

Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

Dual Diagnosis Treatment Subcommittee

Chair, Representative Christine Hunschofsky

April 9, 2026

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Name	Title	Agency
Christine Hunschofsky, Chair, Commission Co-Chair	State of Florida House Representative	Florida State Legislature
Mark Mahon, Co-Chair, Commissioner	Judge	The Fourth Judicial Circuit Court
Jay Reeve, Commission Chair	President and CEO	Apalachee Center
Melissa Larkin-Skinner, Commissioner	CEO	Centerstone of Florida
Lee Fox, Commissioner	Care Coordinator	David Lawrence Center
Pamela Hull (SME Lead)	Assistant Deputy Secretary for Medicaid Operations	Agency for Health Care Administration
Heather Allman (SME Lead)	Manager of Policy and Programs	DCF Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Peggy Aune	Vice Chancellor for Strategic Improvement	Florida Department of Education
Maria Bledsoe	Chief Executive Officer	Central Florida Cares Health System
Steven Ronik	Chief Executive Officer	Henderson Behavioral Health
Theresa Rulien	President and CEO	Child Guidance Center
Sue Gallagher	Chief Innovation Officer	Childrens Services Council of Broward County
Leslie Lynch	Chief Program Officer	Chrysalis Health
Patrick Heidemann	Florida Mental Health Advocay Coalition	NAMI Palm Beach and FLMHAC Family Advocate
Julie Smythe	Vice President for Child Welfare Specialty Plan	Sunshine Health
Kristin Korinko	Agency Senior Behavior Analyst	Agency for Persons With Disabilities



SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #1

Enhance training for Mobile Response Team (MRT) staff to include knowledge regarding developmental disabilities and seniors.

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities has a training pilot project that can be expanded to assist with MRT staff training regarding serving individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health disorders.
- The Department has trained MRT staff on working with seniors. The training is available as a free training resource for MRT providers as they onboard new staff.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Increase availability of supportive housing services for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health/dually diagnosed disabilities.

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health disorders will need ongoing wrap around services and supports for success in these settings.
- Florida is contending with a shortage of affordable housing.
- To implement this recommendation funding will be needed to increase the supply of supported housing capacity.



RECOMMENDATION #3

Replicate successful community integrated health teams to address the dual diagnosis needs of seniors with mental health disabilities or others with complex comorbidities.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Expand central receiving facilities/systems for “no wrong door” access including both mental health and substance use.

- The Department can amend the Managing Entity contract to ensure that Central Receiving Facilities triage, assess and stabilize or provide warm hand offs for individuals contending with substance use disorders as well as mental health.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Continue to increase both programmatic and bed availability of short-term residential (non-crisis stabilization unit) treatment programs for youth, particularly in high-need areas.

- Short-term residential treatment for children is new in Florida. There are currently 3 providers.
- This service is an extension of emergency crisis stabilization when additional treatment is needed prior to discharge home to a community setting.
- The Governors budget supports the Departments request for an additional 40 children's short-term residential treatment beds.