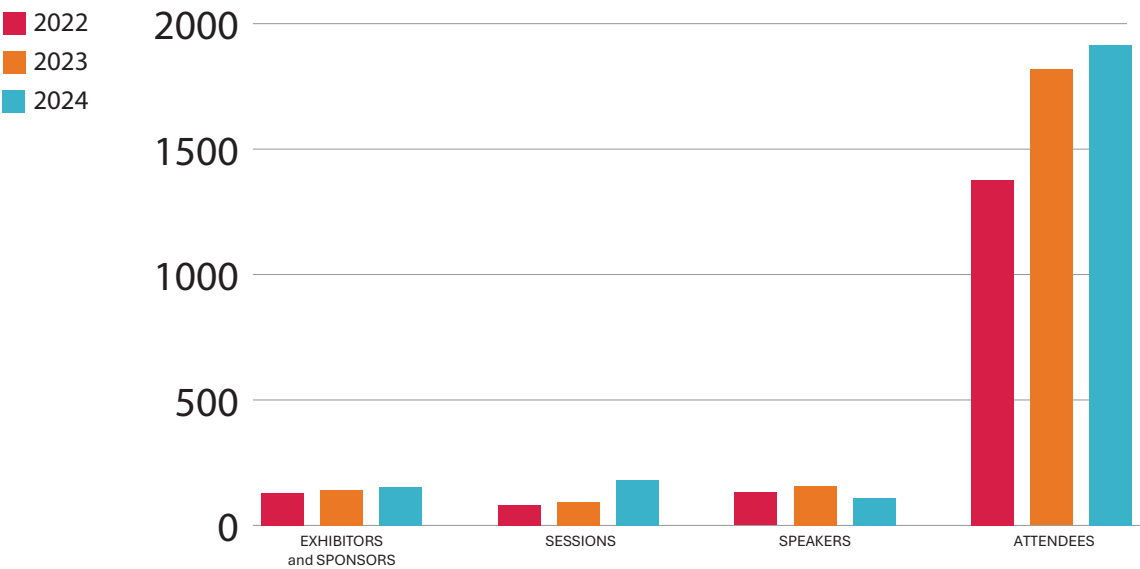
FBHA members, colleagues, and partners gathered together in Clearwater on **June 3, and June 4**, for FBHA's annual Administrator's Forum. The program consisted of two tracks - Financial/Regulatory and Human Resources, and a presentation by OPEN MINDS. Sponsorships by Eleos, Netsmart, and Streamline Healthcare Solutions made the event possible.

BHCON2024



BHCon2024 brought **over 1,900** mental health and substance use treatment professionals together in Orlando. During the three-day event, BHCon hosted **153 exhibitors and sponsors, 182 speakers, 110 sessions, 3 keynotes, and 1,916 attendees.**

BHCON GROWTH OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS



OF THE 1,916 ATTENDEES, 793 OF THEM REPRESENTED FBHA ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
59 FBHA MEMBERS SENT STAFF TO BHCON2024



Left: Andrew Williams, VP of Flagler County Services with SMA Healthcare, gives a thumbs up during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Middle:** Cecilia Denmark with Bridges International networks with peers during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Right:** Lightshare Behavioral Wellness & Recovery tables during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography.



Left: The LifeStream Behavioral Center Team smiles during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **Right:** Jimmy Yeary receives a standing ovation after his general session keynote address. Photo by David Galindo Photography.

TOP 10 MEMBERS REGISTERED

Aspire Health Partners
67 registered attendees

SMA Healthcare
42 registered attendees

WestCare Foundation
40 registered attendees

Tri-County Human Services
36 registered attendees

BayCare Behavioral Health Hospital
33 registered attendees

Centerstone Florida
33 registered attendees

Directions for Living
30 registered attendees

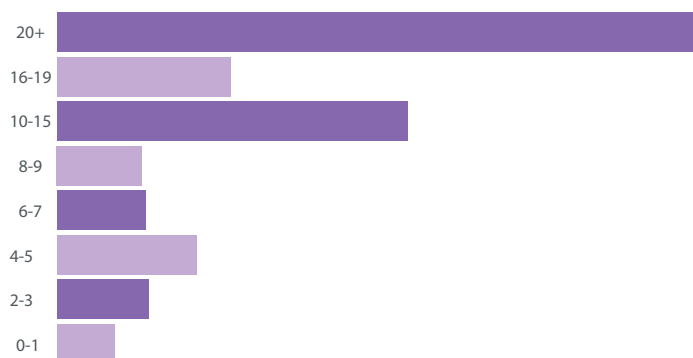
Hanley Foundation
30 registered attendees

Citrus Health Network
29 registered attendees

Gateway Community Services
26 registered attendees

2024 ATTENDEE SNAPSHOT

How many years of professional experience in the behavioral health field?



What age range best describes you?



How many times have you attended BHCon?



91.4%
OF ATTENDEES
SAID ...
BHCON WAS GOOD
OR EXCELLENT!

2024 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



Peer/Recovery
Support Specialist
of the Year
Martha Powell
Boley Centers, Inc.



Supervisor/
Administrator
of the Year
Karon Ivey
Child Guidance Center



Supervisor/
Administrator
of the Year
Lisa Jones
Hanley Foundation



Clinician of the Year
(Youth)
Teairra Debs
LifeStream
Behavioral Center



Clinician of the Year
(Adults)
Angie Ream
STEPS, Inc.



Medical Professional
of the Year
Tracy Neirth
St. Augustine
Youth Services



Medical Professional
of the Year
**Dr. Katina
Matthews**
Charlotte Behavioral
Health Care

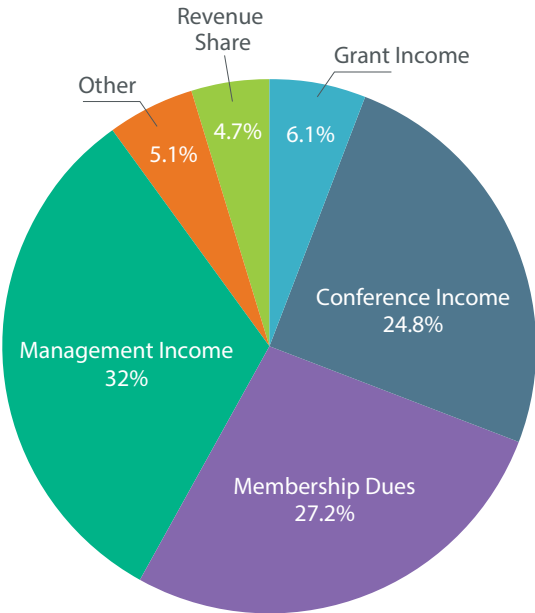


DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDEES

- Patti Greenough**
Frank Rabbito
Eleanor Lanser
Dianne Clarke
Barbara Daire (not pictured)
Michael Festinger (not pictured)

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

FBHA REVENUE



Great Science
Deep Compassion
Real Impact

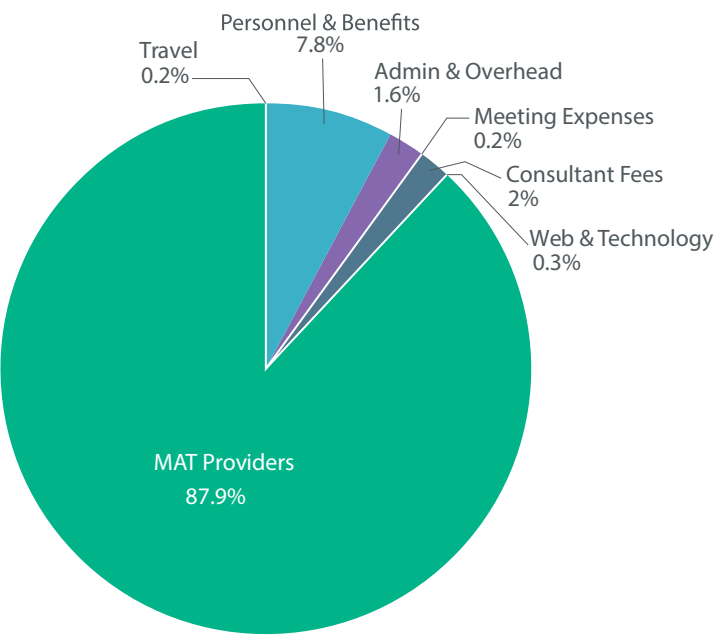
Leveraging our long-standing neuroscience expertise to develop medicines that make a difference

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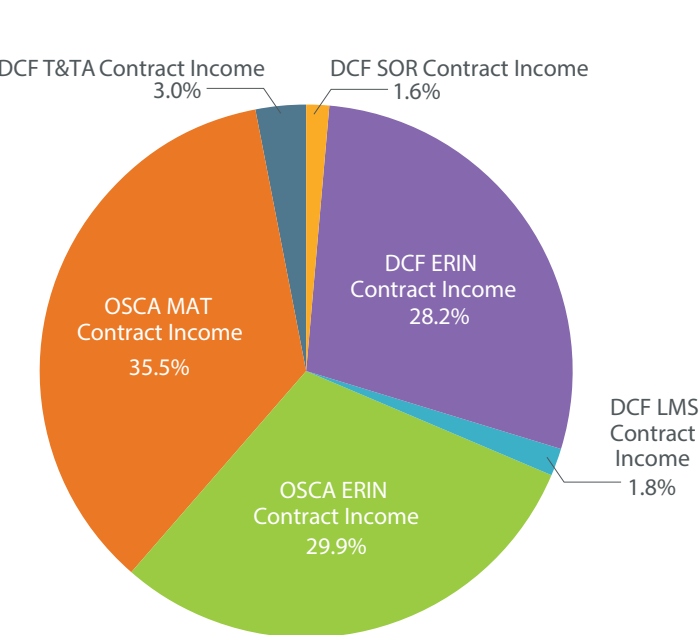
For more information about Alkermes, please visit: www.alkermes.com

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FADAA EXPENSES



FADAA REVENUE



ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS



FBHA CURRENT STAFF



Melanie Brown Woofter
President/CEO



Ute Gazioch
Senior Director of
Behavioral Health Policy



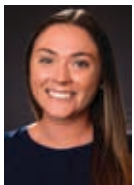
Jennifer Johnson
Senior Director of
Public Policy



Shane Messer
Director of
Government Relations



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



Ive Vintimilla
Director of Contracts &
Professional Services



Teresa Jones
Director of MAT Services



Angie Durbin
Director of Finance &
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



Marcus Gazioch
Operations Manager/
Administrator



Jessica Stephens
MAT Program Manager



Kim Gandy
MAT Program Manager



Natira Screen
Prevention and
Treatment Coordinator



Traci Cash
Financial Consultant



Tammy Bolen
Fiscal Assistant



Martie Kantor
Program Assistant



1st Row: • Team BayCare Behavioral Health enjoys the FBHA BBQ. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. • Scott Burgess, CEO of David LawrenceCenters, and Doug Leonardo, CEO of Tampa General Behavioral Health Hospital, smile during the ABC Reception in February 2025. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. • The Westcare Team smiles during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • Erik Nelson, Director of Web and Information Technology, and Tammy Bolen, Fiscal Assistant, with FBHA, pose with conference bags at BHCon2024. **2nd Row:** • Rosemary Smith Hoel, President/CEO of Fellowship House, speaks during a meeting at BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • The SMA Healthcare Team smiles during BHCon2024. • Lauren Cohn, with Meridian Healthcare, Deanna Obregon with Ibis Healthcare, and Asha Pereyra with ACTS, enjoy the ABC Reception in February 2025. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. • TheTri-County Human Services Team smiles at the FBHA BBQ at the Historic Lewis House in February 2025. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography.



3rd Row: • Operation PAR team members enjoy the FIT Reception at BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • Lisa Jones, Supervisor/Administrator of the Year, smiles with her Hanley Foundation team after the Awards of Excellence Ceremony at BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • Agape Network poses with Shane Messer, Director of Government Relations with FBHA, at the FBHA BBQ. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography. • Melanie Brown Woofert, President/CEO of FBHA, enjoys Frank Rabbito's Retirement Party alongside Maria Alonso and Mario Jardon of Citrus Health Network. Photo by David Galindo Photography. **4th Row:** • Karon Ivey, Supervisor/Administrator of the Year, poses with her team from Child Guidance Center during BHCon2024. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • Dr. Candace Hodgkins, CEO of Gateway Community Services, and Marcy MacMath with Boley Centers, Inc., enjoy the 2024 Administrator's Forum in June 2025. Photo by David Galindo Photography. • Behavioral Health Day at the Historic Florida Capitol in February 2025. Photo by Betsy Barfield Photography.



**Florida Behavioral
Health Association**

Inform. Innovate. Influence.

FBHA

**With its members spanning from
Pensacola to Key West, FBHA
represents over 70 of Florida's
safety net community mental
health and substance use
treatment providers, who treat
individuals in every county in
the state and serve over half a
million Floridians each year.**

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